



Major Steven Dale Welch

January 18, 1954 - January 14, 2024

Major Steven Dale Welch

Major Steve Welch was born on January 18, 1954, one of five Salvation Army officer children of Majors Jeffery L. (Promoted to Glory) and Shirley M. Welch (Promoted to Glory). He lived in several western Michigan and northern Indiana cities and graduated from North Side High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Upon completing a Bachelor of Music Education program at Indiana University, Major Steve met his bride-to-be, Mary Johnson, at The Salvation Army's Southern Territorial Music Institute at Camp Keystone, Florida.

The Welchses were married at The Salvation Army, Melbourne, Florida Corps on January 7, 1978 and entered The Salvation Army School for Officers Training School that fall. In 1980, they were commissioned by General Arnold Brown at the National Congress in Kansas City as Proclaimers of Salvation.

Together with their family, they held appointments in Jacksonville Florida 1980 Orange Park, FL 1980-1983, Chickasha, OK 1983-1985, McAlester 1985-1989, Shawnee 1989-1992, Gainesville 1992-1998, Sebring 1998-2003, Pensacola 2003-2006, Key West 2006-2009

Meridian, MS 2009-2012, Selma, AL 2012-2016, Vicksburg, MS 2016- and finally retired from active service, along with Mary, from Vicksburg, Mississippi in 2020. They retired from active service to Lakeland, Florida where Steve remained an active bandsmen and songster until his health prohibited him from doing so.

Steve was an artist, Rotarian, and an Order of the Arrow Boy Scout. An active band member, composer, and humble teacher to anyone who asked, he was a member of the Buglers Across America, Divisional Bands of the IN, ALM, FL, and AOK Divisions, as well as community bands in every city he called home.

Major Steve Welch is survived by his wife of 46 years, Major Mary Welch; Captain Rebekah Swyers (Major Phil) of Atlanta, GA, Major Bethany Delaney (Tim) of Jackson, MS, Captain Christopher Welch (Jessica) of St. Petersburg, FL; four siblings, Major Keith (Sherrie) of Holland, MI, Major Jonathan (Kim) of Indiana, Major Valerie McDowell (Jim) of Ludington, MI, and Glenn (Sarah) of Marion, IN; as well as grandchildren, Victoria Swyers, Allie Robertson (Blake), Julia Swyers, Jubilee Delaney, Zoe Delaney, Israel Delaney, Liam Welch, Tripp Swyers, Wes Swyers, and Rafaël Welch; as well as many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He is also expecting his first great-grandson in March.

Interment will take place in Ludington, MI.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 20. 3:00 PM (ET)

The Salvation Army Church
2455 Jim Galloway Road
Lakeland, FL 33810

Tribute Wall

MB

“ My condolences Major Mary Welch and family in the passing of Major Steve Welch. Thanks for the years of servant leadership in Pensacola.



Mattie Broxton - January 20, 2024 at 10:25 AM

AF

“ and the EBC Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Major Steven Dale Welch.

and the EBC Family - January 19, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Major Steven Dale Welch.



January 19, 2024 at 08:27 AM

AN

“ Hey Ms Mary Welch I'm so sorry to hear about major Steve Welch y'all was so good to us at the salvation army Church in Selma we all will miss him dearly your family is in my prayers I'm so so ry for your loss



Amanda nichols - January 18, 2024 at 06:30 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Major Steven Dale Welch.*



January 18, 2024 at 03:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Major Steven Dale Welch.*



January 18, 2024 at 03:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Major Steven Dale Welch.*



January 17, 2024 at 11:25 AM



“ *Steve was a good friend. Having sat side by side in multiple brass bands and together in the Lakeland Corps band. We shared jokes, musical anecdotes, and the love for the cornet. Above all I admired his love for God and his desire to share His message of hope. Till we meet again my friend.*

Andy Gilliam - January 16, 2024 at 10:10 PM

JE

“ *My thoughts and prayers are being sent to the family! Steve was one of the most loving and gentle souls i ever knew! He has a great sense of humor. He loved his wife and family so much! I will miss his love and friendship. I know you will miss your husband Mary, and all the children will miss their father, and the grandchildren will miss their grandfather. My heart is with you all!*

jeanne - January 16, 2024 at 09:40 PM

PW

“ *My thoughts & prayers are with you all as you mourn the passing of your father. Such an amazing man of God & used his talent the lord gave him to share with others. He will certainly be missed by many as he touched many lives. God bless- Pam Werner*

Pam Werner - January 15, 2024 at 07:24 PM