



Stephen Alan Hopple, Sr.

May 26, 1945 - April 27, 2025

Stephen Alan Hopple, Sr., 79, passed away peacefully on April 27, 2025 at Lower Cape Fear Life Care in Wilmington, North Carolina. Born on May 26, 1945, in City of Bell, Los Angeles County, California, Steve lived a life marked by dedication to service, deep love for his family, and a steadfast commitment to his community.

Steve spent over three decades working for Lucky Stores Incorporated, where he retired as a dock foreman after 30 years of loyal service. Though his career at Lucky Stores was long and fulfilling, one of the roles he cherished most came later in life—serving as a security guard at Disneyland. For five years, he took great pride in being part of the magic that brought joy to so many visitors before retiring and relocating to North Carolina.

One of Steve's greatest accomplishments was achieving his Second Degree Blackbelt at the age of 70 in the style of GOJU SHIN-RYU.

A proud veteran, Steve served in the United States Army National Guard for four years. His devotion to public service extended well beyond his military tenure. He volunteered with the La Habra Police Department in La Habra, California, for ten years where he was the only volunteer to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award twice. He continued his commitment to law enforcement after moving east. In October 2022, he graduated from the Brunswick County Citizen Academy and became an active volunteer with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department. His heart belonged to first responders and law enforcement communities—a passion that guided much of his life's

work.

Faith played an important role in Steve's later years. He found spiritual fulfillment at Crosswinds Church in Leland, North Carolina, where he became a beloved member of both the Men's Bible Study group and the church security team. His presence was deeply valued by fellow congregants who appreciated his warmth and unwavering sense of duty.

At home, Steve found joy in simple pleasures. He loved tending to his backyard garden alongside his wife Nancy and took great pride in maintaining their lawn. Bird watching became one of his favorite pastimes—a quiet reflection of his appreciation for nature's beauty.

Steve was a devoted husband to Nancy Hopple and a loving father and grandfather whose legacy lives on through those who knew him best. He is survived by his wife Nancy; son Steve Hopple and wife Holly; grandchildren Briana Sidell and husband Matt, Kensie Jordan and husband Brian; son Brandon Hopple and girlfriend Lisa; granddaughter Ashlynn Tesdahl and husband Jacob; stepdaughter Becky and husband Rustin; step grand children Sarah and Wyatt and inherited grandchildren Carson, Bethany, Haley, and Sophie; great-grandchildren Addison, Jacob, Annalise, Brantley, Waylon, and Emmett.

He was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Francelle Hopple.

A man defined by service—to country, community, church, and family—Stephen Alan Hopple Sr.'s legacy is one of generosity and steadfast devotion. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

Tribute Wall

NA

“ *your old wife misses life without you and pain runs deep, yet, I am happy for you..I will forever have a crush on you.....Nan*

Nancy - June 26, 2025 at 11:08 AM

CK

“ *I want to extend my deepest love and condolences to Nancy and the entire family during this difficult time. I met Steve through my mom, who is dear friends with Nancy, and from the very first moment, I could feel the warmth and kindness that surrounded them both. Steve had a beautiful way of making those around him feel loved and cared for.*

I'm especially grateful that I had the chance to see him this past March when I visited my mom in North Carolina. I got to hug him, thank him for being such a wonderful friend to her, and let him know how much I appreciated him and Nancy.

I truly believe that people come into our lives for a reason-and Steve's presence in mine made it brighter and better. He will be deeply missed, and always remembered with love.

Christiana Keefer - May 20, 2025 at 11:43 AM

TH

“ *I'm am so sorry. Hang in there Nancy. I think you need to come back to la habra.ou*

Theresa - May 05, 2025 at 09:36 PM

CC

“ *Your legacy will continue*

Charles carr - May 04, 2025 at 05:12 PM

CI

“ Nancy,
I am so sorry for your loss. We missed both of you here in California when you left. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Cindy - May 04, 2025 at 01:07 PM

DM

“ *Nancy know we are thinking of you. Love you and send a big hug.*

Diana McNeill - May 04, 2025 at 01:04 PM

LM

“ *It has been such a pleasure to get to know Steve the last few years as he lived next-door to my sister. I always enjoyed conversations with him, and I find this obituary to highlight his sense of service, his strong faith and his commitment to family.*
During these years, he has faithfully taken care of my sister's cat as she traveled with me. He definitely demonstrated his care for animals as well as nature.
It was my honor to have known Steve. It is comforting to know that he is now with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Also sending love and prayers to Nancy as she navigates this difficult time.

Lynn McKinley - May 03, 2025 at 01:32 PM

WE

“ *Nancy I am just heart broken for you. Please know you are in my prayers today and the weeks to come. I know you have many memories and faith in God to see you through this tough time.*

Wanda Eastman - May 01, 2025 at 10:08 PM

LF

“ *What a shock..I also was born in Bell Gardens at Mission Hospital.. Its a small world. I feel awful about his passing..If you need anything at all I am here for you! Please keep in touch and let me know how you are doing.. Love you!! Laura*

Laura L Freeman - May 01, 2025 at 08:00 PM

RA

“ *You will be missed Dad. Thank you for always being there. I love you, Becky*

Rebecca Albrecht - May 01, 2025 at 06:59 PM

SK

“ *I miss and love you forever papa*

Sophie Kummer - May 01, 2025 at 05:08 PM

BA

“ *I love you papa and i'm so thankful that I got to be loved by you. I am going to miss you tremendously.*

Bethany Allen - May 01, 2025 at 01:45 PM