



## Steven Michael Ochs

February 18, 2026

Steven Michael Ochs was born in Muskegon, MI on May 1, 1971 and passed away in Surprise, AZ February 18, 2026 after a 20-month-long battle with pancreatic cancer. We knew he was a super hero, but for the sake of Darth Vader and Baby Jesus, the universe didn't have to make him prove it.

As you may have guessed, and everyone around him knew, Steve had a wicked sense of humor and an infinite trove of favorite GenX-related movie quotes, memorabilia, and antics to draw from. The most important things to him though, were his Family, Friends, Food, Football, and Fun – and the occasional other 'F' word – especially all things considered.

His wife Ashley Ochs was his best friend and he loved her from the very first date. She is the love of his life, his voice of reason, his encouragement to try new things, the keeper of all-things 'home' and ultimately, his champion. Their 25 years together brought them a relationship all of us envy, a beautiful family, and wonderful life together that he never could have imagined as a boy.

He couldn't be prouder of their daughter Kennedy Ochs, who is smart and beautiful beyond what is genetically reasonable for our family and sons Benjamin and Ethan Ochs, the sporting types, who are strong, brave, and super-coordinated – when their dad could trip and fall while standing still. He loves them all beyond measure for the kind, smart, funny, and insanely great

people they are. He fought as hard as he could to stay here with them and would have photon-torpedoed the whole world for one more fun day together.

Steve was born and raised in Muskegon, MI in the 1970s and 80s, during the feral-children years and graduated from Muskegon High School in 1989. He was preceded in death by father David Ochs, step-mother Susan Ochs, step-father Gilbert J. Line, and leaves behind his mother Patricia Ann Line all of whom gave him his amazing sense of humor and love of life. His sister Laura Olivieri and Nepew Chayton Olivieri (yes, Nepew – Steve was Funcle) are forever his cheerleaders, his masterful cribbage opponents, his gaming and movie watchers, and the ones who stayed up late on fun weekends to top the evening off with hot dogs and beer. And Steve wasn't the kind of guy who took relationships for granted. He was blessed with amazing in-laws Tom and Tanya Grantham, sisters-in-Law Sherrie Meltvedt, Stacey Wilson, Kandice Grantham; and nephews Dillon, Parker, and niece Kaydence; Melanie Murray, Josh and Ashley Knicely, and nieces Evelyn and Vivienne, all of whom he loved deeply.

Steven was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force, serving five years at Grissom Air Force Base in Indiana from 1989-1994. He was a computer and gaming nerd from the ColecoVision – Tandy 1000 days and so, went into communications. He earned an Associate of Science in information technology from Ivy Tech Ball State University while in the service and started a career in IT support for a few companies over the years: Deluxe Data, Blue Cross Blue Shield of AZ, and CGI. He was a well-respected team member and a fierce provider for his family. This journey would bring him not only the wife of his dreams, but the best, life-long friends in human history: step-brother Jim, Art, Soika, Randy, Paul S., Paul P., Thomas and Tony, who were there for the fun and there for him when it mattered.

Steve was also huge football fan, and as a Michigan kid, the Detroit Lions

were tops. His Lions paraphernalia collection alone likely funded an entire season and if there's any justice in heaven, the Lions will win a Super Bowl someday. Steve was a fantastic cook who loved to throw meat in the smoker and try many different recipes – all of which could be seen in his phone's photo gallery - and nothing made his day better than eating and drinking with his family and friends. He loved all things sci-fi from the original Star Trek and Star Wars series, to an eclectic collection of movies, music, an ardent gaming history, and TV shows any GenXer would admire.

His Memorial Service will be held on Friday, February 27, 2026 from 9:00 – 9:30 am, at National Memorial Cemetery: 2929 E Pinnacle Peak Rd., Phoenix, AZ, 85024. In lieu of flowers donate to 'Steve's Dream Team' for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at [https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/PurpleStride/PurpleStride?pg=team&team\\_id=70638&fr\\_id=3103](https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/PurpleStride/PurpleStride?pg=team&team_id=70638&fr_id=3103) and/or join us in person for the PurpleStride walk to end pancreatic cancer on Saturday, April 25, 2026 in Phoenix.

He was our hero to the last, and the Force was strong with him, but he hated long, sappy goodbyes. So instead, we'll say: Warp Speed, Mr. Sulu. Second star to the right, and straight on until morning. We'll see you in the sequel.

# Cemetery Details

## National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

2929 E Pinnacle Peak Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85024

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 27. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (MT)

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona  
2929 E Pinnacle Peak Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85024

# Tribute Wall

CV

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Steve Ochs. Having worked with Steve for several years, I was fortunate to learn so much from him—both professionally and personally. He was always approachable, supportive, and generous with his time and knowledge and his resilience was an inspiration to everyone who knew him.



*Please accept my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. May you find comfort in the memories you shared and in knowing that Steve's kindness, dedication, and spirit will live on in all those whose lives he touched. My thoughts are with you and your family.*

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**Chandra Vasa** - February 25 at 06:16 AM

RM

“ I am deeply saddened to hear about Steve’s passing.



*I had the privilege of working with him for the past six years, and throughout that time he was not only an exceptional Linux expert but also a truly remarkable person. His knowledge, dedication, and calm approach during critical issues were always inspiring. Whenever we faced challenging situations, Steve was someone we could rely on without hesitation.*

*On a personal note, he was a great mentor to me. I learned a lot from him, especially when it came to Linux. His guidance and support during many critical incidents helped me grow both technically and professionally. He was always patient, supportive, and willing to share his knowledge.*

*Beyond his technical brilliance, Steve was genuinely kind and approachable. He made a lasting impact on everyone who had the opportunity to work with him.*

*He will be greatly missed. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace.*

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**Ravi Kiran Maroju** - February 24 at 10:56 AM

DS

“ Steve was such an amazing person and one of the smartest guys I knew. We worked together for many years and loved talking about football and the latest gadgets we would buy. Steve, you will be greatly missed. I will cherish all the memories we had.

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**David Smith** - February 24 at 09:22 AM

JL

“ Steve was such a wonderful person to know, I am proud that our paths crossed and we were able to work together for about 5 years. I still remember many of the meetings where he was using his daughter's headphones. Also the many memes shared over chats at work. Steve will be greatly missed.

Jonathan Lochamy - February 24 at 08:57 AM

RF

“ Rick & Joyce Fournier lit a candle in memory of Steven Michael Ochs



Rick & Joyce Fournier - February 23 at 08:59 PM

AC

“ Ashley At Simply Cremation lit a candle in memory of Steven Michael Ochs



Ashley at Simply Cremation - February 23 at 01:19 PM