



## Stephen Charles Ballew

November 7, 1966 - March 6, 2025

Stephen Charles Ballew, age 58, of Panama City Beach, FL, passed away after a brief battle with cancer on March 6, 2025. He was born to Charles and Judy Reese Ballew on November 7, 1966, in Birmingham, Alabama. Stephen graduated from Gardendale High School in 1985. In 1989, he married his constant companion, best friend, and wife, Belinda Robbins Ballew of Forestdale, Alabama.

He will be remembered as a sports fanatic, food connoisseur, fisherman, traveler, and devoted dog dad. A diehard fan of all things Alabama Crimson Tide, he recently developed an interest in hockey. He loved spending time with his wife and friends, watching Alabama games, and enjoying a good meal. He had a knack for picking the dish that warranted the statement, “Man, I should have gotten that.” His tradition of treating himself to an afternoon milkshake on the way home from work epitomized his passion for sweets. At the local Doughnut Hole, he would indulge in the “DIET” plate—and, of course, some cake. Stephen cherished deep-sea fishing with his close friends of over 20 years. On these trips, he would reel in the big ones, catching large grouper and snapper.

With an attitude of “Just tell me what to pack and when we need to leave,”

Stephen was the “happy dumb dumb” when it came to traveling. Last year, he and Belinda created incredible, unforgettable memories with friends in Iceland and Cuba. He was also a devoted lover of all dogs. Above all else, he was a loving and respected son, brother, husband, uncle, friend, and beloved, “legendary” co-worker. Whether working with Kraft Pizza Company, Nestlé, Fraley Provisions, or Coastal Deli Provisions, Stephen loved and cared deeply about his job. For the past eight years, he worked as the warehouse manager for Fraley Provisions and Coastal Deli Provisions (Boar’s Head). His co-workers became family and some of his biggest supporters, affectionately nicknaming him the ‘Grumpy Old Man.’ The owner’s son, Mason, admirably referred to Stephen as a legend and irreplaceable.

Stephen is survived by his wife of 35 years, Belinda Robbins Ballew; his mother, Judy Reese Ballew; his sister, Joelle Ballew Lawley and brother-in-law Paul Lawley; his mother-in-law, Patricia Minyard Robbins; his brother-in-law, Mark Robbins and sister-in-law Malinda Robbins; his nephew, Matthew Robbins; his dogs, Leo and Toni; as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Charles Ballew; his father-in-law, Gene Robbins; and his grandparents. With Stephen’s passing, his beloved dogs—Fred, Pebbles, Lady, Heidi, Pete, and Barney—are certain to welcome him with open paws, eager for his embrace, pets, and treats.

Stephen has been a member of Pineywood Baptist Church in Gardendale since he was a young boy and had recently reaffirmed his faith.

A Celebration of Life honoring Stephen will be held on March 12, 2025, at 4:00 PM at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home. In the coming days, a Florida Celebration of Life will be announced for Panama City Beach. The family

welcomes and encourages visitors to come pay their respects and “hang out,” as that is what Stephen would have wanted. To honor Stephen’s life, please wear what makes you comfortable—and feel free to represent the University of Alabama or anything else he loved.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alaqua Animal Refuge ([alaqua.org](http://alaqua.org)) or to the local animal rescue of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

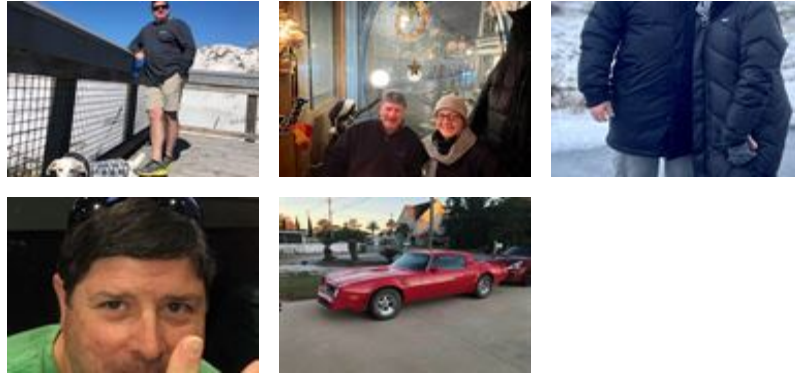
MAR 12. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home  
2214 Decatur Highway  
Gardendale, AL 35071  
(205) 631-8810  
gardendalefuneralhome2@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ 74 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home** - March 11, 2025 at 12:31 PM

CL

“ *Chuck and Kelli Lewis purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Stephen Charles Ballew.*



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**Chuck and Kelli Lewis** - March 11, 2025 at 11:33 AM

KB

“ *Belinda, I am so very sorry for the loss of Stephen, your life partner in crime. I can't imagine the pain you are going through and the grief you will feel in the days ahead. We will continue to pray for healing and comfort. Kelly and Family.*

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**Kelly Barr** - March 10, 2025 at 12:54 PM

WM

“ *To Ballew Family:  
So very sorry to hear about your loss. Praying  
for you and believing the Lord will give you  
each comfort during this difficult time. Love  
Wanda Meadows*



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**Wanda Meadows** - March 09, 2025 at 02:09 PM

LM

“ *Praying for Belinda during this difficult time! May GOD give Comfort  
& Peace! Love & Prayers, Linda & Michael Morrison* ❤️🙏

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**Linda Morrison** - March 09, 2025 at 08:50 AM

EF

“ *Edward Ford lit a candle in memory of  
Stephen Charles Ballew*



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**Edward Ford** - March 09, 2025 at 12:41 AM

KS

“ *Belinda,  
I am here for you & feel your sorrow. My  
sincere condolences to you & all family  
members. As you know, I can relate. My heart  
bleeds for you. Please know that I will be here  
for you.  
Karen*



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**Karen S** - March 08, 2025 at 06:23 PM