

Steven Allen Michalson, affectionately known as “Big Steve,” 72, of Sturgis, SD, passed away on September 15th. He was born on October 24, 1952, in Hibbing, Minnesota, to Emory and Victoria Michalson (Amiot).

During his youth, Steve’s stepfather, Jerry Hermes, served in the United States Air Force, which gave Steve the opportunity to live in several places, including California, Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota, and Okinawa, Japan. He returned to Minnesota for high school and graduated from Motley High School in 1971.

Following graduation, Steve enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served in Vietnam from 1971 to 1975. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation.

In May of 1974, Steve met Delores Hillyer. They were married on February 21, 1976, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

After being honorably discharged in 1975 due to a service-connected injury, Steve returned to Minnesota. He earned a degree in Auto Body Repair from the Thief River Falls Vocational Technical Institute and began working at a body shop in Hallock, MN.

In 1982, Steve and Dee moved to Vale, South Dakota, where he worked for several body and paint shops, including Big Al’s Autobody in Sturgis. Their daughter, Samantha, was born in 1984. In 1987, the family moved to Sturgis, and in 1988, they were blessed with a son, Jacob.

Over the years, Steve held a variety of jobs: he worked on oil rigs, at a bentonite mine, in several body shops, and at the Black Hills National Cemetery. In 1989, he became the Building and Maintenance Manager at the Sturgis Post Office, where he remained until his retirement in 2008.

Steve was larger than life. His passion for motorcycles, hunting, fishing, and Pabst Blue Ribbon often made him the life of the party. A natural prankster, he loved practical jokes and bringing laughter to those around him. He spent much of his time outdoors—shooting, tinkering, and working on vehicles. When inside, he enjoyed playing cribbage, watching movies, and cooking. He was especially proud of his chili—he made a mean one.

Steve is survived by his wife, Delores Michalson; daughter, Samantha (Matthew) Smith; son, Jacob (Ashley) Michalson; grandchildren, Amy Goodrich, James Goodrich, Kenleigh Michalson, Axel Heidrich, Hudson Michalson, and Anja Smith; sister, Thana (Russ) Prochko; and siblings-in-law, Ruth Hermes, Susan (Jack) Ester, Shirley (David) Trickle, Katherine (Keith) Tysdahl, Marty (Stuart) Dahl, and William Hillyer. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, and cherished family friends.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother; stepfather, Jerry Hermes; brothers, Greg Hermes and Thomas Michalson; sister-in-law, Carol Jackson; and in-laws, Kenneth (Claudia) Hillyer, Margaret (Bob) Hicks, Hoyt Hillyer, and James Hillyer.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

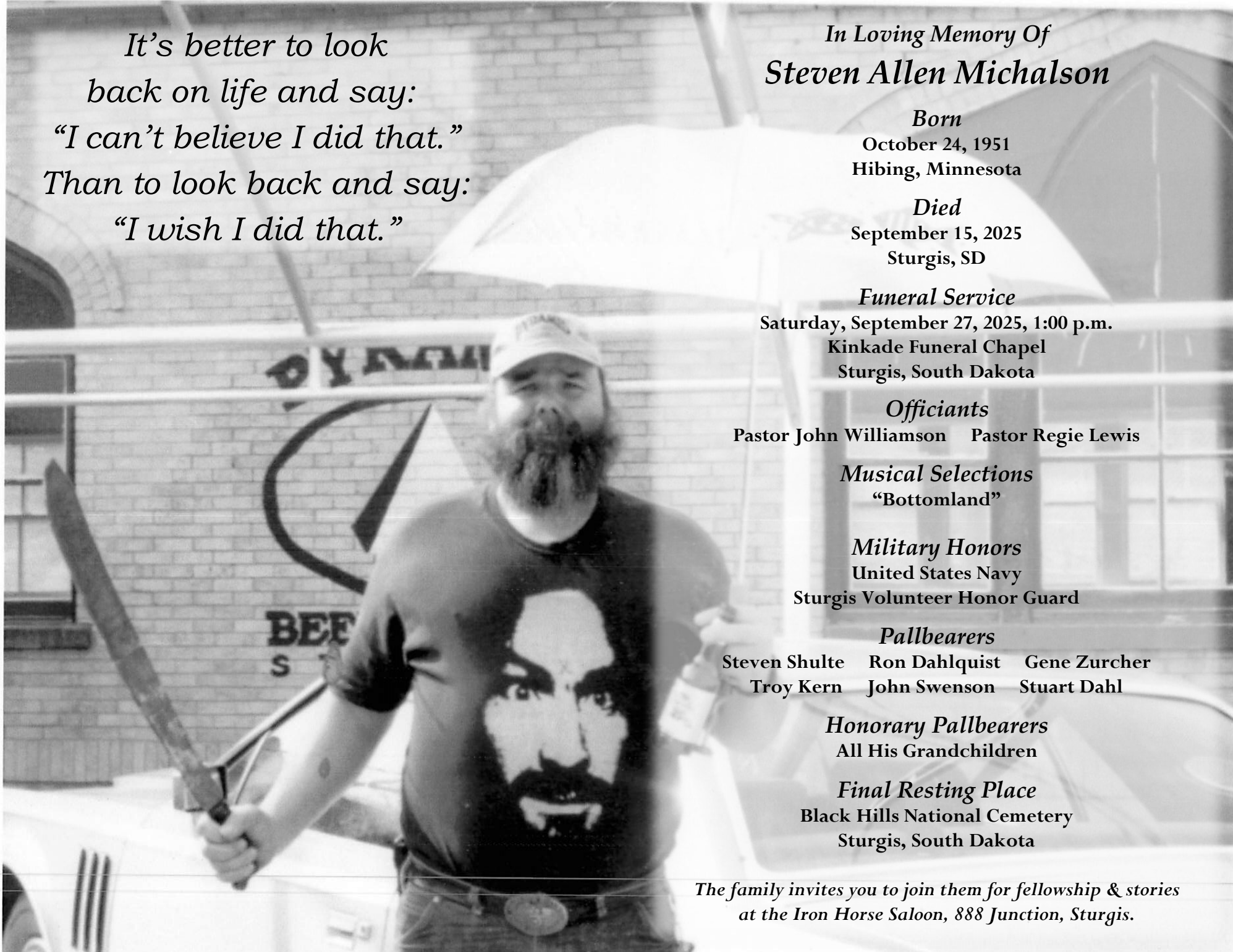
Thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory



Steven Allen Michalson

October 24, 1952 ~ September 15, 2025



*It's better to look
back on life and say:
"I can't believe I did that."
Than to look back and say:
"I wish I did that."*

*In Loving Memory Of
Steven Allen Michalson*

Born

October 24, 1951
Hibing, Minnesota

Died

September 15, 2025
Sturgis, SD

Funeral Service

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiants

Pastor John Williamson Pastor Regie Lewis

Musical Selections

"Bottomland"

Military Honors

United States Navy
Sturgis Volunteer Honor Guard

Pallbearers

Steven Shulte Ron Dahlquist Gene Zurcher
Troy Kern John Swenson Stuart Dahl

Honorary Pallbearers

All His Grandchildren

Final Resting Place

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship & stories
at the Iron Horse Saloon, 888 Junction, Sturgis.*