



## Stephen Paul Dinger

October 15, 1950 - October 28, 2024

Stephen Paul Dinger, born on October 15, 1950, in Seward, Nebraska, passed away on October 28, 2024, after a brief battle with brain cancer. Stephen, known to his friends and family as a source of insight, candor, and perseverance, was 74 years old.

Stephen's life journey began in Seward and took root at Concordia College (Seward), where he met the love of his life, Nancy (née Unverfehrt). Together, they built a legacy of love, faith, and service over 54 wonderful years of marriage. His career, spanning over 45 years, took them to various corners of the country, including Detroit, Pocatello, Portland, Seattle, and Bakersfield. Wherever he went, Stephen devoted himself to educating and empowering young minds, tirelessly advocating for children and their future. He was not only a beloved educator but also an administrator and an Executive Director for the Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS). Stephen's love for service even extended into his community as he took up the role of an elected city administrator for Dupont, WA.

Along the way, Stephen pursued and earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from Seattle Pacific University. He led with a warm heart and a firm belief in the power of education. In his quiet yet profound way, he consistently championed children's needs and saw them as the enduring hope for tomorrow.

Stephen was not all about work, though; he balanced his dedication with a love for the simpler pleasures in life. When he wasn't working, you'd likely find him reading a good mystery, lending his thoughtful voice to conversations about democracy, or cheering on his beloved Seattle Mariners (with eternal optimism for their next big season!).

He leaves behind his cherished wife, Nancy, and his children, Rachel Atkins (married to Juan Luis Atkins) and Jason Dinger (married to Kristen Keely-Dinger), who carry forward his legacy of dedication, learning, and advocacy.

Stephen's memory is held dear by family, friends, and the countless lives he touched. In his honor, we remember him as a man who believed in the potential of every child, and that we all deserve second chances. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Bakersfield Christian High School, a testament to Stephen's lifelong commitment to quality education.