



Stephen Forrest Sherrod

April 13, 1943 - December 30, 2024

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Stephen Sherrod was born in Little Rock, AR on April 13, 1943, the third child of Floyd and Catherine Sherrod. In 1946, his mother married her second husband, Jordan Amerman, and the family relocated to Phoenix, AZ.

After graduating from high school in 1960 Stephen and three friends formed a folk music band in which he played the guitar and banjo and was the lead singer. While touring, he met Nancy Selwold and they were married on May 13, 1963, in Schaller, Iowa. Stephen then attended Iowa State University and graduated with a degree in business. In 1992 he retired from a successful career in the financial industry.

He was a lifelong learner with a range of hobbies that included music, photography, and astronomy. He was an active member of the Des Moines Astronomical Society (DMAS) for many years and led the design and development of the Ashton Observatory, located in Ashton Wildwood County Park, Jasper County, IA. Since 1983, the observatory has welcomed thousands of visitors from Central Iowa, the Midwest, and around the world, offering an exciting atmosphere for presenting lectures and workshops, such as weekly events the DMAS offers to the public each Saturday from April

through October.

Stephen is survived by his daughters Christine, Kathy, and Stephanie; grandchildren Mia, Julian, and Mason; four siblings; and many extended family members and friends.