

## Stephen E. Helms



Stephen E. Helms, age 70, met his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on May 30, 1952, to Frederick and Evelyn Helms in Lancaster, NH. After graduation, he continued his education at the University of New Hampshire where he received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. On April 24, 1982, he married the love of his life, Arline, in Livermore Falls, ME. Together they cherished 40 years full of love and laughter. Steve and Arline started building their family together in New Hampshire, where they were blessed with 2 children. A job change brought them to Muskegon, Michigan in 2004. Steve was a man of strong faith and obedience to God. Steve was a steadfast husband, loving father, exceptional "Bapi", wonderful twin brother, and a dear friend to many. He is survived by his wife, Arline Helms; 2 children, Frederick (Sierra) Helms and Elizabeth (Matthew) Briggson; 2 granddaughters; and twin sister, Jeanie (Bert) Kuhl. He was preceded in death by his parents. A service and celebration of Steve's life was held August 5, 2022, at Lakeside Baptist Church. Memorial Contributions in Stephen's honor can be directed to Harbor Hospice Foundation [[www.harborhospicemi.org](http://www.harborhospicemi.org)] or Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference [[www.vacationwithpurpose.org](http://www.vacationwithpurpose.org)] to the "Bapi's Bench" Memorial Fund. Share memories with the family at [www.sytsemafj.com](http://www.sytsemafj.com).

## Letter to the Editor: America, Stand on the Word of God

August 26, 2022

Dear Editor: My original title to this letter was "Will America Stand on the Word of God?" That idea came to me after listening to our distinguished president say, that if the Republicans won the November election, and passed bills against abortion, he would Veto every bill!

Others have been saying that democrats will win the election by pushing the so called "Woman's right to an Abortion." Even the head of the RNC is worried that too much money is being sent to the Democrats for the coming election, because of the abortion issue.

When the Supreme Court voted in favor of abortion in the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, it showed they did not stand on God's Word. Then Congress followed suit and did nothing to overturn that ungodly decision. So, they too, did not stand on God's Word.

Future Supreme Court decisions extended the original 12-weeks to up until the time babies were born.

Even now, after America has spilled the human blood of live babies by murdering around sixty-five million, male and female babies, Americans still want to continue the horrendous mass murder of babies. Sick, Sick, Sick!

Some would question why I call them human babies, when they prefer to call them fetuses, or other names. But the Word of God is clear that, God, at conception, puts a spirit into the fertilized egg, giving it life, as tiny as it might be, and then He starts forming the baby. Obviously, only God could have formed each unique person like you and me!

America has become so ungodly, as we know, that we Americans have done a terrible job, when it comes to standing on "The Word of God."

Supreme Court judges are just one example. When they could have easily said we have to stand on the Word of God, and He said, "Thou Shall not Murder" innocent human beings.

Wonder where those foolish souls are, that used to say, "It is the Law of the Land" every time the Supreme Justices made ungodly decisions, such as abortion, and evicting God out of schools and government places.

God still is waiting to forgive those who have taken part in the murder of those babies. Jesus can cleanse you of all sins if you seek Him.

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January 4, 2021

To our letter carrier, Rhonda Fortney:

Thank you so much for watching over our grandson when he wandered out to the road. I shudder to think what could have happened to him.

He was born with the extra chromosome for Down Syndrome and it has been a learning experience for our family, especially for this 'older' grandma. As an infant he was so agile that I assumed he was double-jointed. We have a gate that stretches across the top of our stairs that keeps the babies from falling down them. He's the first in 40+ years to figure out how to go under the gate. He's our little Houdini!

He's strong, fast, and very lovable for his 3 years of age. He's also a little mischievous, and has a sense of humor! He doesn't talk or respond like other kids, but he has sign language that he knows. He cannot talk but he tries to say things. Mostly, only he knows what he's saying.

He went toward the bus in our yard so I slipped into the house to grab some garbage bags. When I came out I called to him, searched around our yard, looked over the hill and didn't see him anywhere! In that amount of time he was able to go quite a ways! I thank God that you were there at that time! I get a very sick feeling every time I think about it. (Unable to go to sleep tonight, I decided I needed to write this.) What a terrible grandma I am! I would rather die myself than cause anything to happen to him! I'm sure you understand as it's every mom and grandma's thoughts for sure!

Axel is a high maintenance little guy for sure, and I want to be able to help take care of him as his mom has a 6-week old baby besides. She needs all the help she can get right now.

Again, I praise God for you and thank Him repeatedly for putting His guardian Angels to protect Axel (which you were a part of). God bless you for being there at that moment and watching over him.

Sincerely, Mariann Cooper

## Candidate Bio: Roy Portenga



I'm Roy Portenga and I'm running for re-election to the Muskegon Community College Board of Trustees (non-partisan). I've been on the Board for over 20 years. This is a position where experience means everything. A well-run MCC means degrees that

are respected---to employers and 4-year schools. During my tenure, I have been part of a team of fabulous board-members, administrators, faculty, and staff that have taken MCC to a new level of excellence---all at affordable tuition. In 2021, MCC was rated 19th nationally (out of 1187 community colleges). Our nursing program (which benefits us all) always rates at or near the top. Again, all with affordable tuition. My style is well-prepared/ conscientious/ solution-oriented.

I grew up one of five kids in Muskegon; father--10th grade-educated factory worker; mother--elementary school teacher at Muskegon Christian. I worked all through college. Credentials: AA Muskegon Community College; BA Univ. of Michigan (School of Education); teacher at MI Reformatory (maximum security); Juris Doctor Degree Valparaiso Univ.; lawyer in West. MI over 40 years; on boards at my church, Jefferson Towers Senior Housing, and MCC. I respectfully ask for your vote.

## We Are Close to a Socialist Nightmare

submitted by GOP

A bleak future could be ahead of us.

Joe Biden and his gang of Leftist radicals have made America more expensive, more dangerous, and more miserable for hard-working Americans. If we allow them to maintain their majority in the House and Senate, we could lose our Country forever.

Here is what we can expect from the socialist Democrats if they are victorious in November:

- Endless illegal immigration
- Racist school curriculums
- Mountains of debt
- Sky-high taxes
- Loss of accurate elections

## Candidate Bio: Jon Bumstead



Sen. Jon Bumstead is a lifelong resident of his district. He is a proud husband, father, and grandfather. Prior to his service in the State Senate, he was the owner of a small business where he built homes for West Michigan families. He's never been a traditional politician. He's always

been an average guy who built houses for a living and loves to hunt.

Jon continues to be a leader in Lansing. As the Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, he has championed getting additional funding to law enforcement to ensure safe communities, he has sponsored and supported legislation to lower taxes, and he was the primary sponsor on historic legislation that will ensure clean water for families for generations.

Jon has made service to the district his top priority in Lansing. He and his staff have worked tirelessly to help individuals and businesses who have problems with bureaucratic red tap at the state level.

Jon has been an active and outspoken advocate for the Muskegon Casino because of the jobs and increased revenue it will bring to Fruitport Schools and the community.

Support Senator Jon Bumstead on November 8 to keep a strong voice at the State Capitol.

## Fruitport Leo Club

by Heidi Tice



Fruitport Leos are back in action after a couple of down years. We had nine members last year and are hoping to expand membership for the 2022-2023 school year.

If you want to give back to your community and be involved with the largest service organization in the world, consider joining the Fruitport Leo Club, which is sponsored by the Fruitport Lions Club. Membership is open to kids ages 12 - 18, so middle school through high school. Our meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays right after school in the highschool library. They normally last 30-45 minutes. To join you can contact any of the members in the photo above or call Bobby Jados at (231) 286-9120. Your community needs you.

## Shayna L. Spyke

1982 - 2022



Muskegon - Shayna Louise Spyke, age 40, passed away in Muskegon, MI, on Saturday, August 6, 2022. She was born on July 19, 1982, in Muskegon, to her parents Norm and Rhonda (Wilson) Spyke. A lifelong resident of Fruitport,

she graduated from Fruitport High School in the class of 2000. Shayna was the little sister of her two big brothers, Ross and Kurt. When Shayna was eleven years old, she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. She had a ten-year career working for Fruitport Schools in their special education department. A MEMORIAL SERVICE took place on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services. Donations may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

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