Steve Edward Sing

FOUNTAIN CITY, Wis. — Steve Edward Sing, 57, of Fountain City passed away peacefully Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, at his home, after a short courageous battle with cancer.

Steve was born Sept. 7, 1956, to Edward and Joyce (Beck) Sing in Winona. Steve went to school and graduated from Cochrane-Fountain City High School in 1974. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. In June 1978, he met the love of his life, Debbie Bagniewski, “at the races” in Fountain City. They married in May 1982 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, and to this union their daughter, Jessica Rose, was born in 1985. Steve’s career was in the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers as a survey technician and inspector on the dredge. He was with the Corps for more than 38 years until his retirement in November 2013.

His vast knowledge of the Mississippi River will be missed by his colleagues. He was a member for many years of the Fountain City council, the American Legion, the Fountain City Rod and Gun Club and a lifetime member of the NRA. Steve’s favorite pastime was to be on the river, whether it be fishing, boating, skiing or just hanging out with the many river friends and his family. He was a true “river man” who worked and played on the Mississippi River, knowing all the fishing hot spots but never divulging their locations. He could tell you where any river marker was. If you asked him how the fishing was, he would always reply “just got a few bites.” He was also an avid deer and duck hunter. Years ago, he had his favorite dog, Max by his side. Steve was a master at trap shooting and was involved with the hunter’s safety program with range instruction. In earlier years, he was an avid vegetable gardener, which he enjoyed with his daughter. He was also meticulous about his lawn, keeping it pristine, while often giving his daughter rides on the lawn mower around the yard when she was little.

When their daughter, Jessica, was a senior in high school, the Sing family had another “daughter” welcomed into their home, Zaya, an exchange student from Mongolia. She instantly became just like a member of their family. Steve enjoyed his time off, frequently working at his in-laws, the Ellis’ farm during harvesting, haying or helping prepare the yard and shop for parties and celebrations. Many family memories were made on their ritual Sunday boat trips in the summer to the sand bars. Steve truly treasured his time with his family and friends, enjoying the many talks under the huge umbrella. Steve was known to be always a hard worker, honest and very punctual. He would help many friends and neighbors with projects.

Steve will be sadly missed by his wife, Debbie; daughter, Jessica (Ron L.) Merchlewitz and their children, Mason, Weston and “baby to be” of Altura, Minn.; his parents, Edward and Joyce of Fountain City; his siblings, Brian (Linda) Sing of West Salem, Wis., Mike (Brenda) Sing of Rollingstone, Minn., and Wayne (Irene) Sing of Fountain City; his mother and father-in-law, Eugene and Lucille Bagniewski of Fountain City; his in-laws, Eugene Jr. (Diane) Bagniewski, Edie Bagniewski, Diane (Mike Andring) Ristau, Rich (Shelley) Bagniewski, Jeff (Pam) Bagniewski, Karen (Chris) Ellis and Mary Jo (Ken) Kottmann; many nieces, nephews, other relatives; and Lola, the kitty.

Preceding Steve in death are his grandparents, Eldon and Loretta Beck and Eleanor Sing; brother-in-law, Gerry Bagniewski; nephews, Jason Ristau, Aaron Bagniewski and Joe Gillette; cousins, Dan Burt and Robert Haag; and his aunt, Renee Earney.
A memorial gathering will be from 4 to 8 p.m. with a short prayer service at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fountain City and one hour prior to the funeral service. The funeral service and celebration of life will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Burial will be in the spring at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Fountain City.

Pallbearers will be Chris Ellis, Dustin Ellis, Drew Ellis and Ron L. (Ronnie) Merchlewitz. Steve had so many close friends and family to mention as honorary pallbearers, from fishing, to hunting, to boating and work, and many early morning “chats,” you know who you are, and Steve loved you all. Steve was a strong man, who showed a lot of strength, physical and emotional, as he went through this battle. That strength will live on in Debbie, Jessica and his grandchildren. Thank you for being his friend and a blessing in his life. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.talbotfuneralhomes.com.