



## Mr. Scott Daniel Staples

August 23, 1949 - April 13, 2018

Scott Daniel Staples, resident of Asheville, NC, formerly of Rochester and Glens Falls, NY, died suddenly on April 13, 2018 at age 68. Scott was born on August 23, 1949, and raised in Rochester, one of seven children. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and volunteered for deployment to Vietnam, but, upon arrival in country, his records were reviewed and revealed his brother was already serving there. As a result, Scott was immediately shipped from Vietnam to Germany and was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal. He earned a GED while in the Army, and attended Monroe County NY Community College, Saint John Fisher College, and Albany Law School, where he earned his juris doctorate. Scott worked as a master plumber into his 40s, when he passed the NY State Bar exam and was sole proprietor of Staples Law Firm in North Creek, NY. He was elected to a Warren County NY family court judgeship, after campaigning door-to-door in the Adirondack mountains. In 2014, he moved to Asheville and at the time of his death worked for ACE Hardware on Merrimon Ave.

Scott had a markedly warm, open, and generous nature. He was primarily and obviously interested in people, and his work in the plumbing department at ACE helped fulfill his need to be of service to others. He will be profoundly missed by his partner, Jean Hansman, who was by his side at his passing, and by his sister, Jan Staples, and three surviving brothers, William, Richard, and Stephen Staples, as well as by his many friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Norman, Sr. and Inez Steklof Staples of Rochester, and two other brothers, Norman, Jr. and Joseph Staples.

A gathering of friends will be 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Sunday, April 29, 2018 at Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC.

Memorial donations in Scott's name may be made to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue of Asheville, 828-505-2017.

# Events

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**APR** **Gathering of Friends** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

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Morris Funeral & Cremation Care

304 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC, US, 28801

# Comments

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“ I first met Scott at the North Creek Post Office in 2003. Scott’s wide smile and kind eyes drew me in. To Scott, there were no strangers, just friends he hadn’t met yet. We talked for a long time that day, and Scott invited me to stop and visit him any time at his law office, which was near to my apartment.

When I met Scott, I had been living in North Creek for a year, having moved up from the Finger Lakes. The reality of living in the mountains was not what I had anticipated. The natural beauty didn’t make up for the loneliness. Most days in North Creek I would see three or four people, and talk to one or two. I was lonely, but before I met Scott, no one had bothered to take the time to reach out to me.

After that first chance meeting, I stopped often at Scott’s office for a visit. Scott had a busy practice and he did not have time to sit around and talk with me. But he always made time. Scott was the best listener anyone could ever ask for. He was a deep-diver and asked thoughtful questions. Our friendship grew quickly.

On a Friday in late December, I lost my job. Already feeling low, getting fired caused me to spiral down even further. I was living in a place I hated, with no support network, and without any job prospects. I could barely hold my head above water.

The day after I got fired I dragged myself to the grocery store. On my way home I saw Scott’s car at his office. I couldn’t bring myself to go in and confess to him what had happened. Later that day my despair got the better of me and I called to tell him.

So many years have passed that I no longer remember the words he spoke to me that night, but I know they were the right ones. Scott knew what to say. A few minutes after we hung up, my phone rang. It was Scott, calling to offer me a job.

Either Scott liked my work or he just felt sorry for me. Either way, he brought me on to work with him. I had no experience in legal work; Scott had to teach me everything. I know that he probably didn’t really need help in his office. But in hiring me, he threw me a lifeline when I was so far underwater I couldn’t see the surface.

Working for Scott helped bring my confidence back and got me through that difficult time.

After about three months, I landed a job offer out of the area. Scott had been talking with me about the coming to work for him with the goal of me attending law school and joining his practice. I struggled to decide what to do. I loved working for him, but I wasn’t sure if I wanted to stay in North Creek.

In the end, Scott saved me again. On the day I planned to make my final decision – stay or go – he took me out to dinner. I don’t remember much about our conversation except Scott saying, “Erin, I want you to work with me very much. But, the very first time I met you, you told me that you hated it living in the Adirondacks. So, for your own sake, take care with this decision.”

And he was right. The place that I loved to vacation had turned out to be a nightmarish place to live, so I left. Scott was a job reference for me a few times over the coming years. I sent him Christmas cards. We talked on the phone on occasion. I stopped at his office once, but just missed him. The cards and calls tapered off, and then stopped. I never saw Scott again, but thought of him often. It was a shock to learn that he is gone at the too-young age of 68.

Scott was a good man. A caring man. A kind man. A gentle, thoughtful, and considerate person who thought of others first. Who always knew how to make you feel better. He had insight to see what mattered, and to know what was important, in life itself and in people.

I am sure Scott touched many people during his time on earth. I am so grateful to be

counted among them. I am forever grateful to you, Scott Staples. You saw me when no one else did. You saved me from drowning. You gave me my life back. I am deeply in your debt. I wish I could have told you all of this while you were here. I hope somehow you know.

**Erin Sheehan** - March 28, 2019 at 01:33 PM

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“ I met Scott at the Ace store when I had a question about plumbing. He was such a caring guy as he took the time to help me, tried to teach me how to repair this faucet on my own, without success. So he walked me through some steps, via pictures and phone calls. Finally he offered to come over and help. I am in the Ace a lot and would always seek out Scott for a hug, advice or just catching up. He will always be missed because of the kindness he showed to my uncle, who at 74, wanted to go camping for the first time. Scott was graciously lent my uncle a cot because he he felt that no one their age should be on the ground.

Paulette Evans

**Paulette Evans** - April 29, 2018 at 09:21 AM

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“ such a great friend. a great human being. always smiling. so talented in his craft.....a real people person. never knew a stranger. will miss him forever. still cant believe he is gone. want to go to ace hardware just to talk to him ! Jean, sorry I can't be there on sunday. Scott would understand.

**Bill Chapman** - April 28, 2018 at 12:00 PM

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“ Scott has been my friend for over forty years. He was an old soul when I met him in his twenties in Rochester NY. He managed to remain interested and interesting throughout his life. I quote him often as at times he had practical solutions for life’s challenges.

I will miss beating him at cards, discussing movies and politics and his wit and wisdom. He was a person you simotaneously thought would live forever (“nothing bad happens to me”) or be gone tomorrow. Here💎💎💎s to you Scott - for living a life well remembered by many. Your friend in Life,  
Ginny

He would have liked the poem recited at the end of the movie ‘The Shape Of Water’-

“Unable to perceive the shape of you,  
I find you all around me...  
Your presence fills my eyes with love;  
It humbles my heart - for you are everywhere.”

**Ginny Morrissey** - April 22, 2018 at 01:37 PM



“ Thank you Ginny for your very thoughtful message. Scott spoke of you often with love and respect. Your words made me smile because Scott was my go-to guy regarding politics and current events. I hear new ideas or the latest political shenanagans and think, I wonder what Scott would say about this! The great thing is I know what he would say because he is with me always. Jan Staples

**Jan Staples** - April 28, 2018 at 02:44 PM

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“ Scottie started Ace shortly after I did. We become instant friends as we were close to the same age. Since he was so fussy about his department he would ask me to do freight on freight days if he was not going to be there and if we worked together I'd ask permission to go in his isles. He passing was a huge shock for me but the memories I have and the privilege of knowing him for even that brief moment in time will always bring a smile to my heart. I do know the sales of plumbers grease at that Ace I'm working at now have increased four fold. Thank you Scottie.

Doug Roberts.

**Doug Roberts** - April 18, 2018 at 01:58 PM



“ Thank you, Doug, for your kind words about Scott. He was very dear to me, not only as a brother, but as a best friend. He protected me when we were kids, and was always kind to me. I miss him terribly. Jan Staples

**Jan Staples** - April 20, 2018 at 05:38 PM



“ Jan, I am so sorry to hear about Scott. Scott was very very dear to all of my family. especially to my parents and myself. So many fond memories. It was Scott that pushed me to go back to School. He had a wonderful smile. Loved to talk to people. and Loved living on 14th Road. I remember him talking about you and was so proud having you as his Sister. Thoughts and Prayer to you and your Brothers. Tracy (Balch) Lockhart

**Tracy (Balch) Lockhart** - April 21, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ I have actually only known Scott for maybe 6 months. I wished I had met him sooner. Scott helped me with some small plumbing jobs. I instantly liked and trusted him. I could tell how particular he was about whatever job he was doing- he wanted it done right. He told me he loved to work and teach and it showed. I stayed with him side by side for hours while he worked in case he needed anything. He wanted to show me how to do plumbing!!! I politely declined. Lol!

Recently, when I was out of town, I got a call from a tenant about a plumbing issue. Scott went out as soon as he could to check on it for me. He was very loyal and caring. I feel fortunate to have had him in my life, however briefly.

He is missed!

Julie Nelson

**julie nelson** - April 25, 2018 at 01:10 PM