

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special THANK YOU goes out to the following for their contribution in making this event possible.

Alumni Association Executive Board & Representatives
Kathy (McGarry) Brewster '70, Awards Committee
Dr. Mary (Pelszynski) Buchwalder '78, Awards Committee
Cake Craft
Anita (Notestine) Coleman '70, Awards Committee
Kathy (Kuntz) Heeb '70, Awards Committee
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Fr. Joseph "Teddy" Tedesco, UD, Master of Ceremonies
Mark Vest '81
Pam (Staton) Tipps, '91, Director of Advancement & Admissions
Julie (Hemmert) Weitz '94, Director of Alumni & Community Relations
Pete Williams '98, Awards Committee Chairperson

**CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONIES
Sponsored by Carroll High School's
Alumni Association**

**Saturday, September 13, 2008
Hope Hotel & Conference Center**

Schedule of Evening

4:30 p.m. Social Reception
5:30 p.m. Dinner
Benediction Fr. Joseph "Teddy" Tedesco
6:15 p.m. Ceremony
Welcome...Pete Williams '98, Awards Committee Chair
Comments.....Joseph Sens, Principal
Master of Ceremonies...Fr. Joseph "Teddy" Tedesco
Introduction of Special Guests
Induction.....Dr. Greg Notestine '71,
Alumni Association President
1) Senator Steve Austria '77
2) Kevin Hess '73, accepting award on behalf of Lance Corporal Dale Hess '67
3) Cheryl (McHenry) Chabali '74
4) David Gasper '74
5) Chris Clifford '79, accepting award on behalf of Colonel Paul Kelly '79
6) Diane (McGarvey) Wright '79
7) Steve Bogner '81
8) J.P. Nauseef '84
9) Ann Marie Stieritz '87
Closing.....Julie (Hemmert) Weitz '94,
Director of Alumni & Community Relations

*Music performed by Andrew Larochelle, Carroll
High School Class of 2009*

September 2008

Dear Alumni and Friends,

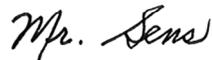
Welcome to Carroll High School's Inaugural Induction to the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. The Alumni Hall of Fame will be placed on the ground floor hallway at Carroll High School, above the lockers, so that current students can be motivated to strive for success, following the examples of present and future inductees.

Please realize how much Carroll High School's administration, faculty, staff, and students appreciate each and every one of you, and how proud we are to have you in the Carroll family. Your achievements are a testament to the work ethic and dedication that many of you learned while you were students walking the halls of Carroll High School.

Join me in expressing gratitude to the Alumni Association for sponsoring this ceremony. It is important that we also thank the Alumni Association's Awards and Recognition Committee for planning all of tonight's festivities and for assisting in bringing a long-time dream to fruition. The Inaugural Honorees are exceptional and their accomplishments have set a very high standard for future inductees. These Patriots are truly among the best of the best!

Be sure to sit back and enjoy your evening. While you focus on the ceremony, think of other outstanding alumni who could be included in future halls of fame and nominate those individuals for further consideration. We look forward to many celebrations welcoming our alumni back home and sharing Carroll's excellence with the community.

Sincerely,



Mr. Joseph Sens
Principal

Ann Marie Stieritz

Class of 1987

Recognized as one of Carroll's Ambassadors to the World, Ann Marie Stieritz is currently serving as the inaugural Director of Apprenticeship Carolina™, a new division of the South Carolina Technical and Community College System. Prior to accepting this role, Ann Marie was an independent consultant contracted as the Statewide Coordinator for the establishment of Regional Education Centers mandated under South Carolina state law.



In addition to her recent work in South Carolina, Ann Marie's diplomatic, executive, educational, and economic development careers have spanned the globe. These experiences include working as an American Political Analyst to the Japanese Consulate in New York City; being an International Account Executive for the New Jersey Commerce & Economic Growth Commission; teaching in Africa as a Language Instructor through the US Peace Corps; and serving as Assistant Director of the Ponape Agriculture and Trade School in Micronesia.

She has also been active in her community through her membership on the Education, Jobs and Life Skills Council of the United Way of the Midlands, the Columbia Rotary Club, the South Carolina Think Tank on Women Entrepreneurs, Women in Philanthropy, and the Columbia World Affairs Council.

Ann Marie was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree, *Summa Cum Laude*, in History and French from Xavier University, a Master of Arts degree in French Studies from New York University, and a Master of Philosophy degree in Political Science and French Studies also from New York University. Additionally, she received a *Diplôme d'études* in French Language and Civilization from the *Université de Paris, la Sorbonne*.

Ann Marie resides in Columbia, South Carolina with her husband John B. Carran.

She remembers returning to attend her 20-year reunion last year. She recalls, "It was gratifying to see the fantastic level of attendance and the successes that so many old friends had achieved. It really made me realize that our class was a part of something truly special."

J.P. Nauseef

Class of 1984

JP Nauseef recently started a business to focus on helping high-tech businesses to capture new markets. Prior to his current role, JP was President and CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition, where he served a critical role for the Region's economy. With the support of the Greater Dayton Community, the region experienced the biggest economic development win in decades during the last round of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) proceedings. JP's efforts rallied support from federal, state and local leaders to protect and gain thousands of jobs at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. As a result, the base was strengthened in both size and importance at a critical time for our community.



Prior to joining the Dayton Development Coalition, JP served in professional roles focused on advancing technology in industry and as an active duty Air Force Officer.

Throughout his career JP has received many awards for his leadership: Air Force Association's Ambassador Award in 2006; Dayton Region Leadership award in 2005; Dayton Business Journal 40-Under-40 Award in 2001; and as an active duty officer: Air Force Space and Missile Center Officer of the Year in 1995; Air Force Association State of California Officer of the Year in 1996.

JP has also served on the Board of Directors of numerous organizations in the Dayton region including the Greater Dayton IT Alliance, Wright Brothers Institute, Downtown Dayton Partnership, daytaOhio, the National Composite Center, Workforce Policy Board for Montgomery County, Air Force Civic Leader Group and The United Way.

JP earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and a Masters degree from the University of Southern California.

JP and his wife Carmen live in the Dayton Region with their four sons: Jack (8), Daniel (5), Nicholas (3), and William (3).

JP's memories of Carroll include hanging out with friends and joining parties at Dave Bockrath's house. He was also fascinated with Mr. Hoefler's Anthropology class and his unique way of laughing.

The Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame is sponsored by Carroll High School's Alumni Association and organized by the Awards and Recognition Committee.

Awards and Recognition Committee

Julie (Hemmert) Weitz '94, Director of Alumni & Community Relations
Pete Williams '98, Committee Chairperson

Jeannie (Heid) McManus '66
Kathy (McGarry) Brewster '70
Anita (Notestine) Coleman '70
Kathy (Kuntz) Heeb '70
Daniel O'Bryan '71
Mary Heider '74
Dr. Mary (Pelszynski) Buchwalder '78
Jonathan Pyles '00
Tom Hoefler, faculty member
Dennie Stieritz, faculty member

Alumni Association Executive Board and Representatives

Dr. Greg Notestine '71, President
Pete Williams '98, Vice President
Cindy (Frantz) Ryan '92, Treasurer
Jonathan Pyles '00, Secretary

Betsy (Fish) Brown '69
Barb (Downs) Howey '71
Sue (Sheetz) Graham '76
Chris Youngerman '79
Marcia (Balsom) Cox '79
Dan Austria '80
Diane (McNelly) Keller '80
Myrna (Fisher) Gazzero '81
Larry Miller '81
Toni (Hemmert) Weitz '86
Theresa Lehman '96
Adrienne Perfilio '98
Sean Harshman '01
Stephanie Gaffney '03

CHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Procedure

Carroll High School's Alumni Association established the Awards and Recognition Committee in May 2006 in order to evaluate criteria, research candidates, solicit nominations for alumni sponsored awards, and coordinate the planning and hosting of an annual awards ceremony. Being named to the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame is an incredible honor and is based on post high school achievements.

There are two categories for consideration: *Alumni Distinguished Patriot* and *Honorary Patriot*. The *Alumni Distinguished Patriot Award* honors Carroll graduates (at least 15 years out) who have made a significant impact on their communities and professions. The volunteer selection committee makes nominations and considers those received from alumni and the community. They solicit nominations from diverse backgrounds based on academic excellence, career achievement, Christian leadership, dedicated service, philanthropy, heroism, humanitarianism, and/or cultural enrichment, and then vote for the "best" of the "best." The *Honorary Patriot Award* honors those who are not Carroll graduates who have had a lasting and profound effect on Carroll High School, its students, and its community through their commitment to Catholic education and their active involvement, leadership, and support of the school.

Nomination forms must be received by the first day in October to be eligible for induction the following school year. Once candidates are nominated, their nominations remain active in subsequent years.

The committee is given descriptions of each candidate received from actual nominations, newspaper and web articles, or other forms of research. Then, the committee is divided into four sub-groups to discuss and research the nominees further and later share their findings with the rest of the committee. Prior to voting day, each committee member is asked to select 10-15 top nominee choices. Then, those names are tallied and the top choices (maximum of 35 names) are included on an official roster.

On voting day, there must be a two-thirds majority quorum present, and only those committee members present can vote. Voting day should be held at least six months prior to the ceremony. From the official roster, each committee member is required to select the same number of candidates on a secret ballot, ranking them 1 to a maximum number of 10. (The committee determines the specific number of candidates to rank each year prior to voting day.) Those candidates ranked #1 are considered that member's top choice and are given the maximum number of points (10 ranked candidates = 10 points), and those ranked the lowest are given 1 point. Votes are then tabulated and the top vote getters become the final awardees. (The

Steve Bognar Class of 1981



Steve Bognar is a producer, writer, director, cinematographer, and editor, best known for his documentary films. In 2007 he received the Primetime Emmy in Los Angeles for his documentary film, *A Lion in the House*, made with Julia Reichert, which chronicles the struggles of five families with childhood cancer and its treatment over a period of six years. The film, which also premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, received funding grants from the Ohio Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The film was broadcast as a national primetime PBS special in 2006.

In 2006, Steve was awarded the Ohio Governor's Award for Individual Artist, the state's highest honor in the arts. Steve also received the 2000 Grand Jury Award at the Florida Film Festival for *Picture Day*, the 1997 Best Documentary at the Cinequest San Jose Film Festival for *Personal Belongings*, as well as other nominations.

Steve is a graduate of the award-winning Wright State University Film program. He has taught filmmaking to students for twenty years as an artist-in-residence with the Ohio Arts Council, has taught full time at Antioch College, and has been a guest lecturer at Harvard, Stanford, American University, the University of Texas, and others.

Steve resides with Julia Reichert in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

When asked about his Carroll memories, Steve states, "My memories of Carroll collide into each other, alternating between the usual fears of adolescence and the thrills of 3.2 beer and discovering the Clash. While the vision of Sister Mary Jean as looming guardian of the down staircase still haunts my sleep, I walk in perpetual gratitude to so many Carroll teachers, who taught me how to structure a sentence, divide a fraction, develop an idea, and squat a thrust. I admit there are certain songs I can never listen to, due to relentless airplay in the cafeteria on WCHS... As a teenager, I believed Carroll was overly strict. In retrospect, I see how the school and its teachers helped me develop self-discipline, a work ethic, and a moral compass. Time has taught me that high school years are scary for everyone (It wasn't just me!). The process of remembering brings back more fears and anxieties than it rightly should. I do know that my friends and family got me through it."

Diane (McGarvey) Wright Class of 1979

As Deputy Program Executive Officer for Aircraft/Executive Director, Diane serves as the head civilian at Aeronautical Systems Center (ASC), the largest organization on Wright Patterson Air Force Base. ASC employs nearly 11,000 people and manages over 400 Air Force, joint, and international aircraft acquisition programs worth over \$18.7 billion. She is also the former Deputy Director of Air Warfare for acquisition at the Pentagon under the Secretary of Defense. She recently received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Senior Executives. She also received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service in 2001.



Diane received her Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Dayton and a Master in Business Administration from Troy State University in Michigan.

She is involved with local programs including the Wright-Patterson Air Force Education Out Reach program, Dayton Development Coalition Board Member, the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute Board, and the Wright Brothers Institute Educational Board.

Diane and her husband have two adult sons and were blessed with a granddaughter in 2007. They reside in Centerville, Ohio.

She has fond memories of her time and friends at Carroll. She states, "An excellent high school education and the support from my family provided a great foundation for my success."

specific number of final awardees is determined each year by the committee.)

The committee sets no quotas by gender, area of achievement or era, but diversity is encouraged. Members are expected to be unbiased and fair-minded. Also, the committee is sworn to strict confidentiality as to protect the nominees and maintain the highest standard of integrity.

The crest of Carroll High School is found on the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame plaques, as well as the awards given to the inductees. The crest reflects both the spiritual and temporal objectives and ideals of the school's namesake, its faculty, and its student body.



The monogram over the olive branch represents the Blessed Virgin to whom Archbishop John Carroll was intensely devoted. The slogan, Via Pacis (Way of Peace), recognizes her as our intercessor with Christ in obtaining "that peace which the world cannot give."

The eagle is primarily the symbol for St. John the Evangelist to whom the school chapel is dedicated. Soaring heavenward, it reminds us that we too should lift our hearts above earthly affections. Well-known as an American symbol, this king of birds urges us to be strong, sure, and satisfied only with the heights.

The torch at the lower right represents the spirit that fired the Patriots of early America to love, to work, and to fight for God and Country. The plow of Cincinnatus identifies Carroll as an institution of the Archdiocese.

Over all, the Cross with its open arms spanning the Universe, teaches true freedom and how to enjoy its gift of peace here and hereafter.

Those interested in nominating a distinguished graduate for consideration in future Alumni Hall of Fame Inductions can find full instructions at:

http://www.carrollhs.org/alum_dis.htm

Questions? Contact Julie Weitz, Director of Alumni & Community Relations at (937) 253-8188, ext. 339, or email jweitz@carrollhs.org.

Lance Corporal Dale Hess US Marine Corps Class of 1967

Dale was killed in a ground battle at Quang Tri near CamVu, South Vietnam on April 30, 1968. He and 35 other Marines fought in the opening engagements of what is now known as the Battle of Dong Ha. His name is memorialized at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C., Panel 53E, Line 15.



The most outstanding memories of Dale are of service to Carroll High School and the community. He was Student Council Class Rep, Senior Class President, and co-founder for the Backyard Peace Corps, giving time to Dakota Center (West Dayton) at a time when racial tensions were high. He is also responsible for acquiring the Victory Bell and beginning the tradition of ringing it after games won. He participated in football and track (CYO "outstanding athlete award" is named after Dale, in memory of the 1963 record he set in the 40-yard dash). Dale also received the B'nai B'rith citizenship award, East Dayton Association's Outstanding Youth award, and the Religion award.

Before he went to Vietnam, Dale wrote a poem that was quite poignant

THE WAR FOR ME

*Vietnam by November.
Vietnam will live forever.
Men'll die and so be dead
For these men a tear I shed
I gotta go!
I want to go!
Can't live forever, you know.
God help the ones who run,
Help the ones who kill for fun.
Help me.*

In 1972, Mr. James Hemmert remembered Dale in Write-On four years after his death in a poem titled, "Memory in Concrete." It answers how many of us here tonight feel about Dale. One section went like this:

*The bell hunches in the sun of the football field.
It echoes a bullet of Vietnam,
a memorialized Marine whose hands formed its foundation,
whose hands hammered it with C.H.S. victories.*
WHO REMEMBERS?
After four years his memory in concrete...BUT I REMEMBER!

Paul is the example of what Carroll High School hopes its students become – responsible citizens who are leaders that face challenges, think critically, and live compassionately.

Paul was a wonderful friend, and we miss him. Just like the troops who served with him later in life, our classmates were drawn to him. He was optimistic, confident, and he supported his friends. Paul's humility combined with his confidence was remarkable. He was a four year varsity wrestler, a student council officer, a strong runner on the cross-country team, very popular, and yet he was humble. Paul always tried to pull others up to his level. He was a true gentleman, acting as though he was just as good as anyone, but not better than anyone.

Paul believed in his classmates and friends, at times more than they believed in themselves. As a leader of the wrestling team, Paul persuaded others to try-out for the team, and he encouraged, pushed, and supported his teammates until they competed at their highest possible level. He demanded even more from himself. Watching Paul wrestle we learned how to be disciplined and dedicated. Seeing his drive to win, and his resolve to train to win, was inspirational.

The two words that describe Paul best are fiercely loyal. Paul was proud of and devoted to his family, committed to serving his country, dedicated to the troops he commanded, and loyal to his friends. He supported everything positive his family, friends and troops did, and defended those in need. That loyalty, Paul's confidence, his optimism and his humility are what made him a great leader. Leading men was Paul's calling. Our country was fortunate to have him.

Paul lived the life he wanted. He loved his wife, Maria, and sons, Paul David and J.J., and was thrilled that his career was serving his country. His life was too short, but it was meaningful and continues to be inspirational. Paul was a great leader, an American hero, a Patriot, an ideal son and brother, and a proud husband and father. We are most grateful that he was our classmate and our friend.

Colonel Paul Kelly US Army National Guard Class of 1979

Paul Kelly was killed in action near Baghdad on January 20, 2007 serving Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in the National Guard for over 20 years, rising to the rank of Colonel, and commanded battalions of assault helicopters and thousands of troops in Iraq and Bosnia. For his bravery and accomplishments, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.



Paul was a leader at Carroll, leading the wrestling team, the cross-country team, serving as a Student Council officer, and being a friend to all of his classmates. With the values his parents instilled in him, and the quality Catholic education he received at Carroll and University of Dayton, he embarked on a career in the military.

Paul was a born leader. His troops were dedicated to him, as he was to them, and he treated all of them with respect. Paul frequently helped his troops cope with and resolve their personal and family issues, and he encouraged them to attend religious services. This enabled Paul to command thousands of troops, lead these men into war, and keep them believing in their cause.

On January 20, 2007, Paul was flying with 11 other Army and National Guard servicemen in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter near Baghdad, Iraq. Paul and all of the others on board were killed when their helicopter was shot down. Because of who he was and what he did for others, Paul's family, fellow soldiers, friends, and the Carroll community were grief-stricken.

Paul was the finest example of what Carroll hopes its students become. He served his family, his fellow man, and God, and he sacrificed his life for his country. Paul truly was a Patriot and an American hero.

The excerpt on the following page was written by Chris Clifford, one of Paul's classmates and friends:

Cheryl (McHenry) Chabali Class of 1974



Currently anchor for NewsCenter 7's prime evening newscasts (WHIO-TV), Cheryl McHenry Chabali earned three Emmy Awards in the "Spot News" category (one awarded for on-the-scene coverage of grueling police search for a teenager abducted by the mother's killer). She also won one Emmy in the "Investigative News" category for a 3-part series on repeat drunk driving offenders. She studied broadcasting at the University of Cincinnati, and worked for numerous radio stations, including WKRC, WING, and WCKY. She then looked toward television and was hired in 1981 as a reporter by WHIO in Dayton and, since 1991, has anchored the evening news.

Cheryl has co-hosted the Children's Miracle Network telethon since 1987. She also emceeds a number of events every year—one of her favorites being the Rae Burick Women in Sports Award banquet, which honors local high school female athletes.

In 2007, she was honored as Best Anchor by the Associated Press and inducted into the Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame of Ohio.

She remains very dedicated to Carroll and has emceed many of its events, including the annual Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. Cheryl resides in Kettering, Ohio with her husband, Bob Chabali, and her two daughters, Christina and Maria.

Cheryl states the following: "What a tremendous honor to be inducted into the Carroll High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame! It's also very humbling when I think of all the wonderful people who've walked the hallowed halls of Carroll... There were so many classes I looked forward to and so many special teachers I couldn't possibly name them all. Just a few of them who had a great impact on me: Roger Forthofer (Speech), Charles Eckhardt (Social Studies), Tom Clark (Theater Arts), Sr. Mary Alice Stein (Journalism), Tom Sableski (Mass Media), Jim Hemmert (Creative Writing). I appreciated the positive influence from the Carroll "icons:" Jim Hemmert, Jim Spoerl, Jim Kuntz, and Joe Sens... Miss Martha Derringer, my wonderful Guidance Counselor, helped me choose the University of Cincinnati for its reputation in the field of broadcasting... I'm grateful to my entire family, especially my parents and brothers and sisters, and to everyone associated then and now with Carroll High School. The good Lord has truly blessed me..."

David Gasper Class of 1974

In 1983, David Gasper founded Gasper Corporation and developed ATM management software for leading banks such as Bank of America and Royal Bank of Scotland. Gasper products use automation to remotely manage ATMs and the systems that support ATMs, such as hardware service teams, telecommunications networks and cash replenishment teams.



In 1999, NCR Corporation acquired Gasper Corporation. Today, Gasper exists as a subsidiary operation of NCR. Gasper products are managing devices for more than 170 of the world's largest ATM deployers and financial institutions. The Gasper name and brand is known worldwide as a pioneer and innovator in the ATM industry.

David has been very active in promoting Entrepreneur activities through the Dayton area. Among the entrepreneurship activities are:

- ♦ Creator of new software, PicsMatch, which uses facial recognition to locate photos on their personal computer
- ♦ Advisory Board member of several privately held high technology businesses
- ♦ Member of Richard Florida Creative Class Initiative for Dayton Ohio.
- ♦ President of a private placement venture capital fund.
- ♦ Served as a member of State of Ohio's Third Frontier Advisory Board
- ♦ Former Executive in Residence at the Raj Sooin School of Business, teaching classes and connecting the college to the local business community
- ♦ Former volunteer chairman of CEO Development program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

He gives extraordinary philanthropy to Carroll (largest alumni supporter), participates in Carroll fundraisers, and is a recognized civic leader in Dayton. He won the 1998 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award & the 1998 Greene County Special Award.

David resides in Beavercreek, Ohio with his wife Theresa. All three of their children attended Carroll: Laura Gasper '01, Brian Duckro '02, and Carly Duckro '04. He states, "In businesses, customer loyalty is defined as repeat business and referrals. So in our household, my wife and I sent our three children to Carroll and we let everyone we know what a great school it is."

Senator Steve Austria Class of 1977

Steve Austria serves as Ohio State Senator representing the 10th senate district and is currently running for US Congress in Ohio's 7th district. He was twice unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve in the Senate leadership position of Majority Whip, where he helps decide which bills and what policies are considered on the Senate floor.



Senator Austria championed several pieces of legislation during his tenure to improve the quality of life for families and strengthen our economy. Specifically, he introduced the nationally acclaimed legislation known as "Jessica's Law", passed into law in 2006, to better protect our children against sex offenders. As a member of the Senate Leadership team, he worked to secure Ohio resources to help bring new jobs into our region through Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

He previously served as Chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, and the Senate Economic Development and Aerospace Technology Committee. Steve has achieved a perfect attendance voting record during his ten years in the Ohio General Assembly and has been instrumental in passing very important pieces of legislation for our community and state. Steve Austria and his family remain supportive of Carroll High School.

Before beginning his public service, he was a small businessman and financial advisor for 18 years. Steve has also been a strong force in the community through his affiliation with the local area Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Xenia Rotary Club. Steve has also been a strong advocate for Family Violence Prevention Centers and Victims Advocate groups. Additionally, Senator Austria helps organize the annual Dr. Clement G. Austria Christmas Party at the Golden Age Senior Center in Xenia named in honor of his late father. In 1985, the Reagan Administration awarded the "Great American Family" to the Austria family.

Steve is the oldest of nine children, all of whom graduated from Carroll High School. There are currently 27 Austria grandchildren, many who are attending Carroll High School. Steve resides in Beavercreek, Ohio with his wife Eileen and their three sons, Brian, who graduated from Carroll in 2008, Kevin, who's graduating in 2010, and Eric, who will be a graduate in the class of 2014.