

Michael Babic
Brother-in-law

Only a year before Steve was diagnosed with cancer, Sherry and I announced to her family that we would be getting married. There was much concern, as we had only known each other for a short time. Sherry would be leaving her log cabin, a great job as an art teacher, but most of all, her family. I knew, from only the short time I had known them, they were a loving, caring, and close-knit family. Who was this guy taking her away from them?

Once Steve had heard this news one afternoon, he walked up to me and said, "You *will* take good care of her...or", he paused... "I'll hunt you down... and kill you." I chuckled for a minute at his humor and looked up at his face. He wasn't smiling – he was very serious. I was taking his sister 3 hours away from them and he knew he would miss her; they all would. "Of course, Steve, I promise" I said. A couple years later when he was visiting in Chattanooga I asked him if he was really serious about that comment he had previously made.. "Yes, and still am!" So, I still do...take good care of his baby sister.

At a later time, Steve, quite sick by this time, was staying at our house overnight. I had recently purchased a keyboard and he had asked me to play for him. I announced that I would, but probably would make many mistakes, as I wasn't sure what all the buttons did, I was out of practice, etc. He taught me an important lesson that night – not only with my music, but also with life.

He taught me that if you tell yourself or anyone else in advance that you will probably make mistakes or fail in whatever you plan to do, chances are great that you will. You have already failed before you even start. How simple...but oh so correct. Keep a positive attitude before you start, and you *will* succeed.

Thank you so much, Steve, we all miss you.