

Steven S Reinemund, Jr.
1980 – 2021



Steven S Reinemund, Jr., beloved husband of Cristina and father of Isabella and Emma, died in Seattle, Washington on August 2, 2021. He was born in Virginia Beach, Virginia on June 10, 1980.

Steven was the first child of Steven and Gail Reinemund and recognized his responsibility early as the oldest sibling, taking particular care to set an example for his younger brothers Jonathan and Kevin and sister Chrissy. At the age of six, already demonstrating entrepreneurial instincts, he mentored Jonathan on selling painted rocks to neighbors. And, Steven had specific plans for how the proceeds from even the earliest business endeavors were to be used: 10% to the offering plate at church, 50% to savings, and 40% could be used to buy baseball cards. When his twin siblings joined the family, Steven enlisted Jonathan to build Kevin and Chrissy a backyard playhouse that still stands 25 years later – featuring a new roof that Steven finished this summer so his own children and nieces can enjoy the family treasure for years to come.

Steven excelled in school and was a passionate student, finishing his secondary education at Cistercian Preparatory School in Irving, Texas. In addition to earning a spot at the top of his class academically, he served as Student Council President and produced a distinguished cross-country running record. The latter included a race where Steven actually lost a shoe and rather than giving up, he displayed his customary tenacity by stopping to replace the shoe and catch up with the pack for a respectable finish. Steven's high school years also saw the beginning of his passion for civic duties. At Cistercian he envisioned and created the cross-country/Stations of the Cross trail that is still used today and began the fundraising efforts for a new retreat center at the Cistercian Abbey. He formed and led the Salvation Army's Youth Advisory Council in Dallas, and was recognized as the city's top student community service leader.

Steven attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, earning his B.A. in Foreign Affairs and Latin American Studies and a Spanish minor. His active engagement in University life included continued interest in student government and service programs. His involvement was rewarded with a prized room on the UVA Lawn – an honor reserved for the most academically accomplished and community-minded students. Steven was always quick to point out that his UVA experience provided the greatest reward of all - meeting Cristina, the love of his life.

Steven's life changed forever on February 13, 2002 at UVA – the day he met Cristina. Starting with a Valentine's Day flower and card the next day and for five years, Steven pursued his dream of a shared life with Cristina. He always courted her with flowers, special meals and surprises. He even enlisted her friends often to help with his very specific plans to woo Cristina. The college sweethearts married in 2007 and embarked on a wonderful adventure together. They had a lot in common, but most importantly complemented each other beautifully. They were best friends and together made a great team. Steven embraced Cristina's family and culture as his own. They always loved to say that they were "mano a mano" (hand in hand) on everything that they did. For their first five years of marriage, they set a travel plan for every vacation day and traveled the world scuba diving. Together they enjoyed the beach, entertaining friends, a quiet dinner at home, and just being together. Their kids were always first in their lives and they were united in their parenting. They celebrated the simple joys which Cristina will miss dearly. As passionate professionals in the Consumer Foods Industry, they enjoyed encouraging and supporting each other in their careers. Steven honestly and proudly knew that Cristina made him a better man in every aspect of his life.

Beyond his cherished role as devoted husband to Cristina, Steven was quick to cite his single greatest joy and achievement as being father to Isabella and Emma, who joined Steven and Cristina as the lights of their lives in 2012 and 2014, respectively. Steven threw himself into fatherhood with the enthusiasm he brought to everything. He encouraged their interests while introducing them to new experiences. Most days included at least one dance party with his “sweet girls”, and always included their nightly cuddling ritual. He dropped them off and picked them up almost every day from school saying goodbye with an “I love you” and “Be kind and solve problems.” Instead of running from activity to activity, most weekends they spent time boating, skiing, skating, walking in the neighborhood and exploring Washington. Steven loved watching movies with the girls on Saturday morning so mommy could sleep in. He would constantly read them chapter books. Most importantly he listened to them, hugged them tightly, and made them feel safe and loved every day. He was so proud of them and we know he will be protecting them from heaven as they grow to be strong and confident women.

Throughout his school years, Steven accompanied his father on countless business trips around the corner and across the world. His inquisitive nature led him to a keen interest in business and eventually a distinguished professional career. In fact, many times during these formative trips it was difficult to determine whether Steven was accompanying his executive father or vice versa. Steven’s trips also sparked a deep appreciation of travel and experiencing different cultures.

Steven dedicated himself to a successful career in global retail and consumer products at world-class companies with iconic brands. His first job came as a buyer for Wal-Mart, where his distinguished performance resulted in being named Buyer of the Year while he simultaneously earned his Master’s in Business Administration at night from the University of Arkansas. He expanded his skill set and experience with Marketing roles at General Mills and Kraft and Sales positions at Reckitt Benckiser and Danone. Seeing ahead to the digital future of retail, Steven moved to Amazon, and then to Hain as Vice President of e-Commerce. Steven enjoyed staying informed of all the happenings in the industry, was known as a thought leader in e-Commerce and passionately shared his insights. All of Steven’s colleagues everywhere, superiors and subordinates alike, attest to his impressive results achieved with a mindset of total servant leadership.

Vigilantly committed to his community, Steven made time throughout his busy life to make a personal difference for others. Homelessness and food insecurity were a special concern. This led him to become involved with organizations committed to these needs everywhere he and Cristina lived. Steven never left home without a pocketful of restaurant gift cards for people he’d encounter on the street who were in need of a meal, and always returned home with an empty pocket. Steven was also quick to spot a need or a problem in need of a solution. That led him to create the Seattle-Tacoma Airport Council where he helped to ensure the gateway to his city provided a convenient and welcoming experience for residents and visitors. In their Seattle hometown, Steven and Cristina also are active in their children’s school, Villa Academy, where they co-chaired the recent annual giving campaign that produced a record total. At Villa he also volunteered at the lunchroom, as one of the few working dads, because he wanted to spend as much time as possible with his children. Beyond his support of deserving organizations, Steven had an unmatched level of compassion and kindness to others. He would always stop to talk to neighbors and to meet new people. Steven never knew a stranger.

Steven is survived by his wife, Cristina, daughters Isabella and Emma, parents Steve and Gail, mother-in-law Linda Wroblewski de Gonzalez de Mendoza, brothers Jonathan and Kevin and sister Chrissy, sisters-in-law Kate and Annie, brother-in-law, Carson, Cristina’s grandmother Mary Wroblewski, brothers-in-law Enrique and Andres, sister-in-law Anamaria, nieces Brooklyn, Emiliana, Zoe, and Hazel and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

A private memorial service is being held for the Gonzalez de Mendoza and Reinemund family members to re-affirm their collective and individual lifelong commitment to Steven’s adored Cristina, Isabella and Emma. A public celebration of Steven’s life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a new *Steven S Reinemund, Jr. Counseling Center* being established at Villa Academy in Seattle. The Center is named in honor of Steven and his dedication to supporting children to reach their fullest potential and will be operational beginning the 2021-22 academic year. To make a donation please follow this link: <https://www.thevilla.org/steven/>.