

Bridge is a game of cards that brings people together to socialize and enjoy each other's company. I started learning this game as a child. My parents, Robert and Janice Kirkpatrick , became interested and needed someone to practice with at home. Thus, they taught the three of us to play. My brother, Russ, and I took to it immediately and played together. My parents joined the ACBL in 1979 and enrolled my brother and I as well. I played until my early teenage years and then life happened.

My son, Griffin, took an interest in college and this rekindled my own interest. I started to learn again and renewed my ACBL membership in January of 2020. I started off playing with Mom, Janice, and my brother, Russ in the 2020 sectional in Hattiesburg. . Of course then the pandemic begins in earnest and bridge goes to the online world. I went back to Dad to learn. We played a lot online. We lost him to a battle with cancer in 2021. He inspired a love of the game not only in his family but many he met through the years. He is missed .

I traveled the 90 miles to New Orleans to play in the NABC and won the last few points I needed to become a life master. The tournament was a blast. After getting those needed points, my brother and I played in the Rockwell mixed pairs. I was out of my league but proud to hang close to the qualifying line. After we got home, my brother sent me a text saying he almost called Dad to tell him about some of the hands we played.

On April third 2023 I celebrated earning my life master certification at the club named after my father. It was such an honor. I would like to thank all of my bridge family for helping me to achieve this goal. Everyone is so supportive. I would like to especially thank my regular partners who taught me how to play: Robert Kirkpatrick (Dad) , Janice Kirkpatrick (Mom), Griffin Stewart (son), Russ Kirkpatrick (brother) , Tommie Wright (friend), Vicky Massey (friend) and Sherry Kinkopf (sister). My name is Deanna Stewart and I love my family , this game of bridge , and the bonds it creates to expand your family and friends.