



Michael "Mike" Ericksen

July 14, 1945 - September 17, 2021

Michael Kenneth Ericksen, 76, peacefully passed away Friday, September 17, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born July 14, 1945, in Mesa, Arizona, to Kenneth J. Ericksen and Norma Young Ericksen. His father passed away at 32 when Michael was fifteen months old. He and his mother were devoted companions until her death in 2003. She instilled in him a love for the His Savior and the Gospel. He graduated from Fullerton High School in Southern California in 1963. In 1964, he was called as a Missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, serving in the Canadian Mission. In 1966, he attended Fullerton Jr. College and continued on to Cal State Fullerton for a semester. In 1968, he married his eternal companion Ricki Morris of Fullerton. In 1969, he was drafted into the US Army where he served honorably until 1971. He began working for Summa Corporation, the Corporate Head of the Howard Hughes Organization in California, and in 1976 he and his family were relocated to Las Vegas, NV with the Corporation. He was the Transportation and Operations Supervisor for the company and retired in 1989. He continued his studies and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1978 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Michael and his family moved to Baldwyn, MS in 1991. He worked at Cooper Tire from 1992 until 1998 at which time he retired.

Michael was a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor. He was a lifetime member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where he served in many callings over the

years including Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts, seminary teacher, and Branch President in the New Albany MS Branch. He was an Eagle Scout and had his Duty to God Award, and he helped many boys to prepare for their Eagle Scout awards over the years. Mike was a dedicated reader, enjoying the scriptures and other religious materials as well as how-to books as he was constantly wanting to learn how to do new things. He loved all kinds of music, especially Pavarotti-- which he also liked to share with others---even though they may not have enjoyed it quite as much as him. He began playing the piano at age eight, and he was always willing to play for Church as well as accompany others, especially his mother and daughter. He enjoyed playing sports, especially baseball when he was young, as well as playing on adult teams later on.

Michael was an avid car enthusiast, an interest which began at an early age and continued throughout his life. He shared his knowledge of building cars as a teaching tool for his sons, as well as scores of others who wanted to learn. He and his sons and friends built several race cars over the years. He belonged to the NHRA and participated in Pro Gas competitions all over the country.

Michael loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them, and his greatest desire was to be an eternal family. He and his wife Ricki and their four children enjoyed spending time together doing a multitude of activities, and he was especially proud of his 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren when they came along. To them he is their "Pa Mike". He enjoyed it when they participated in school activities and sports, always encouraging them to do their best.

Funeral Services for our beloved Mike will be Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 2:00 PM at the Booneville Ward building of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located at 404 W George E. Allen Drive in Booneville. Additional visitation prior to service time will be from 12:00 PM until 1:300 PM. Visitation will be held from 5:00- 9:00 PM at the Booneville Funeral Home on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Due to COVID 19, the family request that

mask be worn. Bishop Michael Byrd will be officiating. Burial will be in the Mormon Cemetery. Booneville Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

Mike Ericksen is survived by Ricki, his wife of fifty-three years; four children, Allyson Bernat (Sean), Vanessa Ericksen, all of Murray, UT, Ryan Ericksen (Sonya) of Pine Grove, and Steven Ericksen (and special friend, Tammy Almand) of Baldwyn. Five grandchildren, Jessica Hartness (Casey), Dillan Ericksen, Madison Ericksen, Gracie Ericksen, and Burke Ericksen; three great-granddaughters, Everleigh Harrell, Alyssa and Aleah Hartness.

He was preceded in death by his precious great-granddaughter, Aleigh Fayth Perrigo.

Pallbearers will be Dillan Ericksen, Sean Bernat, Sam Jepson, Shane Gray, Bart White, and Paul McCutchen.

Honorary pallbearers will be David Morris, Sr., Kevin Morris, Casey Hartness, Tommy Murphy, Randy Piersky, Rick Howell, Mickey Wood, Bruce Hirschi, Ned Floyd, Randy Hill, Burke Ericksen, All of Uncle Mike's Nephews, Dr. Don Presley, Dr. Erik Dukes, James Roswell, Danny Henry and Curt Henry.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22.** 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Booneville Funeral Home
506 North Third Street
Booneville, MS 38829
(662) 728-6607
<https://www.boonevillefuneralhome.net>

Funeral Service

SEP **23.** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Booneville, MS

Tribute Wall



“ 12 files added to the album *Photos of Mike*



Sean Bernat - September 25, 2021 at 11:29 AM

TY

“ I grew up with a love for Michael Ericksen. He was one of my older cousins and the closest male cousin to my brother Dick’s age. Mike was about four years older than me and 6 months older than my brother. We often would spend time in the Los Angeles area visiting with cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents that lived there. Our family became involved in many of the same activities as cousins that lived there, for example: dance lessons with Mama Mac, piano lessons with Ms. Johnson, church activities, Little League baseball at Benedict Park, and Elementary School activities.

My brother idolized Mike and I idolized both of them. Mike was good at everything he did. He was an eagle scout at 14 years of age. He could repair, rebuild, or build a race car, or family vehicle. He was written up in a Hot Rod Magazine as a teenager for the building of a fast car, modifying a Ford Falcon and putting Chrysler’s largest engine in it. He loved baseball and other sports. He was an especially good hitter and defensive player, too. While being a strong tough kid, he could also be sensitive to the needs of others. In a fight, you would want him on your side. I was proud he was my cousin.

I wish to extend my condolences to all of the family and friends of Michael. We will all miss him until we have the chance to be together again. Thank goodness for Jesus Christ; for His love, life, and gospel; for testimonies of the reality of Life Beyond mortality; and for the opportunity to be together as families in the eternities. May God bless and comfort you! May family and friends be close and supportive!

Love,
Tony Young

Tony Young - September 23, 2021 at 06:37 AM

BH

“ A great man. Kaye and I loved him dearly. Of course, everybody did. Such kindness, gentleness, that hearty laugh. A natural golfer, he disdained practice--and still beat the rest of us. But his skateboarding was a different matter. Remember, Ricki, when we visited y'all in Las Vegas and Mike wanted to show all of us how to skateboard. I won't tell the world what happened next! My oh my, how we are going to miss him! Love and best wishes to all the family.

Bobby Hamblin - September 20, 2021 at 02:08 PM

GW

Charlie and I truly respected and loved Mike. He was one of the best men I have ever known. We will miss him.
Geri Ward

Geri and Charlie Ward - September 21, 2021 at 03:46 PM

RC

I have a big nose and it is because Mike Ericksen pulled it every time he got near me! I can't even post this without crying. He was the only one who could cry as much as me when teaching or giving a talk or bearing his testimony. You could truly feel his deep love for our Savior and that influence plus his discipleship touched so many people. He was so learned in the gospel that he was a treasure of information. He could cite quotes from church leaders in every topic and tell the source they came from. He made time to reach out to the ninety and nine. He did so many good deeds that were sometimes difficult and time consuming without anyone knowing. He was truly a special man. We will miss him so very much.

Rita Clifford - September 22, 2021 at 02:28 PM