



Michael David Hess

November 23, 1955 - December 31, 2019

Michael "Mike" David Hess, 64, left this earth way too soon on December 31st, 2019. Mike was born in East Lansing, on November 23rd, 1955 to Robert A. (Shirley) Hess and Barbara Zaiss Hess (Roger) Bolden, and brought home to the great Michigan State University campus. Mike was the oldest of what turned out to be nine overall siblings who include Margery (Terry) Loree of Traverse City, Scott (Teresa) Hess of Roscommon, Wendi (Brett) Barber of Traverse City, Bobbi (Chuck) Palmer of Soo St. Marie, Amy (Coy) Vaughn of Chelsea, Elizabeth Hess, Debbie (Ron) Johnson of Northport, Melanie (Ed) Perfetto and Scott (Jennifer) Bolden, all of North Carolina.

Mike grew up in Detroit, Berkley and Royal Oak, Michigan and graduated from Shrine of the Little Flower High School in 1973. He moved to Roscommon in 1974 and attended Kirtland Community College for a short time, where he studied theater and the arts, earning lead roles in multiple musical productions. After a short venture as Co-owner of The Roadhouse Tavern in Higgins Lake, he discovered his love for selling cars and earned his indisputable work ethic of "always being there" which lasted more than 35 years. In his capacity as salesman and sales manager first with the Grand Traverse Auto Group, and the last 26 years at Williams Auto Group family, he mentored more young men and women than one can imagine. Everyone who knew him, respected him and recognized him as one of the hardest working, dedicated men in the automobile sales industry.

While he loved to work, nothing was more important to him than his family. Mike was born with a heart of gold and was a loving husband, wonderful father, and incredible grandfather. His love for his wife Diahn Miller-Hess and five children was surely what made his heart beat each day. Mike always said his greatest joy was watching his family grow.

Mike also had a love and loyalty to all the friends he made over the years. Mike knew almost everyone in Traverse City and people loved to be around him. With his open arms and contagious smile every HessFest was sure to be a great time.

Mike had an avid love for football (GO RAIDERS!), the Michigan State Spartans, and NASCAR. He also enjoyed listening to all kinds of music, spending time with his family and friends and being with his beloved wife; Diahn Miller-Hess.

Mike is preceded in the death by his father and best friend Robert Hess; stepsister Elizabeth Hess, and mother and father-in-law Bernie and Deanna Miller.

Mike is survived by his loving wife Diahn Miller-Hess; all five of his beautiful children: daughter Brittany and son-in-law Scott Musselman of Traverse City; son J.R. and daughter-in-law Mariah Hess of Traverse City; daughter Delaney Miller (Lucas Little); son Anthony Miller, daughter Makannah Miller; and the most recent spark in his life, his only grandchild Izabella Hess.

Mike is also survived by his mother Barbara Bolden and step father Roger Bolden, entire Hess, Zaiss and Bolden families including nieces and nephews, the Wolf-Miller family, the Williams family, the Stinson family, the Musselman family, his colleagues at Williams Auto, and many, many friends.

Mike was his family's rock, who provided unconditional love, wisdom and support. He was a truly amazing man, son, husband, father, brother, and friend. His love, quick wit, humor, intelligence, and magnanimous personality was known and will be forever missed not only by his family but by everyone who was blessed to have known him.

A celebration of life, in true Mike Hess fashion, will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at the VFW Cherryland Post 2780 (3400 Veterans Dr, Traverse City, MI 49684). Visitation will begin at noon, with a brief ceremony at 1:00 pm. Afterwards, visitation will continue until 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the family through the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City.

Share a memory of Mike at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Mike and his family are in the care of the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 12:00PM - 05:00PM

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Cherryland V.F.W Post 2780
3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JAN **Time of Sharing** 01:00PM

11

Cherryland V.F.W Post 2780
3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments

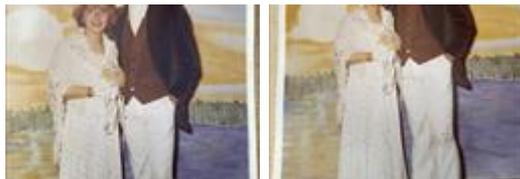


“ I remember working with Mike at Williams Chevrolet in TC back in the 90's. He was Mr Tom Gordon's right hand man but I always thought of him as fist class fellow. He was good to me although I don't think he always understood me. Definitely more intelligent than I was Lol. That Bill Webb would like to have about drove him nuts. I enjoyed seeing his posts on facebook each day and was sure happy when he accepted my friend request. You will always be a friend to me Mike hess, Godspeed, Joe Shook-Owosso, MI

Joseph Shook - January 20 at 02:53 AM



“ Couldn't have asked for a more gracious, elegant, respectful prom date that year.. pictured here with Nancy Staminski (Borrego) from 1975 graduating class of Roscommon High School.
Rest In Peace Micheal.



Nancy Borrego - January 11 at 11:21 AM



“ Mike was a wonderful man and always a bright spot in everybody's day at Williams. Even in the most stressful moments he had a knack for saying the perfect thing to make everyone laugh and break the tension and re-focus the group. The world lost a beautiful, vibrant, and light-hearted soul but thankfully his influence and kindness and many wise words will live on through those of us who were blessed enough to know him.

Abby McKiernan - January 09 at 07:04 AM



“ Julie Hatch LaChance lit a candle in memory of Michael David Hess





“ Mike was a client of mine when I sold Classified Newspaper Advertising at the Record Eagle. We became good friends and he made my sales job a lot of fun. His smile lit up the room and he made everyone feel special. We will all miss Mike and his gregarious sense of humor and positive attitude. I hope that we meet again someday. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family and friends.

Marti Johnson - January 07 at 03:37 PM



“ Betty McGlynn lit a candle in memory of Michael David Hess



Betty McGlynn - January 07 at 11:32 AM



“ " It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if he fails at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt 1910

I'm really gonna miss ya Mike!

We, the "gang" of car guys you may recall, we had extraordinary victories together, and we had them again and again....

Your Family is in my prayers.

I know your in Heaven....hope I make it too.

Greg Nachazel

Gregory Nachazel - January 06 at 01:31 PM



“ Amen Greg , you've lost an Angry Beaver for
Now but not forever.

Brian Rogers - January 09 at 09:25 AM



“ Mike was such a beautiful person and loved by everyone he met. He had such a kind soul and will be greatly missed. I am so sad for the Hess and Miller family. Sending you all my love and condolences,
Malissa Gorashko

Malissa Gorashko - January 06 at 09:28 AM



“ To all of Mike's family~

It's so difficult to lose a loved one. My heart goes out to all of you.

Carol Roehrich - January 04 at 06:41 PM



“ I will always remember Mike from the the beautiful lake he shared with his family. He was a wonderful man and made so many people happy. He made me laugh so many times and I will never forget him. He loved all his family so much and I'm sure he will be dearly missed. My thoughts and prayers r with u all at this very difficult time.

All my love. Joanzie

joan alt - January 04 at 04:52 PM



“ So very sorry to all of the Hess family . Michael was much too young to join his Father, but am certain they are having some happy and wonderful memories.RIP, Michael. Your family will and are now, missing yo you!

Mary Alice McKindles - January 04 at 03:28 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the family, he was an amazing man that will be missed by so so many people. Big Daddy Hess was a mentor of mine at Williams. I was a restaurant manager turned car salesman in 2004 and Mike took me under his wing, not only did he teach me how to use the telephone to create opportunities, he taught me how to be a professional in the auto industry. Because of this man, I was able to build a career that has changed my life. In our business, many people come and go.

Mike had a way about him, he made work fun, he made time for others, he cared, he showed me how to help others in the business like he did myself, he worked relentlessly to provide for his family. You are one of the good ones! I will never forget you sir, it was an honor to be your friend.

Paul Byro, Jr.

paul - January 04 at 11:52 AM



“ I have worked with Michael for the last 1 1/2 years and it wasn't nearly long enough, but in that time I got to know him and love him he was a gentle kind loving man. Every day he would stop by my desk on his way through the dealership and chat with me and I would always try to have a secret stash of Reese's Cups just for him. You are loved by so many here Mike and will be missed so much. God needed an extra Angel up there and he has a wonderful one with you.

Cheryl fisk - January 04 at 11:08 AM



“ So sorry to hear this news Wendi and Brett. From reading his obituary I can see what a wonderful man he was and how much he was loved. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers through the coming weeks. Love you guys.

Joanne Barber Griffin - January 04 at 10:59 AM



“ Mike became my friend through my daughter Heather Longstreth and from that day on I was welcomed by him with a wonderful smile and hugs that made me feel cared for and a true friend. He will always be in my heart and remembered as a blessing to me. I know he will be missed by many, but never forgotten. RIP dear friend.

Patti Rohr - January 04 at 10:23 AM



“ To Scott & Bobbi and your families - So sorry to hear about your brother. Hugs to both of you and wishing happy memories to ease Mike's loss. God bless all of Mike's family!

Kris WalkerSmith - January 04 at 09:44 AM



“ I met Mike while living in Higgins Lake in the Mid 70's. He was a good friend, full of fun and adventure. When I first met Mike he had the biggest “fro” I had ever seen on a white guy and a smile to match! He loved acting and had a natural talent for it. I remember Mike's smile, his great laugh and wonderful hugs. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Peggy McNamara - January 04 at 07:47 AM



“ I only knew him from when he always came into Oleson's grocery store. But he was the Nicest person.. I am So Sorry for your loss.. My Deepest Sympathy to the family and friends. So Sad.. He will be missed.

Georgette Sika - January 04 at 12:07 AM



“ He was always so kind to me and my family! I'll always be missing you on the OSU vs MSU games thank you for all the great memories!

Katie Skrzypczak - January 03 at 11:50 PM



“ I worked with Mike for 10 years at William's. He was like the Big Daddy of the dealership. He was always smiling and gave the best hugs. He was one of my favorites. I would give him hell over something missing in a deal or whatever it may be and he always had grace with me. I haven't worked with Mike for almost 6 years now. But when I got a college degree and moved on from the dealership he told me how proud of me he was and that meant a lot to me. I would occasionally text him auto related questions and he would always help or point me to someone who could help me. I would occasionally run into him at Olesons after work. He would always take the time to chat and give me a hug and catch up, even though I'm sure he worked a long day and was probably more than ready to get home. But he always made a point to say Hi. The last time I saw him was when I was pregnant, he of course gave me that big Hess hug and told me again how proud of me he was and told me he knew I would be a great mom. Like I said, just like a dad. I think everyone in the auto industry knew him. Gone way too soon but we will never forget you Mike. So sad you never made it to that retirement date. My thoughts are with your family. I know too well the pain of losing a parent. -Heather Sexton

Heather Sexton - January 03 at 08:18 PM