



## Michael "Mick" L. Durocher

August 28, 2015

Michael (Mick) Louis Durocher, loving husband of Charlene (Yarnell), proud father of Joe (Heather), Jeff (Karen), Jason and Micki (Tom Gee), and adoring grandpa, a.k.a. "Buddy" to his 10 grandkids: Emma, Andrew, Alex, Lauren, Hanna, Adam, Billy, Jimmy, Jaden & Brendan passed away peacefully on August 28, 2015 with his family by his side. Mick passed away due to complications from being struck by an automobile while doing what he loved - riding his bicycle.

Mick is survived by his brothers and sisters Gilbert, Art, Suzy and Judy, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Bee Jay Durocher and his brother, Bill Durocher.

Mick was born in Flint, MI, graduated from Alma High School in 1965, married Char in 1966, served in the US Navy, then moved to Traverse City where he and Char raised their family.

As dedicated as Mick and Char were with their businesses, they remained committed to attending their children's and grandchildren's school and sporting events.

Even in "retirement," the grass didn't grow under Mick's feet; he kept busy helping others and taking on various jobs. Mick didn't expect anything from anyone, he only wanted to offer a kind word or hand to those who asked. He was happy starting his day with a walk or bike ride through downtown Traverse City. Coffee and conversation at his favorite places -- J&S and Big Apple Bagel, to name a few -- and stops at the bookstore would follow.

Mick made friends easily and was loved by many people. Everyone who met Mick felt an instant draw to him because of his witty sense of humor, realistic outlook on life and his incredible spirit and cheer. Behind his zest for life was his dedication to providing for his family. His legacy of showing up, working hard and compassion for others is being passed down to his children and grandchildren.

Mick (Buddy) will be missed. Our hearts are heavy with this loss. We know Mick would want us to savor the moments we've had. "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." - Dr. Seuss.

Visitations will be held at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home on Thursday, September 3, 2015 from 2:00pm-4:00pm & 6:00pm-8:00pm. A graveside service will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, September 4 at Chapel Gardens, 6798 W. Monroe Rd., Alma.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to Mick's favorite college radio station, WNMC. You can make checks payable to: WNMC at Northwestern Michigan College, 1701 E. Front St. Traverse City, MI 49686 (<http://www.nmc.edu/give> Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Please share your favorite memories of Mick with his family by way of his online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

**3**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**SEP** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**3**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**SEP** **Graveside Service** 01:00PM

**4**

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Chapel Gardens  
6798 W. Monroe Road, Alma, MI, US, 48801

# Comments

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“ Nic lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



Nic - June 29, 2016 at 11:24 AM

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“ Smalls lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



Smalls - February 05, 2016 at 08:08 AM

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“ Nicole lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



Nicole - January 29, 2016 at 11:55 AM

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“ Mouse lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



**Mouse** - November 24, 2015 at 02:22 PM

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“ Nicole lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



**Nicole** - September 30, 2015 at 04:17 PM

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“ N lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



**N** - September 15, 2015 at 01:42 PM

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“ Mick taught me many a good lesson at the Ultra Car Wash during his time as manager. They were valuable enough that I still quote some of the things he said. Very good man and my deepest condolences to his family.

Ken Jones, Mayor  
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Ken Jones - September 14, 2015 at 03:02 PM

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“ I will miss you forever dad - love Jase

Jason - September 08, 2015 at 06:14 AM

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“ Mick calling DJ Sam! Yosemite! Our son sneaking piece of bubble gum and bringing in the sector cop to teach a 2 yr old a lesson. Secret Santa showing up at Christmas EVE bringing that little boy a teddy bear! Have always and will always miss THE MICK!

Love from the Krimmels  
aka Krimnals DJ, Judy,  
Mike, Lydia and daughter  
Delaney

Judy Krimmel - September 03, 2015 at 07:35 PM

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“ My most sincere condolences to the whole family in your time of loss.

I was just a whipper snapper when I first met Mick over at the Courtade store, still wet behind the ears just old enough to buy beer. That guy was always a pleasure to talk to and really made everyone he encountered feel special.

It was years before I saw him again after Jason and I started working together and he had not changed a bit, thank God!

We will all miss you Mick but have also all learned a great deal from you, always positive and upbeat nothing but goodhearted humor and a smile. RIP, God Bless!

Kurt

Kurt Braun - September 03, 2015 at 04:55 PM



“ My condolences to you Jason Joe Jeff Nicki Mrs D mr. Durocher was a good man I love how he would always joke around with me many prayers to you all love Kurtzy

**Mike Kurtz** - September 03, 2015 at 03:28 PM

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“ I remember Mick from elementary days at St. Mary's School, church and on through our school days. He was always such fun and so kind. Having moved from MI after college, I hadn't seen Mick in many years when he came to me at the bonfire and we began talking like as if time had not lapsed. That's how I think of him, as one that you will meet again and the conversation will continue. He left the physical world, but is still with so many in their hearts! My heart goes out to Char and family. I am so happy that you had so many great years, but so sad for the loss now. May your memories comfort you on the lonely days.

Much love and prayers,  
Sue Burke Harrington

**Sue Harrington** - September 03, 2015 at 12:25 PM



“ I do remember going to the St Marys school with Nick and his brothers.  
I'm used to having the playground he'd give me a big push on that witches hat.  
He was always sticking up for me somebody believe me he took care of it.  
I remember going over a plane in his house is the young child when his dad was building something downstairs campers or something.  
Nick was a wonderful man and he's a great spirited man in heaven now.  
What a fun life you had when a hard life you had that he made it even sure made it together always together.  
I personally am going to miss you buddy and I trust that you will have some lakefront property up there saved for us to have bonfires and stuff when we come alive I love you Mick.???????

**Sharon Perry** - September 03, 2015 at 02:17 PM



“ Sorry I spelled Nick, darn it all.

**Sharon Perry** - September 03, 2015 at 02:26 PM



“ My condolence to you Jason Joe Jeff Nikki and Mrs D your dad was a good man and a great father I'll say many prayers for him love you Mike Kurtz

**Mike Kurtz** - September 03, 2015 at 03:25 PM

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“ Ralph and I knew that whenever we would see Char and Mick we would be sharing a lively and fun conversation. We would walk away with smiles on our faces. We will miss him. Our condolences to Char and the rest of the family.

Ralph and Helen Loveland Altwies

Ralph Altwies - September 03, 2015 at 11:37 AM

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“ Char and family, Sincere condolences for your loss. Mick was such a breath of fresh air who always had a kind word and smile to share. Was such a pleasure to run into Mick and Char, who were always holding hands, to be greeted with a smile and a hug. RIP Mick you will be greatly missed!

Jane Beuthin - September 03, 2015 at 07:51 AM

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“ Joe I'm sorry to hear about your dad. I'll be praying for your family.

Scott Hood - September 02, 2015 at 08:28 PM

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“ Nicole lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mick" L. Durocher



Nicole - September 02, 2015 at 12:54 PM

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“ I would like to share my thoughts about Mick. He was my best friend for the last two years. Mick was one of the kindest people I ever new. He was what makes a best friend. He would always go out of his way to help anybody who needed a helping hand and never expected anything in return. He made so many people happy just by paying them a short visit, cutting their grass if they needed it, he would take flowers to his elderly friend just to make her smile. Mick was truly one of a kind. His many acts of kindness was truly inspiring and a great role model for all of us. If you never had the priviledge to meet Mick, you missed out on one of the best. Love you Mick and we will miss you. Dan and Mary

**Daniel L. DeVries** - September 02, 2015 at 07:44 AM

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“ I am truly sorry the loss of mick. He was such a wonderful man. He was like a big brother to me. He was always there to lend an ear or if i needed help with something, he was always more than willing to help me. even back when i worked at courtades and if i was having a bad day, and down in the dumps, my mom would always tell me to go and talk to mick. He always knew how to make me laugh. i loved his outlook on life and he had a great sense of humor. I am truly going to miss him. I just lost my best friend.  
Cindy Dodson

**Cindy Dodson** - September 01, 2015 at 08:37 PM

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“ Mick will be missed. Very much So Sorry Ralph Marylin Merchant

**ralph merchant** - September 01, 2015 at 06:08 PM

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“ Mick was a wonderful man. My heart is heavy after hearing of the loss of such a great person. My thoughts and prayers are with you Char. I'm so glad you both stopped by the house last summer. God bless you all....

**P.J. Kee** - September 01, 2015 at 03:58 PM

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“ Jason- I am so sorry to hear about your father! Thinking about you and your family buddy!  
Sincerely,

Trissa

**Trissa** - September 01, 2015 at 03:11 PM

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“ Char and Family, So saddened by the loss of Mick. He was a wonderful caring great guy that always made you smile. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Sandi and Stan Gravis

**sandra gravis** - September 01, 2015 at 02:13 PM

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“ Our hearts are heavy because of losing you, "brother" Mick. We always enjoyed being with you, and we will miss you very much. We admired your strength and your generosity. You were a very successful person, not only with your businesses, but in raising a family. RIP Buddy.  
Doug and Sheila Yarnell

**Douglas Yarnell** - September 01, 2015 at 08:29 AM

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“ remembering every morning at the carwash..... Waylon Jennings 8-track Blasting through out the place.... a great neighbor, a great man, a man I can call a Friend..... our thoughts and prayers go out to family and friends..... Dan Sheffer and Family

**Dan Sheffer** - September 01, 2015 at 05:28 AM

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“ A great guy. Always made you feel better after talking to him. We will miss him.  
Gary and Sonia Clem

**Gary and Sonia Clem** - August 31, 2015 at 07:57 PM

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“ Char and family - Remembering that bright spot in the East Bay neighborhood. All those crazy stunts and just plain fun comments he had for those he met. Hope you all know we are thinking of you. Doug and Cheryl Weathers

**The Weathers** - August 31, 2015 at 07:52 PM

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“ Mick was a valued employee at Silver Lake Self Storage. He was kind and helpful to everyone he came in contact with. We especially enjoyed his quick wit and sense of humor. Char and their children are in our thoughts and prayers. Randy Hartgerink

**randy hartgerink** - August 31, 2015 at 07:28 PM

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“ I wanted to pass on my thoughts and prayers to your family and friends of Mick. May God wrap his loving arms around you during this difficult time.

**Donna Cater** - August 31, 2015 at 07:02 PM

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“ Char and fam. so sorry for the loss of a good man and friend to all he met.

**Joanne Baker** - August 31, 2015 at 05:59 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. So happy to have known him. ~~Jane Keon

**Jane Keon** - August 31, 2015 at 03:07 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Dave Stewart** - August 31, 2015 at 03:05 PM



“ Golly. This looks like joe. The man was a staple in the community. I had the pleasure of knowing and working with muck for the last 25,yrs A quick story and a smile and he was on his way. Will miss him. Patty max and the girls at the bank

**Patty** - September 03, 2015 at 11:58 AM



“ Well good lord. Mick. R u playin with me. I ment mick. Above. Not muck.

**Patty** - September 03, 2015 at 11:59 AM

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“ I worked for Mick and Char at Courtades Party Store and enjoyed his wisdom and the fantastic outlook on life he had. I always enjoyed working there. Always a smile and a positive outlook. One of the few people I will always look up to and admire.

Carolyn Meyer

**Carolyn Meyer** - August 31, 2015 at 02:59 PM

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“ Char and family  
I wanted you to know that we have been keeping you in our thoughts and Prayers. During these difficult days know that we are thinking of you. I'm having a medical procedure during visitation but wanted you to know you are still being thought of..

Vonna and Keith Gillow

**Vonna Gillow** - August 31, 2015 at 02:07 PM

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“ Before I was allowed to take his daughter to prom, he required me to man up and go over and meet him. I was no doubt intimidated and didn't know what to expect. When I arrived this big and burly man sat me down and we had a little chat, man-to-man. He quickly granted permission. That is a profound memory I have and have reflected on it often with the Have A Daughter Be A Man project. I learned a lot that day and I hope a part of him and his love for his daughter will be ingrained in me with my own daughter, especially when prom comes around! Rest In Peace Mr. Durocher and thank you!

**Rob Tremp** - August 31, 2015 at 01:51 PM



“ Mick was Jim's best friend. Jim has told me so many stories...they had so many good times together over the years. For me, I really got to appreciate Mick after Jim had his stroke. He drove to Florida, when Jim was in a nursing home, to see him. He came to see him bi weekly, at least, after me moved back to Traverse City. Even more often if Jim needed his help, he would be there to help him. If Jim needed anything, he'd get it for him...including "the fart machine." He and Char both helped us so much. The biggest thrill he gave to Jim was taking him to "men's night out" in Traverse City each year just before Christmas so Jim could get me gifts.. So you know the weather was fierce in December. Last year Jim had a very bad wound on his heel and was in a nursing home. He was in a lot of pain but wanted so much to go. He was of little help to Mick transferring from his wheelchair to car at this point, but Mick took him, and though he was wiped out the next day, Jim had a ball. Mick was the only one I could really trust to take him out. What a wonderful friend, with a heart of gold.

**Nancy Davidson** - August 31, 2015 at 04:00 PM

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“ So shocked and saddened by the loss of Mick. Sending comfort to Char, family and friends through prayer. Wade and I had been praying for all when we first heard the sad news. Mick was always kind and a friend to everyone. He will be missed by all. My friend Nora had told me that she had run into Mick at Meijer's the 14th, the day before the reunion. He had asked her if she was going to the reunion and she told me that he had asked about me also, if I would be there. I was sad that we couldn't make it this year, since I had been able to attend the last six reunions. Just was nice to know that he had asked about us and if we would be there. Thoughts and prayers continuing for Char, family and friends. Wade and Carolyn (Hoxie) Nederveld

**Carolyn Nederveld** - August 31, 2015 at 01:41 PM

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“ A truer friend there never was from the time he came to our little country school and throughout all of the years riding the bus together until graduation and we all parted paths. I loved his mother and all of the family dearly and still find it so difficult to think that he has left us to make a way for when we can eventually all join him again. The world has been a better place because of Mick and his contagious smile throughout the years and I bet you kids never knew that he sang a solo in the Christmas Pageant at Bailey School and did it wonderfully. If my "old" memory serves me correctly, it was "O Holy Night"! So you see, he will keep the angels well entertained. God Bless Mick and keep Char and his family in your arms during this difficult time.



**Jeanne Shockley** - August 31, 2015 at 01:34 PM

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“ I didnt know Mick personally.. I do remember him in high school though. My heart is with you all, his family, and praying for you, that God gives you comfort and peace kniwing how he was loved. Its always so hard to lose someone we love, but he was loved ... And loved life. Your memories will get you through these painfully hard days ahead.. Cry , but smile at how many times he made you al laugh.



**rosalie perez** - August 31, 2015 at 12:37 PM

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“ Char, The Boys, and Mickey:

I am so sadden to hear about Mick's passing. We go back 30 years with many fond memories starting with the purchase of Courtades, sharing product buys with Steves Party Mart, the secret business in the upper garage around the 4th of July for many years (: Mick was always so positive with a smile and good laugh.

My thoughts and prayers our with you guys doing this time of loss

Steven Dornbos T-C & Palmetto Florida

**Steven Dornbos** - August 31, 2015 at 06:57 AM

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“ Please know our thoughts and prayer's are with all of the family. Going to miss the unexpected meeting up with Mick and always a smile, a hug, and the best chit chat to make a happy day. Mick has made a huge impact in our lives and will always be held in our hearts. John and Kim Schaub

**Kim Schaub** - August 30, 2015 at 07:45 AM

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“ Charlene and Family: Hadn't seen Mick for years and bumped into him at the Alma Meijer Store on Friday, August 14, 2015. He was his usual cheery and happy-go-lucky self, and seemed excited about the 50th class reunion that weekend. I went to grade school (St. Mary's) with Mick, and also all the other years he was in Alma Public Schools. My husband and I would like to extend our sincere condolences to you, Charlene, and your family members. I'm sure heaven is a better place with Mick there! May the Lord give you all the strength needed to cope with the shock of Mick's death.

Rod and Nora (Roberson) Palmer

**Rod and Nora Palmer** - August 29, 2015 at 09:03 PM

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“ So Sorry for your loss. The man who always had a smile and no matter where you ran into him or what he was doing, he always took time to chat. Always, a sweet smile and warm hug and lots of laughs. We will miss him!  
Keeping you and your family in our prayers.  
Mary Leone Jackowski and Brian Jackowski

**Mary Leone Jackowski** - August 29, 2015 at 09:48 AM



“ Del and I send our deepest heartfelt condolences to Mickey ' s family...especially to Char ....and your children. We were so very sad our dear friend had passed over...He will be so deeply missed by so many! Courtades was never the same after you sold it as Mick was the sweetest friendliest man...always a great joke or laugh to share!  
We will keep you all in our prayers for comfort and peace during this time of his loss. God gained and until we all meet again RIP Mick ...you were greatly loved and will be greatly missed!  
Del and Nadine Jones

**Nadine Jones** - August 30, 2015 at 12:13 AM



“ Char and family, When Theresa and I heard of Micks death We thought of all the years we've known you. We send out our prayers to you and your family. John and Theresa Youngman

**John Youngman** - August 30, 2015 at 12:55 PM



“ Char, Joe, Jeff, Jason and Micki,  
You all know what a special husband and father you have and that memory will always be with you, cherish all the funny, loving times. Our hearts are breaking along with yours at this very difficult time. May you find comfort and know how much Mick meant to all of us, Rest in peace dear friend, until we meet again. Love to you all.

**Mike and Patti Goodreau** - August 31, 2015 at 10:50 AM



“ The Tulgestke family is so saddened by the far too early loss of Mick.. No fair! You are a special family and your love for each other will help you create new memories in the future.. He was a special guy and all who knew him will miss his smile so much!

**Kathy Tulgestke** - August 31, 2015 at 12:04 PM



“ Well Mick, we still had many of the world's problems left to solve over our coffee breaks. I'm glad that your legacies are around to continue with your humor and your love of life. You know we all will miss you, but we ALL celebrate having had a piece of Mick Durocher...what a gift! Your loving brother from a different mother...Jim Birch

**James Devere Birch** - August 31, 2015 at 03:14 PM



“ Words can not express what I feel for you and your family Char....keeping you in my prayers and sending love and hugs to all of you. Mick will be in your hearts forever, I can tell from his picture that he was a happy go lucky guy with lots of love and friendship to give. May god be with all of you.

Maggie Evans Holton

**Maggie Holton** - August 31, 2015 at 09:15 PM



“ I have worked with Mick and Char for a year or so, and I got so used to Mick showing up with donuts or strawberries, or to help out with silly little tasks and great big jobs. Mick was always willing to help out. I learned quickly to rely on him and to look forward to his smile and his outlook on our little corner of the universe. He and Char are such role models of how the world should be. I will continue to try everyday to live up to the examples they set. I am so sorry for your loss, you all will remain in my prayers.

**Michelle VanHoose** - September 02, 2015 at 02:45 PM