



Michael Steven Russell

July 17, 1991 - November 13, 2014

Michael Steven Russell, 23, of Traverse City passed on Thursday, November 13, 2014 in Allendale, Michigan. Mike was born on July 17, 1991 in Traverse City to Steve and Dawn (Dobias) Russell. He graduated from St. Francis High in 2010. He was attending Grand Valley State University. Mike was a very gifted creative writer. In 2010 he was awarded the National Writers Series Inaugural Scholarship for his fiction; his story was published. Mike was an avid reader and he was inspired by the authors, C.S. Lewis and Orson Scott Card. Among his other interests Mike enjoyed spending time with friends playing video and role playing games. Mike will be remembered for his big heart, he was a social leader and helped to bring and keep his many friends together.

Mike is survived by his loving parents; Steve and Dawn Russell, a brother, Nicholas Russell, two grandfathers; Frank (Clair) Dobias and Herman Russell, an aunt and two uncles; Debbie Dobias, David Dobias and Allen Russell. Also surviving are many special friends.

Mike was preceded in death by two grandmothers; Deloris Dobias and Lila Russell.

Friends are welcome to visit with Mike's family on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St. Traverse City, MI 49684.

A Funeral Mass honoring Michael will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1025 S. Union St., Traverse City, 49684, with visiting one hour prior. Rev. Fr. Polycarp Mblarawa will officiate.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a donation to St. Francis High School Marching Band or the Cherryland Humane Society.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Mike's family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Oakwood Catholic Diocesan Cemetery

1720 Hannah Street
Traverse City, MI, 49686

Events

NOV 19 **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

NOV 20 **Visitation** 12:00PM
St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US,
49684

NOV 20 **Funeral Mass** 01:00PM
St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US,
49684

Comments



“ I will never forget how much fun I had with Michael in band and in AP Calc during high school. He was such a loving and cheerful person who could always put a smile on your face. Thank you for sharing your positivity and charisma with those around you Michael. You will be missed. My prayers go to Michael's family and close friends in this difficult time.

Josh Kurtz - November 20, 2014 at 10:40 PM



“ Video Tribute - Loving Memories of Michael



Video Tribute - November 20, 2014 at 02:47 PM



“ A shoutout from one of your AP Lit table buddies, Michael! May your soul be at peace. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Elizabeth Stayman

Elizabeth Stayman - November 20, 2014 at 11:30 AM



“ I had the privilege of going to school with Michael since elementary school at SF. Coming from such a small school system I felt like I grew up with each and every person in my grade. Michael was one of those people that could always crack a witty joke and have everyone laughing. His sense of humor was always appreciated by me, whether it be during band class or building the homecoming float. He was a great person to have known and I am glad to say I got to grow up with such a caring young man. My prayers are with the family and all those who loved Michael.

Shelby Smith - November 19, 2014 at 10:43 PM



“ My most favorite memory of Mike happened when he and Michael were six years old. We were driving on Cherry Bend Road and they were having an discussion about God. We had just seen the movie "Hercules." Michael had studied the Greek gods and goddesses and was arguing that there were many gods. Mike argued that there was only one God. Michael argued that there was a god of the moon, the sun and the sea. Mike argued that God was the one God for all of those things and many more. I just giggled to myself as they had this theological discussion in my backseat.

Dianna Johnson - November 19, 2014 at 03:54 PM



“ I met Mike about 9 years ago. When we were cast in the same play "the last gladiator". He was cast as my rival but off stage he became a close friend. I will keep him alive in my memories. I will miss him dearly and will never forget him.

Brandon Feldman. - November 19, 2014 at 01:07 PM



“ The best memory I have of Mike was watching him and Nick decorate the christmas tree. They were telling stories about each of their personal ordainments that they were putting on the tree. It was so simple, all we were doing was talking and laughing yet somehow it was one of the happiest nights of my life. There was so much love in that room that night... You will be missed Mike but know that you will be loved forever, no matter what.

Emma Laird

Emma Laird - November 18, 2014 at 05:29 PM



“ Michael was an awesome young man when he was in elementary school. My deepest sympathy to Nick, Dawn and Steve. May the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand as you live through this difficult time and may you be filled with the strength, wisdom and courage in the days to come.

Eternal rest grant on to Michael, O Lord....and let perpetual light shine upon him.

God Bless you,
Denise Elsenheimer

Denise Elsenheimer - November 17, 2014 at 07:25 PM



“ this should say that Michael was an awesome young man even when he was in elementary school. I was blessed with the opportunity to teach Michael music.

Denise - November 17, 2014 at 07:27 PM



“ I have so many memories that are flooding back into my mind from high school and college with Mike. I met him through his girlfriend Nicole, and i was instantly comfortable to be myself around him. I think he had that effect on many people. Whether it was just hanging out on the couch watching movies with a group of friends or driving around because there was nothing else to do, Mike had a way of making a boring night fun and full of laughs. He could always cheer me up when I was down. I still can't believe he's gone, but I know we are all going to see him again one day. Love you and miss you MSR, you'll always have a special place in my heart.

Emily Recker - November 17, 2014 at 06:23 PM



“ I loved reading this Emily, the three of us had some amazing adventures that I'll never forget

nicole chiaravalli - November 17, 2014 at 07:03 PM



“ <3 <3

Emily Recker - November 19, 2014 at 11:19 AM



“ My sincere condolences to you Dawn and Steve and you, Nick. May God guide you through this most difficult time. Know that Michael will always be with us in our hearts and memories. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Cathy

Cathy Kava - November 17, 2014 at 04:09 PM



“ We are very sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Al & Rhonda Russell

Allen Russell - November 17, 2014 at 12:37 PM



“ We are very sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Linda and Steve Kujawa

Linda and Steve Kujawa - November 17, 2014 at 11:50 AM



“ We are so very sorry for your loss. We will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Darwin, Brenda, Alison Russell and family

Alison Russell - November 17, 2014 at 11:48 AM



“ Thinking of and praying for you, Dawn, and your family during this difficult. May your hearts be comforted by wonderful memories of Michael. May God bless & keep you. Pamela Jackson, API. Montgomery, AL.

Pamela Jackson - November 17, 2014 at 10:47 AM



“ My memory of Michael..I knew him briefly. But he made a point to make me feel comfortable. When he was at our home for our housewarming; he fixed my computer speaker phone system and he helped me to make the punch. He loved his family. He was warm, intelligent, and helpful. Very very sorry about your loss.

lisa england - November 17, 2014 at 05:23 AM



“ A Friend lit a candle in memory of Michael Steven Russell



a friend - November 17, 2014 at 04:25 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about your son's passing/and your brother as well Nick. I didn't know Mike but through my girls I knew of him. My thoughts & prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Eileen & Joe Olson
Mary, Olivia, Madilynn,
Claire & Colleen Olson

Eileen - November 16, 2014 at 06:27 PM



“ I remember Michael as a bright middle school student. He also had a heart of gold. My prayers are with your family in this difficult time.

Raelynn Stein - November 16, 2014 at 04:03 PM



“ Michael will be missed by all of us. We have so many memories of Mike and Gus "hanging out" and working on school projects together. I am glad I also had the opportunity to get to know Mike as a young adult, not just as Gus's friend, when he worked for me in my office in 2012. He will not be forgotten. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers and our hearts ache for all of you.

Sharon Bogucki and John MacNeal

Sharon Bogucki - November 16, 2014 at 10:46 AM



“ So very sorry for Mike's passing. So many memories of him as a youngster. I pray that your family will find peace regarding his death which came far too soon.

dianna Johnson - November 16, 2014 at 09:01 AM