



Michael Joseph Trailer

April 5, 1955 - October 22, 2021

Michael Joseph Trailer, otherwise affectionately known as “Mikey” or “Captain Chaos” passed away on October 22, 2021 at the age of 66.

Mike was born on April 5, 1955 in Livonia, Michigan to Thomas and Marilyn Trailer.

In October, 1968 the family moved to Traverse City where his father, Thomas wanted them to have a better life up north.

Mike graduated in 1973 from Traverse City High School. Mike was a volunteer fireman and first responder at Station 11. He then went on to Davenport University to pursue Paramedicine.

Mike was employed by County Ambulance, Grand Traverse EMS, North Flight EMS, Blair Township EMS, Glen Lake EMS, and Benzie County EMS for a total of 40+ years. He retired in 2019.

Mike was also employed by his family owned business Rite Way Heating and Cooling from 1979-2008.

After retiring from Benzie County EMS he always stayed busy in his community. This led him to Uber, Cherry Capital Cab, Grand Traverse Distribution, and Designated Driver TC.

Mike was known for what some may call, obsessive tidiness, his dry sense of humor, and excitability. His Mom said that when he was a child- whenever he heard sirens, he would run down to the street corner to see what was going on.

In addition to ambulance chasing as a kid he used to write his brother Wayne speeding tickets for riding too fast on his bicycle.

Mike was always happy to help with household projects and took pride in any work he did. He never seemed to mind when he got a phone call to help with a random project. Staying

busy helping others was truly Mike's hobby and made him so happy and accomplished.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Marilyn Trailer, half-brother Curtis Merrill, half-sister Lynn Isenhauer, and half-sister JoAnn Grutze-Kroll.

Mike is survived by his son, Christopher Michael (Shannon)Trailer; daughter Cara Danielle (Kevin) York; grandchildren, Stella York, June York, Lillian Trailer, and Liam Trailer; brother Wayne Trailer (Lori); nephews Benjamin Trailer (Jessica) and Cameron Trailer; great nieces and nephews Everett Trailer, Eleanor Trailer, and Ezekiel Trailer; and his significant other, Nancy Bigley. Mike also leaves behind many more beloved nieces and nephews and other family members including half-brother Tommy Trailer (Dena), half-sister Judith Trailer, and half-sister Jackie De'Amour (Leon).

Visitation will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021 at Reynolds Jonkhoff from 2:00pm-7:00pm. The funeral will also be held at the funeral home on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 11:00 am with visitation beginning one hour prior. A graveside service will be following at Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens. The luncheon will then take place at Station 11 on Veteran's Drive.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Mike Trailer's Family or to The Grand Traverse Region First Responder Alliance housed at 897 Parsons Road, Traverse City. This nonprofit is open to all first responders.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your memories and condolences with Mike's family.

Cemetery Details

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St
Traverse City, MI 49684
info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Visitation

NOV 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St
Traverse City, MI 49684
info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Funeral

NOV 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St
Traverse City, MI 49684
info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Video Tribute*



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ *Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer*



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - October 27, 2021 at 10:46 AM



“ *Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Michael Joseph Trailer. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. Click here to view selections on our website*

Send Flowers - October 26, 2021 at 05:00 PM

TC

“ *So very sad to hear about this tragic loss. Mike was a special guy, I have known him since I was 15 years old and he asked me to Homecoming. He was my first boyfriend and remained a good friend since high school. Besides enjoying all the football games, prom and fun with family I still laugh at the many nights spent listening to his police scanner and going to the scene of an accident. Knowing then he would dedicate his life to helping people. My prayers go out to his family. Rest In Peace Mike.*
Teresa Stephenson Campbell

Teresa Stephenson Campbell - November 04, 2021 at 07:34 AM

BP

“ *the Grand traverse community, without a doubt, loss a very good person, very friendly, never met a stranger, always smiling, always helpful. he will be greatly missed by all who called him, a friend.*

with our condolences Bob, Jan & Jayme Phelps

Bob ,Jan Phelps - November 01, 2021 at 10:11 AM

GC

“ *We are deeply saddened for the loss of Mike. I worked with Mike on the ambulance out of TCFD Station 2 and always respected and admired Mike's professionalism. We went on a few camping trips with Mike and his family when both of our families were young. We always had a great time and a lot of laughs. He always had a smile on his face and brought smiles to those he met. Rest in peace our friend. Gerry and Melissa Cholger*

Gerry Cholger - November 01, 2021 at 09:33 AM

JL

“ *I remember Mike in high school, he always had a smile on his face. I was in a motorcycle accident in 1973 and Mike was a paramedic who responded to the accident. I was so surprised to see someone I knew. God Bless, Mike.*

Jann Lindley - October 27, 2021 at 04:11 PM

DJ

“ *Darrell & Neta Jewell lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer*



Darrell & Neta Jewell - October 27, 2021 at 03:26 PM

TW

“ *Thank You Mike for all that you did for this community, you always made things interesting, RIP My Friend*

Tom Whilden - October 27, 2021 at 02:46 PM

TB

“ Mike you are one of kind! This world lost a true , kind, loving person. I will never forget at the POMH Christmas party we tore up the dance floor! I will miss you always. My heart hurts but thank you for all the service you did for Benzie community.

Tammy Broome - October 27, 2021 at 01:32 PM



“ I am so very sorry for the untimely and tragic death of Mike. I have known Mike for many years. Initially I met Mike's dad through work, and then my husband Mike Brown and Mike Trailer worked together on the ambulance through TC Fire Department. Mike was kind, caring, funny, and always a joy to be around. He will be sorely missed.

Mary Brown-Mcchrysal - October 27, 2021 at 10:34 AM

NC

“ I am so terribly sorry for your family's loss of Mikey. May you find peace and comfort knowing he is with Jesus.

Nancy

Nancy Trailer Clouse - October 27, 2021 at 10:20 AM

SE

“ Shelley Lyon Enger lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer



Shelley Lyon Enger - October 27, 2021 at 07:49 AM

DM

“ It is with a heavy heart I write this, for Mike was taken from all of us too soon. Mike had a Heart of Gold and a smile and laugh that was contagious that made ones day. Mike had the gift not everyone has, to help others... and he saved so many lives by being that way. I was so happy that I got the chance to see and talk with Mike last month at the Park Place when Chief James Craig was announcing his bid for Mi. Gov. We got our pictures w/him didn't we Mike?? In closing, I would just like to say this- if we all could be a little more like Mike w/serving and helping those in need, it would make this world a better place, as Mike sure did. May our loving God wrap His arms around all of Mike's family and give them Love, Strength, Comfort and Peace. RIP friend, Mike.



Darlene Miller

Darlene Miller - October 27, 2021 at 12:44 AM

JA

“ It was an honor and a privilege to work with Mike. His life's work was helping others and that legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched. Taken too soon, and the world is a lesser place because of it. God speed my friend.

Jamel Anderson - October 26, 2021 at 09:51 PM

BM

“ I met mike when I was 8 yo. My dad was his partner. I grew up knowing his name as well as many others in EMS. Mike later became my partner when I became a paramedic. He would complain about his age when I became his sidekick. I learned more from him than I could ever express . The worst, the best, and things you can't imagine in between... The perfect hair, the perfect stasch, and the perfect paramedic and friend to reach out to anytime

bob meyer - October 26, 2021 at 09:06 PM

MW

“ Mike was always full of laughs when we were kids. I lived right next door, and Wayne his younger brother was my best friend. Mike was 2 years older than us. But the three of us would hang out and always find some kind of trouble to get into. In high school Mike always had a passion for the medical field and he fulfilled his dream. I think the only times he would get mad is when Wayne and I would play tricks on him. He was kinda gullible. Nothing but great memories. I pray for peace for the family.

Mark Wiitala
Deerfield, NH

Mark Wiitala - October 26, 2021 at 08:20 PM

OT

“ Mike, thank you for years of experience you shared with us, the laughter you shared with us and your never ending excitement. You will live on for years within the memories we will always have of time spent with you. RIP Captain.

Olga Topash - October 26, 2021 at 07:46 PM

BC

“ Brian Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer



Brian Carpenter - October 26, 2021 at 04:44 PM

HF

“ Hardy Family lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer



Hardy Family - October 26, 2021 at 04:31 PM

BS

“ Brian Snyder lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer



Brian Snyder - October 26, 2021 at 03:53 PM

MJ

“ Marti Johnson lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Trailer



Marti Johnson - October 26, 2021 at 01:59 PM

SM

I have known Mike for about 30 years. I first met him when he came to my house to work on my furnace; his family business has been helping my entire family for decades and continues to do so. Then as a Police Officer, I was reacquainted with Mike when we were dispatched to the several hundred medical calls we had in common over the course of my career. Mike always acted professionally and was able to bring a sense of calmness to an oftentimes chaotic and stressful situation. After his retirement from EMS, he would pull up to my patrol car in his taxi or UBER vehicle just to check up on me. He would express his concern about the difficult time it was to be a police officer and wanted to make sure I was doing okay. He always assured me that he "always had my back". I truly appreciated him!

*-Scott Maxson
Traverse City Police Department (retired)*

Scott Maxson - October 27, 2021 at 07:48 AM

GL

Mikey will be greatly missed. I've known him for over 30 years "Capt. Chaos" and on occasion "General Chaos". When I worked my first shift with GT EMS, it was with him. I've learned lot from him over the years. Rest in peace Mikey.

Gary Leighton - October 27, 2021 at 08:41 AM



Mike was such a great cab driver at Cherry Capital Cab. NEVER a complainer. ALWAYS a team player. ALWAYS paid his fees and was accurate to boot. ALWAYS a good attitude. On the all time A-list for sure. He was a joy to have around and be around. It's been a pleasure to see him out on the wine trail over the past couple years. I miss him already. I am praying for peace right now for his family as they grieve this loss.

Doug Dornbos - October 27, 2021 at 01:18 PM

MO

Although I didn't know Mike personally, my sister Darlene Miller recently introduced me to him at an event. She spoke later of how good it was to see him, and talked about him. She had known him since very young days. I knew everything she said was true. She too grieves his great loss for his family and our community.

Unfortunately, he was taken from us far-too-early in a tragic accident, making it difficult to understand because he was so much a part of saving many when accidents occurred.

May he be remembered as a man who did much good for others throughout his life, and be welcomed into eternal glory with HIM in heaven. We can't change the circumstances, but we can believe his gifts of caring for others will long be remembered.

My sympathy to his family members and loved ones.

Mary Orth

mary orth - October 27, 2021 at 05:06 PM

MS

So sorry for your family loss. God has plans for you Mike. Prayers to you and family...

Mary and Jim Schopieray - October 27, 2021 at 05:46 PM

CG

I miss that no one mentioned what a kind neighbor Mike was. He wasn't the one Mr. Roger never prepared you for, Mike knew how to be a good one. I knew who to call when my water heater died, no hesitation. Mike was on it. He once made a small repair for me while I was working. It was at the roof line where I never would have been able to access. I didn't ask, he just noticed and took care of it.

Mike was the first person I went looking for the evening my son died. "Mike - say HI to Clinton for me. Tell him I miss him."

He still drove through the neighborhood on occasion just to chat and catch up. Who does that?! Mike did. In his honor BE THAT KIND OF NEIGHBOR.

Chris and Cara, those of us who watched you grow and those who grew up with you are saddened by your loss. My hope is that you will be able to find some peace and a bit of comfort knowing how many lives your dad touched.

Thinking of you - Cindy Gerhard

Cindy Gerhard - November 03, 2021 at 11:46 PM