



Robert Michael Bufe

March 25, 1951 - November 10, 2012

Robert Michael Bufe 61, of Traverse City and Chicago, passed away suddenly on Friday November 9 in Chicago. "Mike" was born in Kalamazoo of Irish and Czechoslovakian descent. After residing in Chicago until the age of 12, his family moved to Traverse City. Mike graduated from Traverse City Central High in 1969. He went on to Michigan State University, where he obtained a Teaching degree in History. He met and married Susan (Burley) and they had one daughter, Lauren Elisabeth. They settled in Gaylord where Mike began the first of his businesses, Bufe Distributing. While living in Gaylord, Mike served as President of the Jaycees, Vice President of the Downtown Merchants Association, and served on numerous boards and committees, including the Gaylord Council for the Arts. He was the recipient of many awards and accolades for his business success.

Mike was passionate about his faith, travel, music and the arts, protecting and enjoying our natural resources, being on the water from kayaking to sailing, and always, fine dining and spirits. He loved being back in Traverse City where so much of what he enjoyed was readily available. He was also an avid and dedicated Spartan.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Robert W. Bufe, and both his maternal and paternal grandparents. He is survived by his daughter Lauren, wife Susan, mother Jeanne Bufe, sisters Kathe Bartlett (Bob), Pam Neuman (Ed), and Melissa Rose (Brian), nieces and nephews Corey and Caitlyn Neuman, and Tessa and Noah Van Alstine, and many wonderful and dear friends.

Mike will be remembered for his love of family, and for the desire and devotion to make each of his endeavors successful.

There will be a visitation at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home on Monday November 19, from 1-3 PM with a Memorial Service at 3 p.m.

There will also be a Memorial Service in Gaylord at the First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday November 20 at 1PM.

Contributions may be made to the Charity of your choice or to the family through First Presbyterian Church of Gaylord.

Please share your favorite memory of Mike with his family by way of the online guest book/ tribute page found at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

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

Events

NOV **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

19

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

NOV **Memorial Service** 03:00PM

19

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

Comments



“ Susan and Lauren, My thoughts and prayers are with you. What a wonderful family bond the three of you had and I feel truly blessed to be a part of your lives for a time. Mike was a great Father and a wonderful husband. I loved his smile and upbeat attitude. Always a pleasure running into him while at your home for my daughter's piano lessons or running into him in a store while he was busily working. My heart is heavy for you.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a Treasure".

Love,

Lori, Craig, Craig II & Allison Combs

Lori Combs - November 19, 2012 at 08:28 PM



“ I have not seen Mike in quite a few years...but from my early days in radio in the 1980's working for John DeGroot at WWRM-FM... I met Mike and Sue at various social functions and would run into him in Gaylord frequently, sometimes coming out of his delivery truck... he always had a smile on his face and a warm greeting. He loved to talk Radio but was well versed on many subjects. Thoughts and prayers.

Rob Weaver

Rob Weaver - November 19, 2012 at 03:05 PM



“ Mike is a dear family friend and I had the privilege to work for him during my summer breaks in high school and college. Mike worked extremely hard but was unfailingly upbeat and optimistic—an example I won't forget. He had a thoughtful, inquisitive mind and the job afforded many opportunities for Mike to share jokes, stories, and life lessons with me while we were stacking boxes of goldfish and mint milanos. He took a genuine interest in everyone he interacted with and I will fondly remember him as kind, caring, and unselfish. I am grateful for the times we shared.

Andrew Olson - November 18, 2012 at 09:41 PM