



Michael James Rankin Sr.

September 7, 1956 - May 15, 2021

In loving memory,
09/07/1956 - 05/15/2021

Mike Rankin Sr. was a true Tacoma legend and the effect he had on his local community will be felt for generations to come.

Born in France in 1956, Mike was destined for a life of adventure. Adopted shortly after birth by Perry and Beula Rankin, Mike was quickly accepted with open arms and love by his new family in Tacoma Washington. However life was never easy, he lost both of his parents at a young age which was exceptionally difficult and very hard on him. Mike was forced to grow up quickly. In his early teens & 20's he hustled from job to job to make ends meet working at establishments such as Dairy Queen, Foreman & Clark, Remann Hall, and Floreshimes Shoes. Out in the work field Mike became privy to the fact that he had what the french call a certain, "je ne sais quoi" that gave him a special advantage in all aspects of his life. Caring, charismatic, and optimistic, everyone seemed to love Mike.

By the time he was in his late 20's Mike was off and running, opening businesses like Personal Touch Auto Detailing and employing friends (which seemed to be half the town) and often letting his less fortunate employees stay at his own home. From Personal Touch Mike was hired at Boeing which provided more stability but with the presence of a boss telling him what to do and when to go, that was short lived. With kids to feed and bills to be paid Mike went back on the grind, eventually testing his luck in Real Estate where he seemed to flourish almost overnight. In the later part of his 27 plus year Real Estate career, Mike went on to run Ocean Pacific Realty which was the largest minority owned Real Estate Brokerage in Pierce County. With his sons working alongside him, they often trumped the statistics of some of the most well known brokerages in the entire state during that time.

In Mike's later years health became his primary focus. He gave up smoking and stress and decided to pick up exercising and running instead. A lot of running, often competing in 26 mile marathons and duathlons. Mike became a youth leader and an inspiration to so

many in the community both young and old. Along his health journey, he often volunteered to speak at non smoking events and inspired others to keep going.

In 2012 Mike married the love of his life Denise, who was by his side for 14 years up until his very last breath. Those who knew Mike during this time would agree that he was the happiest he'd ever been with her in his presence.

Unfortunately, Mike was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in 2018 which was a devastating blow to both him and his entire family. Denise quickly became his crutch and most of his family became his support team. Mike fought hard and amazed doctors along the way, often leaving physicians and oncologists scratching their heads out of amazement of how a person in his condition could be so active, healthy, and positive through such intense treatments. But after a three year battle, even Mike eventually succumbed to his diagnosis.

If you know Mike, you know that he loved his kids very much. Loleatha, Edward, Michael Jr., Matthew, Adrianna, James, and Brooklyn are all left to carry on their father's legacy.

Mike loved to vacation, laugh, joke, listen to music, drive fast cars, and live life to its absolute fullest. So in true Mike Rankin fashion lets celebrate his life well lived.

To ensure the health and safety of our community, we are following all guidelines set by local, state and CDC officials. Maximum capacity restrictions are in place for the chapel services of Mountain View Funeral Home & Memorial Park.

A livestream webcast link of the service is available on the tribute wall, or the link provided below.

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/54298/hash:622BBE766EDE495D>

Cemetery

Mountain View Memorial Park

4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW
Lakewood, WA, 98499

Events

MAY 26 **Chapel Service** 12:00PM

Valley Chapel at Mt. View Memorial Park
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US,
98499

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Mountain View Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Crematory - May 20 at 02:55 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mike. I really did not know him well, just from the YMCA. Whenever he would see me there he would say hi (even though I know he never remembered my name). We would talk about running and just how life was going in general. I always got such a calming and joyous vibe from him. I just found out yesterday about his death, and I am truly heartbroken. The last time I saw Mike we were both walking down Bridgeport during Covid and I was so happy to see him out and about given his circumstances. I read Mike's obituary and got to learn how influential he was in this community. The feeling I got from him, even through brief conversation, really was correct in the fact that he was an upstanding person to friends, family, and himself. My prayers are with Mike's family and friends who knew who much better than I did. I am glad that I got to meet him.

Rebecca Culver - June 28 at 10:13 PM



“ My uncle Michael was a staple of the family. Always positive, always genuine, and always real. The jokes and time we all spent together was truly priceless and he will never be forgotten.

One of my fondest memories of my uncle would definitely have to be the time he painted my parents home over 20 years ago. Everyday would be an adventure with joking back and forth and shooting water-guns back and forth while he was on the roof.

I'll never forget the conversations and fatherly advice you gave me throughout the years. "Home before car ant, home before car"

Ant - May 25 at 11:18 PM



“ Hahaha I remember that super Soaked Uncle Michael hahahah! He use to blast us and jump out of nowhere lol!!! I remember we tried to get him with water balloons and he got the water hose out on us lol !!! That was hilarious!!!!

Cousin Shell - May 25 at 11:22 PM



“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of my Uncle Michael. I can still hear his voice in my head and the laughter and joy he had when all of us were together in one room celebrating the holidays or out eating at a restaurant. He always had a way of lighting up an entire room with his contagious smile and inside jokes that only close family could pick up on lol! His outgoing spirit and excitement for life always drew people near. My earliest memory of Uncle Michael was during the holidays at Christmas time. I always remember going to my cousin big blue house in University Place to celebrate the holidays. Although I was only 6 or 7 at the time of my earliest memory - I remember Uncle Michael loving celebrating Christmas !!!! Whenever we would show up there would be gifts overflowing from the Christmas tree to the front door making it hard to get around the mountain of gifts he had for my cousins lol! He would always make sure his sons had the biggest tree and the most gifts under the tree in the neighborhood lol! In addition to the holidays uncle Michael also loves throwing Get Together's for basketball game days! I remember Uncle Michael being the first person with a mega sized game day SUPER SIZED television in the family room! I remember seeing the Chicago Bulls game and being amazed at how exciting it was to see my dad, cousins and uncle all in the room clapping and rooting for their favorite players. Uncle Michael ALWAYS knew how to entertain and throw a party! When I think of my uncle the only thoughts that come to mind is all the fun we would have at our family gatherings. Whenever my Uncle was around there was always laughter for miles and tons of happiness. I can't recall a time in my life in which I didn't see him with a smile on his face telling a joke - even when he was in pain. I always saw my Uncle Michael as a second Dad so it's hard for me to accept he is no longer with us. Because memories are all that I have to hold on to I choose to allow them to be beautiful and only of the good times we spent together as a family over dinner or celebrating birthdays and special events. My heart is heavy in this time of loss because Uncle Michael was a piece of the puzzle in our family that can never be replaced. I will always hold memories of him in my heart for days to come. I feel so blessed and thankful that I had an Uncle who gave us all so many years of hilarious jokes, memories, laughter and Joy! God is so good for allowing us all to have him in our lives. Sending love to my cousins Edward, Matthew, and Mikey during this time of great loss as well as all family members. Stay strong and be encouraged! Your Dad would want us all to celebrate his life and to remember the good times ! Love you guys ~ Cousin Shell

Cousin Shell - May 25 at 09:23 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael James Rankin Sr..



May 24 at 08:31 PM



“ WORD Fellowship Church located in Charlotte, NC sends our condolences to Minister Lisa Faircloth and to her sons Matthew, Michael Jr. and Edward in addition to his wife and all family members and friends of the beloved Michael Rankin Sr. We pray for your peace and comfort as you go through this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Pastor Kevin and Lady Monica Butler and the WORD Fellowship Church family.

Pastor Kevin Butler - May 24 at 08:04 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael James Rankin Sr..



May 24 at 06:08 PM



“SENDING MY CONDOLENCES TO ALL THE RANKIN FAMILY” I ZANTIA RANKIN MICHAELS SISTER REMEMBER WHEN WE GREW UP AS KIDS ME AND TIMMY IS BROTHER, WE ALWAYS WERE LAUGHING ABOUT EVERYTHING MY MOM USE TO SAY YOU GUYS ARE SO SILLY I REMEMBER ALL THE GOOD TIMES AND I REMEMBER WHEN MICHAEL DID SOMETHING HE WAS NOT SUBPOSE TO DO IN FRONT OF MY MOM'S COMPANY ME AND TIMMY LAUGH SO HARD BECAUSE MICHAEL GOT A SPANKING ALL OVER THE HOUSE IT WAS SO FUNNY' BUT IN THE LAST DAYS OF HIS LIFE MICHAEL I TRIED TO REACH HIM, I JUST WANT TO LET THE FAMILY NO THAT I ALWAYS LOVED MY BROTHER..I NO ALL OF YOU ARE HEARTBREAKING MICHAEL WILL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR HEART FOREVER, NOW DONT WORRY BECAUSE HE IS WITH GOD NOW GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM AND GOD WILL SEE YOU ALL THROUGH THE PAIN AND WORRY, MICHAEL WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS AND YOURS MICHAEL LOVED YOU KIDS AND HIS WIFE SO MUCH I NO HE IS LOOKING DOWN FROM HEAVEN WITH A SMILE SO I JUST WANT TO SAY PEACE AND LOVE TO ALL OF YOU, MICHAEL IS IN PEACE AND REST NOW, LOVE ALL OF YOU TAKE CARE GOD TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER MICHAEL AND TAKE OF THE FAMILY

ZANTIA S RANKIN - May 19 at 03:02 PM



“Im so sorry for the loss of Michael . I remember meeting Lynettes uncle michael and he was very funny man. RIP Michael

BrownSuggaD - June 21 at 08:41 PM