



*Jeffrey Mackay*

**Oct. 3, 1954 - Oct. 9, 2024**

Jeffrey Mackay 70, of Morganton, NC passed away Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Born on October 3, 1954, in Detroit, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his parents Gerald and Betty Mackay, his mother-in-law Betty Deviney Daniels and his brother Dennis Mackay.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Lisa Deviney Mackay; sons, Michael Mackay, Adam Mackay (Molly), Taylor Mackay (Daniela); grandchildren, Franklin Mackay and Emmett Mackay; brother, Gary Mackay (Cathy); sisters-in-laws, Joanne Mackay, Kathy Zimmerman (John), Suzanne Eaton (Wayne); nephews, Bryan Mackay (Stacey), Phillip Mackay, John Zimmerman IV, Clint Zimmerman (Becca), Justin Eaton, Aaron Eaton (Michelle); niece, Rachel Baker (Adrian), and many great nephews and nieces, Uncle Bill and Aunt Dustie Mackay, cousins Mike Mackay and Jim (Karen) Mackay. And many friends he loved dearly.

Jeff's early life was in Lincoln Park, Michigan, until the family moved to Grosse Ile, Michigan when he was a young boy. He remained friends with many of his classmates for the rest of his life. It was a joy for him to go to his Grosse Ile High School 50 year class reunion in 2022. While attending Grosse Ile High School he participated in various sports, excelling in wrestling, track and cross country. His love of sports continued through his whole life. He played, he watched, he coached his

or sports continued through the years. He played, he watched, he coached the kids' teams, and he recorded. Jeff recorded almost every Michigan football and basketball game, being adamant that no one tell him the scores until he could watch for himself. He was a lifelong lover of sports. After App State beat Michigan both flags had to hang on his wall.

In 1972 Jeff volunteered and joined the United States Marine Corps leaving Michigan for California. There at the San Diego Marine Corps Recruitment Depot he began his training. Jeff loved boot camp. That is just the kind of guy he was. After boot camp he was stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland, for four years, followed by several years in reserves. He then traveled the country starting out with a trek to Alaska. His adventurous spirit lead him in many directions. He became involved with a Christian ministry and served in multiple places within the states and finally in VA Beach where he met his wife. They lived there until moving to Morganton in 1991 with their three children, settling down on Patton Road among a thriving group of good neighbors. Jeff loved the area. One of his favorite things was to sit on the back porch with his wife, and peacefully watch the sun go down over the mountains. Morganton became home.

Jeff spent his career owning and operating Mackay Painting. He loved Morganton and the historic buildings in particular. He was gregarious, and made many fast friends through his work. He would not miss his Friday afternoon pool friends get together, monthly Foothills Cigar Friends dinner and cigars, or his time working out at the gym. His family often teased him that he couldn't go anywhere without stopping to talk with at least 10 people along the way. He enjoyed his life in Morganton and was happy and content to have settled there with his young family. Jeff loved his wife, children and grandchildren very much. He was a man who cherished his family and always had a minute to listen, offer advice, and was a role model. It was a blessing that he and many of his family members were able to have spent his last weekend together, playing with the new grandbaby, celebrating Jeff's 70th birthday, and his and Lisa's 39th wedding anniversary. Our only wish is that we could have had more time with him. He was taken too soon. We will cherish our memories of Jeff. Loved, gone but never forgotten.

A Celebration of Jeff's Life will be held at Summit Community Church, Morganton,

NC, on Thursday October 24, 2024, receiving friends from 3:00-4:30 with memorial service immediately following. Please join the family for dinner in the church fellowship hall, immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to the [Special Operations Charity Network](#), [The Burke Arts Council](#), or the [Burke Community Foundation](#).

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

My wife and I lived in Morganton for a short bit. I met Michael downtown one evening and he introduced me to Jeff. Being a Marine myself, we got it off. After moving back to Virginia, I failed to keep in touch but always remembered my time with this family as a positive time in my life. Semper Fidelis Marine. Rest in peace my friend.

—Graham Sheffield

Jeff and I were classmates on Grosse Ile . We shared the wonderful experience of living in a unique community. Jeff was always fun to be around. Im glad we meet up at our 50 year reunion and it was great to hear that his life was filled with joy and love. I did not know he lived in NC and we talked about what a wonderful state it was , i told Jeff that my Mother was born in Silva NC next to Asheville and he told me how much he loved the south. My prayers go out to Jeff's family . I know Gods hand will be on your shoulder. Love, Doug Henry Class of 1972

—Doug Henry

I knew Jeff in Virginia, I will remember him as a great friend. He was a very caring person that was always there with words of advice about almost anything. Prayers for his wife and family. I loved him like a brother...

—Ali Bei

Michael, Franklin and Family, Please accept our condolences on Jeff's untimely

death. May God usher you and your family with peace and comfort.

—Doug & Susan Gordon

Jeff and I were friends during our school years in Grosse Ile, Michigan. I was shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. My heart and prayers are with his wife and children as they navigate such a significant loss. I feel fortunate that Jeff and I were able to reconnect at our 50th class reunion a few years ago. Coincidentally I, we both ended up in North Carolina, and I wish we had been able to connect more often. He will be remembered as friendly, kind, and easy to talk to. May he rest in peace, finding the greatest joy in the arms of Jesus.

—Susan Sproul Stonet



—Anonymous

—Tyra Lindell

I met Jeff in Ann Arbor at a Bible class in 1977. He was part of the group there and was a friend. We both enjoyed running. He was like a big brother. Motivate me! was a phrase he would jokingly say frequently. Although I haven't seen him in too many years I'm sorry to hear of his passing; definitely too soon. My prayers are with his family at this time.

—Margo Kubiak Zitelli

Lisa and family, my prayers are with you during this time. Jeff was a great guy and will be missed by many. He so loved my crawfish etouffe I made for a cigar dinner. Love, prayers, understanding and peace to all of you.

—Lisa cutts

Lisa and family, I was so sorry to hear of Jeff's passing . I was working at Sid's Market when you moved to Morganton (Patton Rd.) I fondly remember y'all from those days, my thoughts and Prayers are with all of you at the difficult time

—Ozelle Sotelo

I am saddened by Jeff's passing. He was a solid and sturdy Christian man....as reliable as the sunrise. I always knew him as a man of exceptional fortitude which was supremely evidenced when he came back from the steeple fall. Jeff was a fully engaged person in his adopted home and added great value to all he touched. God blessed him and he wonderfully shared those blessings. I regret that I will miss paying my respects at his services and visitation.

—Sam Avery



You gained your wings and look down on us all you are a wonderful boss and you leave a lot of people's hearts aching. You will be missed you are very loved You Will Carry On from up above.

—Christopher R McKinney

I met Jeff and Lisa many years ago. Have always had so much respect and admiration for Jeff's skill as a painter. He always had a smile and friendly greeting for everyone... he will be missed.

—Laura McCoy