Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Michael Austin Barnhardt

Nov. 19, 1945 - March 13, 2024

Michael Austin Barnhardt, 78, of Morganton, NC, went to his heavenly home on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 after a period of declining health.

Born in Kannapolis, NC on November 19, 1945, he was the son of the late William Earl Barnhardt and Geraldine Austin Barnhardt.

His family moved to Massena, New York when he was young, and Mike graduated from Massena High School. He was active in sports, playing football, baseball, and hockey.

Mike was a faithful member of Hopewell Baptist Church. He was a beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, and friend. He supported his children and grandchildren in all their activities.

Michael enjoyed a rewarding career with NAACO Materials Handling Group as traffic manager, plant systems coordinator, and materials supervisor. He helped implement their computer system and travel to Northern Ireland and Mexico to assist in training and procedures. Mike worked for Lee Boy in Denver, NC and Getrag Corp (now GKN) in Newton, NC.

Mike enjoyed vacations with family and friends to the beach, New Orleans, Maine,

Colorado, the Grand Canyon, and numerous national parks. His leisure time was spent watching the Carolina Panthers, UNC Tar Heel basketball, Appalachian State Football, and NASCAR. Mike was proud of bear hunting trips on the east coast of North Carolina and his elk hunting trips in Texas and Colorado. As his family grew, he enjoyed many games of golf with his sons.

Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, Evelyn Burnette Barnhardt; children, Angela Barnhardt Cole (Rich), Michael Barnhardt, II, Adrienne Buff Rich, and Tyler Barnhardt (Valerie); grandchildren, Megan Turner, Robert Cole, Samantha Barnhardt, Michael Barnhardt, III, Adrienne Barnhardt, and Blayne Barnhardt; and brothers, Steve Barnhardt (Sherri) and Jeff Barnhardt (Sandra).

The family will receive friends from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Hopewell Baptist Church. The funeral will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the church with Rev. Braden Martin and Dr. Danny Emory officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hopewell Baptist Church, 1112 Hopewell Road, Morganton, NC 28655 and Amorem Support, 902 Kirkwood Street, NW, Lenoir, NC 28645.

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

Tribute Wall

i knew michael in massena,new york. he was a real nice guy.he will be missed here on earth, but he has a home in heaven now.

—Susan e Heisler

I remember those hunting trips to Texas, Colorado, and those Bear hunts my friend. Your friendship was always the best part of those trips. We love you pal! See you and Kevin soon

—Don Collins

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Evelyn...Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers!! Praying God will give you comfort and strength during this most difficult time!! . Bob and Carolyn Mauney

—Carolyn Mauney

Evelyn and Family So sorry for your loss, many good memories with you and Mike

Mike

–Rudy and Deola Swain

Mike, Was so looking forward to seeing you and Evelyn at our 60th this summer. You will be missed in person but, present in our hearts. Look down on us fondly.

Nancy

–Nancy Clement Ansteth

Adrian, Sorry for your loss. So happy you have great memories!

–Amy Isenhour



–Anonymous

So sadened of this news Mike and I had some good times together I know he will be missed by all My prayers are with the family.

–Curtis Brown

As I prepare a sermon for this Sun. the text is from John 12:20-33. There is much to unpack there, but the part about the grain of wheat having to die really caught my attention. Michael "died" many times over in sacrificial love for his spouse, children, grandchildren, friends and co-workers. He certainly deserves the "well done good and faithful servant." Heaven is now his own and we will be reunited again in our heavenly homes. Blessings family as we all navigate the grieving process.

–Wayne and Leslie Giese

I can’t begin to tell you about sad feelings I have for the loss of my ole buddy, Mike. After he moved to Massena we kind of grew up together, not only in sports but in all the “social” activities. He was my catcher on the High School baseball team and we were competitors on the Babe Ruth teams. Rest in peace, Mike. We’ll always have our memories. Tom Carney

–Tom Carney



Evelyn, I am so sorry to hear of your family's loss. I am sending prayers of comfort to you and your family. Love, Rosemary and Ryann Gallegos

–Rosemary Gallegos