



*Michael Wayne  
Walters, "Big Mike"*

**Dec. 9, 1954 - July 15, 2024**

Michael Wayne Walters, "Big Mike" passed away July 15, 2024 in Morganton, NC. Mike was born in Laurinburg, NC on December 9, 1954 to Lindsay and Ruth Walters. He grew up in Stony Point, North Carolina. He was the son of a pastor, who influenced his unwavering faith, which carried him throughout his life. Mike attended Appalachian State University. It is there where he met his beloved wife Donna Crook Walters

A skilled conversationalist, Mike never met a stranger. He greeted everyone with a hug. Mike was a successful independent insurance agent for forty years. Before moving to Lake James nine years ago, Mike and Donna lived in Huntersville, NC where their home was the center of the neighborhood and Mike was a role model for all being the epitome of positivity and encouragement. Big Mike's outgoing personality allowed him to make and maintain many lifelong friendships.

Mike excelled at sports, playing football and baseball, as a catcher. As an avid music and sports fan, his favorites were The Rolling Stones and Bob Seger. He loved The New York Yankees and the North Carolina Tar Heels. Most of all, Mike loved his wife Donna. They celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary this year.

A big man with a big personality, one of his favorite expressions was to say with a

smile "I'm just glad to be here". We know this is what he said as he entered through the gates of Heaven.

Mike is preceded in death by his parents and his younger brother Fred, and his parents-in-law, John and Joy Crook. He is survived by his wife, her mother, Bette

Morgan and brother, Tommy Crook. Along with extended family, he also leaves behind many special nieces and nephews that he considered his own.

To represent Mike's colorful personality, we are asking that everyone wear bright colors to the service.

Celebration of life will be at 1:00, Sunday, July 21, 2024 at the Colonial Chapel, Sossoman Funeral Home, 1011 South Sterling Street, Morganton, NC. Family will mingle following the service.

Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

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

# Tribute Wall



Sorry to learn Michael had passed away he was a sweet wonderful cousin! We have fond memories of him! God bless family

—Phyllis Ivey

Donna we just heard of his passing sorry to hear of that hope you're doing okay and you hit it right on the nail when you done this obituary he was the nicest and kindness man you could ever met we like him very much and we'll miss him very much I talked to him from time and time over years and I just found out today so I'm so sorry to hear that he will really be missed it broke my heart when I found out about him passing today.

—David and Nancy Spurrier

I just heard of Mikes passing this past weekend. What a wonderful guy & I'm sorry I missed his send of service to Heaven. Donna my heartfelt yhoughys & prayers goe out to you and if you wrote his obituary, you could not have said it better mentioning his obligatory " I'm just glad to be here" quote. He was one of a kind and I love talking "Tarheel" basketball with him whenever we crossed paths. New yall were great people from day one when I 1st met you both over 25 years ago.

—Mac Worsley

We are so very sorry to learn of Mike's passing. We just met him this year playing pickle ball...Chuck introduced us and we immediately were taken in by his kindness and big smile. What a great person he must have been!

—Becky & Jeff Smith

Donna, I am so sorry to hear about Mike. He was such a great person and I shared a story about him with my grandson when his mother was young on your front doorstep in Wynfield. I remember all the ping pong games in your garage and laughter that was shared. Memories of him will go on.

—Brian and Holly Davis

Donna, So sorry to hear of "Big Mikes" passing. We just found out about it today (Monday 7/22/24). He was always such a positive and friendly person with such a great big smile. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and play pickle ball with him as well as you Donna. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Karen and Tim Suttles

—Karen and Tim Suttles

—Hallie and Kipp



Donna, We were so sorry to hear of Mike's passing and so sorry we couldn't attend the service. He will certainly be missed in the neighborhood, his personality was larger than life. If we can do anything to help in the future please let us know. Sincerely, Steve and Jenny Smith

—Steve and Jenny Smith

Scott and I are heartbroken to hear this. Seeing Mike and Alice in the mornings was the highlight of many days, and I can hear his voice asking us about THE Ohio State. He had the best laugh and truly brightened so many people's lives

Ohio State. He had the best laugh, and truly brightened so many peoples lives. He loved Donna so much, and was truly just an amazing guy. Mike was the heartbeat of Halloween on Oxfordshire, we truly miss you both more than you know. Sending love and prayers to you Donna. Love, Diane and Scott

—diane mclaine

Donna, I am so sorry to hear of Big Mike's passing. You found yourself a very special guy. He will always be in my memory for his full of life personality . He treated each day as a blessing. All three of my children have stories about him and the lasting impression he made. Eternal rest grant unto Mike, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

—Noreen Soos

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones.

—Angie Miller

Donna, We are so sorry to hear of Mikes passing. We wanted to make it to his service, however Billys health and 2 plus year fight with cancer is taking him down. Please know our hearts are with you during this difficult time. We always remember Big Mike with a smile on his face. Praying for strength now. Ginny and Billy

—Billy and Ginny Campbell

I was fortunate to have met Mike and played against him. One of the happiest men I have ever known.

—Scott Debrule



I will forever miss you. There will always be a hole in my heart with out you. You were the best person that I ever had the privilege of knowing. This family will never be the same



without you. And it was a privilege to be your sister in law. I love you and I will miss you forever. I am praying that this family will somehow find peace without you. You were the heart of this family. And we were all blessed to have known you. I will forever miss you!

—Nicki Crook

Dear Donna, We are so saddened to hear of Mike's passing. He has been so welcoming to us at the lake and so interested in our family. He has been truly lovely to us anytime our paths crossed; we will miss him very much. Please be comforted to know that you will remain in our thoughts and prayers. Warmly,  
Lissa and Gary

—Lissa and Gary Brown



There are few people that you meet in life that have the type of impact that Big Mike did. I have met very few truly special genuine individuals like Mike. His positive spirit and terrific attitude was a great model for anyone to admire and emulate. I am thankful that his good friend Randy introduced us and I only wish I had known him longer. Thank you BigMike for your inspiration and the special gift that you gave to everyone you met. Rest in Peace my short lived but very appreciated friend! You will be sorely missed.

—Larry Lane

We will miss you much, we called you Big Mike because when came into restaurant you showed us Big Love. Thank you brother for your friendship. Ps when I see you in Heaven we still gonna talk bout Duke vs Carolina

—Uncle Eee Burgers

Dear Donna, Holding you and your family close in prayer. Mike was a wonderful man with a big heart and he loved you very much. Sending love and a big hug.

JoAnne Stewart

—JoAnne Stewart

Donna, We were devastated by the news of Mike's passing. "Big" Mike certainly applies. As others have said, he never met a stranger. Elaine recalls regular Tuesday visits to Ingles where walking into the store she would hear Mike's booming, happy voice talking to cashiers, stockers, and anyone else in his vicinity. He was not only a friend, he was a blessing to everyone who knew him. He will be sorely missed by so many. Our prayers are with you at this difficult time.

—Elaine & Ben Nantz

What a blessing to have known and laughed with Big Mike. We will see you one day on the other side of heaven.

—Jon and Ginger

Donna & Bette, Big Mike's obituary is so sweet & spot on. He was a big guy with a big smile & even bigger heart. Anyone who knew him loved him. Our Dad Jim Norton sure loved him & loved golfing with him. Mike was heartbroken, so sweet to us, reminisced, cried & prayed with us in Dad's last days. We are so sorry & heartbroken now for you. Prayers that good memories can make you smile & God's peace will comfort you in your grief. Love from the entire Jim Norton family.

—Karen Norton Withrow

Donna, Betty and family members. So very sad to hear the passing of Big Mike. I never saw him without that wide smile. He always held a special place in our dad's heart. I'm sure he was waiting in line to greet him at Heavens door.

Thoughts and prayers to help ease the pain of losing him. Rhonda Norton Larimore

—Rhonda Larimore



Love and prayers sent your way!

—Catherine

I only knew Mike for a few years, as a fellow insurance agent. But in those years became quite fond of Big Mike. He always had a smile and was always willing to give advice and wisdom. Condolences to Donna and the family. Mike sure will be missed.

—Brett Miller

Sending love to you Donna and all the family! He truly will be missed!!!!

—Missie & Dwayne Dancey

I was saddened to learn of your loss. Mike was a great friend to all. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Margaret Kort

—Margaret Kort

There are no words to express how special Mike was to us and everyone he knew. He will be so missed, and we send our love to Donna and all the family. There is now a special guardian angel in heaven. Much love.



–Flo and Glen Davis



–Nadine Koski



Donna, I am so sorry for your loss. Mike was an amazing man! I am here for you if you need anything in the coming days and weeks! Love, Lara

–Lara Romack



So sorry to hear this about Mike. He and I went to school together from 1st grade to 12th grade. He was a great guy and will be terribly missed, by all who knew him. Prayers for the days ahead. Much love,

–Kathey Combs Roosevelt

Donna sending my deepest sympathies to you and your family. Lifting prayers of strength and comfort during this difficult time. Always Georgia

–Georgia Nascimento

Mike was my classmate for my Jr & Sr years at ACHS. His smile was contagious. He was a great football player as well. He will be missed.

–Kathy Durmire

I remember Mike's warm and engaging personality with great fondness. I'm praying for you to experience comfort and peace in this sad time.

—Carolyn Cook Short

Donna, We are praying for God to hug you close and comfort you during this time of loss. After having a few lunches at Jonah and Caroline's with you and Mike, we love being a part of your extended family. Mike had a manner that made us Wildcats feel special and welcome - even in Tar Heel territory! He will be missed.

—Tim and Lynn Campbell



We will always cherish Big Mike like the treasure he was. Donna, you have our deepest love. You both touch so many. Bella and Craig Akroyd (Auckland, NZ)

—bella and craig akroyd

I'll always remember my neighbor Big Mike as a fun loving, Tar Heel bleeding, awesome guy. I'll never forget the first time he showed me his garage and all the Tar Heel memorabilia he had. He also left me one of his world famous Apple Pie mason jars in my mailbox as I left for college. Going to need some extra seats for this service. Miss you already buddy.

—Ryan Goodwin



Big Mike will be missed! His huge personality matched his heart! His quick wit and sense of humor was unmatched! May his family find comfort in knowing there is no pain, sorrow or disease in heaven!

—Kathy Crook Hayes



Sending our condolences. Mike was always a good friend to our dad, Rick Childers Alexander Central High School Class of '73



Class of 73

—Family of Rick Childers



What a super sweet person. The short time John and I knew of him. He sold us insurance and was so thoughtful. When John was diagnosed with cancer Mike spent over a hour helping him decide what to do. Stage 4 lung cancer and no insurance. Mike stepped right in with his loving personality. Bless you his wife..hugs to the family. Rest in peace Brother Big Mike . My girls love u so do I. Hugs bro Jesus has u now brother Big Mike

—John Moore and Adela Brown

My father Jim Norton always looked forward to seeing, Mike, Donna and Betty any time but around the holidays he really got excited. He loved playing golf with Mike also. Big Mike had a big personality but the biggest thing he had was his . Thank you for all the memories from the Nortons. You will be missed dearly thank you. Randy Norton.

—Randy Norton



He is my "Brother" forever till we meet again never goodbye because you are in my thoughts, and my heart always As we said after we talked each time. Love you man mean it! Ricky Wayne Childers

—Ricky Childers

Donna, My heart breaks for your loss of your precious Big Mike He was one of the sweetest men I ever met and everyone loved him May your many fun memories comfort you during this sad time Much love to you Leslie

—Leslie Savage

Big Mike was a dear friend of my father, Jim Norton. My dad loved him "to pieces" as my dad would say. Big Mike visited my dad several times at the hospital during his last days. He always prayed with daddy which meant the world to daddy. God speed Mike. Heaven just got another angel.

—Pamela Coleman



—Rebecca Leifert

Keep "running wild & feeling free" . You and Donna were the heart and soul of our neighborhood . My brother from a different mother Rest in peace Big Mike!

—Hayes Foscue