



Michael Joseph King

October 29, 2021

Michael Joseph King, 63 of West Hartford, unexpectedly passed away Friday October 29th. Michael was a blessing to his family, a loving son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend to all. He lived his life to the absolute fullest of his potential and will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

Born February 27, 1958 in Dorchester, MA to Francis and Claire (Shanahan) King, second of their six children, Michael was an enthusiastic student in the West Hartford Public Schools' Special Education Program and a proud graduate of Conard High School class of 1979. He was a Special Olympics athlete for over 50 years competing in swimming, diving, basketball, softball, volleyball, skiing, sailing, bowling, track & field and golf; winning more medals than can be counted. In 1991 Michael was selected to participate in the International Special Olympics in Minneapolis where he was awarded the Silver medal in diving. He was an avid New England sports fan rooting for all our region's teams - especially the Red Sox, the Patriots and the UConn basketball teams.

In 1994 Michael was awarded the Connecticut Special Olympics McDonald's Spirit of Life Award, and in 1995 he was recognized as the Most Accomplished Individual from the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress.

Throughout his life he was active in many organizations and activities including the Cub Scouts, HiPals, Camp Harkness, the Knights of Columbus, and the Elmwood Community Center. Until his passing, Michael was a devoted communicant of and choir member at St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church.

For 30 years, Michael worked at CIGNA in Shipping & Receiving. After his retirement Michael participated in HARC programs.

His family expresses its deepest gratitude to the HARC staff that supported Michael's independent life. To Michael, they were an extension of his family.

Michael was preceded in death by his father Francis King and leaves behind his dear mother Claire and his siblings Frank (Debbie), Stephen, Karen (Dana Pound), Diane, Melinda Belsham (Eric). He was a loving uncle to Diana, Frank, Kristina, Melissa, Elizabeth, Samantha, Marisa, Alex and Andrew.

A wake will be held at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107 Wednesday November 3rd from 5:00-7:00pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00am on Thursday November 4th at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 872 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT 06119, followed by a burial at Fairview Cemetery.

To honor Michael, Red Sox, Patriots or UConn attire is encouraged at both services.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Michael's memory to HARC 900 Asylum Ave, Hartford CT 06105 www.harc-ct.org/donatenow or Special Olympic West Hartford PO Box 27131 West Hartford CT (Checks made payable to SOWH).

Cemetery

Events

Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT,

NOV

3

Calling Hours

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Molloy Funeral Home

906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT, US, 06119

NOV

4

Mass of Christian Burial

11:00AM

St. Thomas the Apostle

872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT, US

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Molloy Funeral Home - November 03, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ Michael was the kindest, nicest person anyone could ever meet. He was a real gentleman. I remember whenever there was a wedding in our family, Michael always wanted to dance with the Bride. And he did. But I remember telling Michael, she hasn't danced with the groom or her father yet. But he always had his dance with the bride.

Love you my cousin Michael.

Paul Shanahan

Paul Shanahan - November 05, 2021 at 10:44 PM



“ greetings im josh starr a very good friend of michael's seeing him walking all over town was a privalige what A GREAT KID REST EAS BROTHA " ALRIGHT I"M A COMIN "



josh starr - November 03, 2021 at 03:36 PM



“ Hello. I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Michael for approximately 25 years at CIGNA. He delivered my supplies and we would always talk about the Red Sox. He would get so excited win or lose. He was such a gentle soul. May the memories of him bring you peace. Hilda Tracy

Hilda Tracy - November 03, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ I worked at Cigna for many years while Michael was there. He was very highly regarded by all of us. He loved to talk about his nieces and nephews and was very excited to share with me the medals he won for bowling in the Special Olympics. And of course anything related the Red Sox or UCONN Basketball! My condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. He was a welcome light to everyone and will be truly missed.

Donna Gaudet - November 03, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ I will miss him. He was a good friend to me. Our condolences to the family and friends.

Victoria Pacheco - November 02, 2021 at 09:45 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I met Michael briefly a day or two before his passing, as I was moving some things out of the apartment above him. He introduced himself with the brightest smile and friendliness. I am so touched by his beautiful obituary. May you feel much support during this sad time, and may beautiful memories live in your hearts forever.

Janice

Janice Weinstein - November 01, 2021 at 11:43 PM



“ I remember the many times Michael would stop at my desk at Cigna and ask me to look up someone's name for him. He had a package for someone, but didn't know where they sat. He always had represented the New England sports team well! He was such a joyful person. I have only good memories of him :) - Diana Allen

Diana Allen - November 01, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ Hi I remember mike singing in the choir with us for quite a few years . He was very dear to all of us in the choir so sorry for the loss of your husband too . Ma ny many prayers for you and your family take care Kathy DeConti

kathy deconti - November 01, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ Hello this is Joe McGurkin ,Larry's older brother . We all loved Michael so much when the boys all hung around together in their youth . I'll never forget the wonderful documentary that Michael, Larry and Keith did for TV back in the late 70's. I remember tears of joy strolling down my face as we watched the pilot at WTIC studios in West Hartford . Those boys were, and to this day, have always been hero's and examples of great courage in my life . Although we have lost that video through our family history. I always went back to it in my mind when I needed to step up as a Dad for my two beautiful children as they grew up . Peace be with all of you , we loved Michael King very much . Take care

Joe McGurkin - November 01, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ From the Loalbo and Bonelli and Schepker Families;

We are thinking and praying for the entire King family members. We will miss Michael deeply and have fond memories of him and of his dad. Love you all,

Anita and Jim Schepker

Anita andJim Schepker - November 01, 2021 at 01:44 PM



“ I always loved talking to Mike, especially after a Red Sox game. He loved Dustin Pedrioa like my Dad and was always up on the stats and plays. He took his Job very seriously with a smile and kind greeting to everyone. My deepest Sympathies go out to his entire family. Soar high Mike!! Linda Halik-Cigna

Linda Halik - November 01, 2021 at 09:12 AM



“ For 20 years I could always count on Michael to brighten my day at Cigna. Rest in peace Michael
Chris Gauthier

Chris Gauthier - November 01, 2021 at 07:42 AM



“ We were deeply saddened to learn of your recent loss. Although no words can comfort you, may it help to know that others are thinking of you with deepest sympathy.
Daniel and Carol Sullivan

Carol Gould Sullivan - October 31, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ I have worked for Cigna for 24 yrs. I met Micheal shortly after I started. He always had a smile in his face and more so when The Red Sox won. I looked forward to him stopping by and telling me about his weekend etc. He was a very special guy.

Pat Sunblade - October 31, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ It is with great sadness to hear the passing of our friend Michael. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Michael was a friend of my sister Lauren Reno for many many years. Going to Elmwood community center dances, Halloween parties, doing Special Olympic and Harc together. I can't express our sadness . Michael will truly be missed by all who knew him.
With much love Lauren and Caryn Reno

Lauren and Caryn Reno - October 31, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ I thoughts and prayers go out to the King family. Michael was a young man to be very very proud of. He had many many accomplishments. We will always remember him for all his wonderful attributes. Have comfort in knowing that he is now in his dads arms. Keeping your family in our prayers. The Jack Broadwell family. Josie, Brian And of course Michael's friend Mark

Josie Broadwell - October 31, 2021 at 06:45 AM



“ You were a young man to be very proud of rest in peace Michael Gary Broadwell

Josie Broadwell - October 31, 2021 at 06:48 AM



“ I was Michael's staff mostly on weekends for over 17 years and I will miss him greatly. Michael lived a full life and is a testament to what people can accomplish. I really enjoyed my visits with Michael and taking him to Stop & Shop on Sundays. Michael had countless friends and a very loving family who was always there for him. I'll miss you Michael.
John Farris

John Farris - October 30, 2021 at 07:06 PM



“ I know I speak for the entire choir at St Thomas the Apostle when I say how deeply Michael will be missed and how much we all loved him. Michael was just lovely. The Hardman family sends much love and peace to you all as you grieve.

Kate and Ray Hardman - October 30, 2021 at 05:44 PM