



## Michael J. McAndrews

March 20, 2019

Michael J. McAndrews, 73, beloved husband of Diane (RisCassi) McAndrews of West Hartford, died Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at Hartford Hospital. Born in San Diego, CA, the son of the late Michael Joseph and Lillian (Johnson) McAndrews, he was raised in the Wilmington neighborhood of Los Angeles. He attended Phineas Banning Senior High School and Harbor Junior College. Mike proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and followed in his father's footsteps becoming a police officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for 20 years, retiring as a Lieutenant. He worked a variety of assignments at all ranks, including the jail, patrol, recruit training, major crimes investigations, and undercover vice operations. While working as a police officer, he went back to school and earned a degree in English from Cal State LA and a Juris Doctorate from Southwestern Law School. He was admitted into practice in 1988. Mike joined the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and subsequently opened a private practice, McAndrews and Hand, in La Jolla, CA. Mike moved to Connecticut in 1991 and later opened the private practice of McAndrews and Lefebvre where his primary focus was representing police officers throughout Connecticut. Licensed to practice law in CA, VA, DC, and CT, Mike also traveled throughout the country to provide training on officer survival. He was passionate about officer survival and his mentoring and coaching impacted many people. Mike was also an adjunct instructor at the University of Connecticut School of Law for many years. In addition to his professional pursuits, Mike participated in the Police Olympics

and completed many marathons, including the Death Valley relay marathon. He was a gifted story teller, speaker and teacher. He loved reading and writing, but he was most proud of his family and their accomplishments. Besides his wife of 35 years, he is survived by his two children, Julianne (McAndrews) Cline and her husband John of Mountain View, CA; Joseph McAndrews, a Naval Submarine Officer stationed in Japan; his sister Patricia Milburn and her husband Mark of Murrieta, CA; and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be Wednesday, March 27 from 4-8 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St. West Hartford. Burial with military honors will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Convent of Divine Love, Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, 2212 Green Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130-3179 or to the Sheriff's Relief Association, "Mike McAndrews Fund," 11515 Colima Rd., Whittier, CA 90604 (monies will be earmarked to erect a building for officer survival training in Mike's name).

Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

MAR 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church  
47 Pleasant St  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ Dear Diane and family,  
I just found out about the passing of Mike. How truly sorry I am!  
Mike was an incredible person, so upbeat and full of energy and life.  
I got to know Mike through my cousin Jeanne, who persuaded me  
to judge for the moot court class Mike and Mike LeFebvre taught. I  
will miss his enthusiasm he had for teaching and for his students.  
My deepest sympathies, Suzanne Gilleese

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**Suzanne Gilleese** - July 06, 2019 at 02:26 PM

RK

“ Michael McAndrews was simply the finest human being I have ever  
known. I attempted to emulate his myriad of talents and virtues. He  
was the finest role model I have ever encountered. He was my Drill  
Instructor in Class 159, and became a life-long friend and mentor.  
My sincerest condolences to his family. It Hurts to lose an idol.

*Michael Kinsey*

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**Robert M Kinsey** - May 19, 2019 at 05:56 PM

LB

“ Dear Diane, Joe and Julianne

We were so sad to hear that Mike has passed away. I got to know Mike and his (then) girl-friend Diane when I lived in LA in the late 70 's. He was such a nice guy and really funny, always in the center of the party. Nobody could tell a story like Mike! After I moved back to Sweden 1980 I returned to America when my daughter graduated from Harvard and got to stay with the McAndrews family in Hartford together with my family, including my elderly mother. The McAndrews were very generous and welcoming and opened their home to us.

The McAndrews also visited us in Sweden and we had such a great time together. We all remember Mike telling us a story about Danish shoes, something he had read in the paper and made a long, very funny story about.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Diane and the children, Joe and Julianne. We are thinking about you and are so sorry for you loss.

All our love

Louise and Claes, Halmstad, Sweden

Christine and Erik, Tel Aviv, Israel

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**Louise Björk** - April 12, 2019 at 08:30 AM

CN

“ Dear Diane and family,

I had the pleasure of knowing Mike when he taught at the law school. He was a wonderful teacher as he truly cared about the students. Mike had an infectious laugh and loved telling a story. He was kind, thoughtful and a pleasure to work with. He will truly be missed. Claudia N.

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**Claudia Norsworthy** - March 27, 2019 at 10:56 AM

IF

“ I loved Mike as a little boy when I babysat for him and I've kept up with his life through my brother, Lenn, a lifelong friend. I've always been impressed by his successes and thankful he had such a loving family. My heart goes out to all who knew and loved him; you have all been especially blessed by his love for you. My heartfelt condolences to his wife and children and friends.

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**Ila Foley** - March 27, 2019 at 01:46 AM

DB

“ Dear Diane  
Sending our deepest sympathies to you and your family . We will keep in our thoughts and prayers.  
Deb (Amodio) and Harold Bannon

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**deb bannon** - March 26, 2019 at 07:21 PM

BJ

“ My life was enormously transformed for the better during the forty years I knew Mike. His love for those around him made him a powerful force in the lives of so many. And Mike's wise counsel, passion for quality, and loyalty will be long remembered.

*Bill Squires*

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**Bill Squires Jr.** - March 26, 2019 at 06:38 PM

JW

“ On behalf of the entire Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I want to express our deepest condolences to the McAndrews Family. Lieutenant McAndrews accomplished a great deal in his life and it is an honor to work in the organization that he loved so dearly. His legacy lives on at the LASD Training Academy and his rallying cry to "never give up" still echoes in the halls. Thank you Sir for your service to your family, your community, and this grateful nation. God Speed.

*Commander James P. Wolak LASD*

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**James Wolak** - March 26, 2019 at 05:23 PM

BS

“ My sincerest condolences to your entire family. My first "meeting" with Mike was in my academy class in 1981 (class 206). He walked in & I knew he was different than all the other instructors. He immediately told us to relax, that he was going to be informal as far as rules, & to pay attention because what he had to say might save our lives. He had my attention immediately. I liked this guy. He made presentation after presentation with passion, insight, & did it in such a way, we ALL paid attention. One of the very few instructors....no one in my class was dozing off when he spoke! Never give up! Over and over again. It's still in my head. After twenty years with LASD, retiring as a Sgt, & nearly eighteen years as an officer in South Florida & I still hear him talking about tactics & never give up when I'm on my way to a call, or am interacting with one of our "clients." Many years ago I began making presentations in briefing similar to what Mike did in my academy class way back in 1981. My guys love that someone (me) provides the kind of training no one else has ever done or does. My presentations are modeled after Mike's, & are invaluable to my officers today. Thank you Mike for being there, & taking the time & effort to care about other deputies & their safety. You're one in a million & I hit the lottery having had the opportunity to have you teach in my academy class.

*Sgt Bruce Sonnenblick, Ret LASD*

*Ofcr Bruce Sonnenblick, Boca Raton (FL) PD*

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**Bruce Sonnenblick** - March 26, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Michael J. McAndrews.*



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March 26, 2019 at 02:19 PM



“ *Mike was a man of integrity and unbridled enthusiasm for life. He was that rare individual who celebrated others' successes and so enjoyed hearing about them. Mike's professional achievements were impressive, but he was so humble; he didn't bring attention to them. Mike's love for his family was visible when he spoke with such joy about Diane or about Julianne's or Joe's college activities and careers; he was so proud of them all! May Mike Rest In Peace and may his beloved family be comforted by the precious memories that they share.*

*Mike, Joan, and Keating McKeon*

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**Joan McKeon** - March 26, 2019 at 01:12 PM



“ *Dearest Diane and Family,*

*It was always our pleasure to spend time with Mike, especially because he always kept the conversation so interesting. He was a great and kind man, and we will miss him always. With deepest sympathy.*

*Love,*

*Diane and Rick*

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**Diane and Rick Duhaime** - March 26, 2019 at 11:25 AM

LB

“ We lived next door to Diane and Mike in West Hartford and became and remain good friends. Mike was an amazing person, funny, smart and just all around a great person. We will miss him deeply and send our prayers and thoughts to Diane, Julianne and Joe. All our love,

*Brad and Loreen Beaudry*

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**Loreen Beaudry** - March 26, 2019 at 09:20 AM

AG

“ Mike grew up with my father, Gregor Gannam, in Wilmington CA. Mike was a big influence on me throughout my important life choices, including military time and my career as a police officer. Mike made the cross country trip for my graduation from the academy and called me multiple times through my career when he knew I needed it. He was one of the first people I contacted when I needed advice, police related and life in general. Sorry to see him go, but glad he's back with my father now, reliving old times in "Wilmas.”

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**Andrew Gannam** - March 25, 2019 at 06:26 PM

JR

“ I first got to know Mike when our kids played on the WHYFL Packers. I know he loved those Sundays at Sterling Field. We later worked together as he was an instructor for several of my FTO classes at the West Hartford Police Department. I was honored to teach with Mike he was able to teach countless police officers from around CT. I always respected Mike's wisdom and knowledge and officers in class enjoyed their time with him. My thoughts and prayers are with the McAndrews family.

*Jeff Rose*

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**Jeff Rose** - March 25, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael J. McAndrews.*



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March 25, 2019 at 05:28 PM



“ *I knew Mike well. Spent many an hour on the racquetball courts in Manhattan Beach and ran a lot of miles together . Mike was a legend and most ethical of deputies. You kept a lot of us alive. Rest in peace Mike. Thoughts and prayers to the McAndrews family.*

*Noel Lanier  
Class 165*

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**Noel Lanier** - March 25, 2019 at 10:33 AM



“ *On behalf of President and Head of School, Christian Cashman, I offer my deepest sympathy on the passing of Mike McAndrews. Mike, along with his children Julianne '08 and Joe '10, is a valued member of the Northwest Catholic community, so we mourn his loss along with all who love him. Please know that we will remember Mike, and his entire family in a special way at our next school-wide Mass. We are very sorry for your loss. ~ Jane Leary, Director of Constituent Relations, Northwest Catholic High School*

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**Jane Leary** - March 25, 2019 at 10:00 AM

MA

“ Mike was my drill instructor in LASD class 159. After the academy, we became, and remained life-long friends. I have never known a better or finer man than Mike McAndrews. He was, and always will be, my idol.

Mark Arnold - March 24, 2019 at 08:30 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael J. McAndrews.



March 23, 2019 at 06:59 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Michael J. McAndrews.



March 23, 2019 at 06:13 PM

JN

“ Mike and I along with several other deputies worked close together at MCJ/IRC when he first came on the sheriff's department. That friendship blossomed throughout our careers. Mike was an exceptional individual and person. RIP Mike

Joel Nathaniel

Joel Nathaniel - March 23, 2019 at 02:33 PM

GB

“ *Worked with Mike at L A County Sheriff's Firestone Station. An excellent Deputy. RIP Mike*

GERALD BOYD - March 23, 2019 at 01:46 PM

DS

“ *I didn't know Mike personally, but his lectures in the Academy (Class 203, 1980) made a profound impact on my career. Thank you and God Bless, you truly made a difference. Dan Scott, Murrieta, CA*

Dan Scott - March 23, 2019 at 01:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael J. McAndrews.*



March 23, 2019 at 12:24 PM

WM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



william mullen - March 23, 2019 at 12:21 PM