



Michael Van Townsend

November 13, 1940 - February 14, 2013

Michael Van Townsend, born November 13, 1940 died February 14, 2013, surrounded by family. Born in San Antonio, Mike lived in various areas of South Texas before graduating from Rockport High School in 1958, where he was captain of the football team and class president. Mike attended the University of Texas and there developed his lifelong passion for all things Longhorn. After college he started his career in commercial insurance where he would stay for his entire 50 year career. Mike was an expert gardener and grill chef extraordinaire. Later in life his passions centered on his grandchildren, who brought him great joy. Mike was a devoted husband to Diana, and a loving father and grandfather "Papaw". He loved attending all the various sporting events of his grandkids and would end every phone conversation with "kiss the kids for me." "Papaw" will be missed.

Michael was the love of Diana's life and they would have celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary on March 2nd. They had a wonderful and fulfilling life together with their blended family and nine grandchildren. Life as they experienced it changed dramatically when Michael became ill two years ago. Life became centered on keeping him well and dealing with his illness. It was often said "he had nine lives". Through it all he was a strong and fiercely independent man, handling his illness with grace and dignity. He put on a brave face for those around him and continued in his role as patriarch of the family.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Katherine Reynolds and Marvin

Townsend; his sister Patti Bunch; and his beloved Boston Terrier "Dallas." Mike is survived by his wife Diana; daughter Meredith and son-in-law Charlie; son Michael and daughter-in-law Laura; step-daughter Nicole and son-in-law Bill; step-daughter Kelly; sister Janet and brother-in-law Henry; sisters Bonnie and Debra; grandchildren Ella, Alden, Mary Louise, Kolbe, Jackson, Hayden, Tyler, Bailey, and Riley; nieces Kim, Debbie, Cindy, Maggie; and friend and former spouse Mary.

A Memorial Service Celebrating Michael's life will be held Monday evening at 7:00 PM the 18th of February 2013 in the Chapel of Dettling Funeral Home. A reception will follow in the Grand Room.

If a boy is lucky, he's born with a built-in superhero in the form of his father. In that respect, I was extraordinarily lucky. I was blessed with a father who was always around, made every game, coached my teams, and did all the things real-life superheroes do. Sadly, my boyhood superhero passed away today. The superheroic debts I incurred to him can only be repaid by doing the same for my kids. If, when I pass, my children hold me in as high regard as I did my own father, then my work will have been well done. Rest in peace, Dad (1940-2013)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 18. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Van Townsend*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Michael Van Townsend*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Michael Van Townsend*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Michael Van Townsend*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *John and Erica Janulewicz purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Van Townsend.*



John and Erica Janulewicz - February 18, 2013 at 12:08 PM

TF

“ Mike, you were a "hero father" to my kids and me. Sadly, Karen and Kevin are out of town and can not attend the Memorial service to honor you and support your wonderful survivors. We know how much you will be missed. You left a Legacy of love to be carried on by your children and grandchildren.

Terry McCullar Ferro - February 18, 2013 at 10:19 AM

JT

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this wonderful man. I worked for Mike years ago and everytime we would run into each other at a conference, we would briefly discuss business then catch up on our families. I would always walk away thinking "what a blessing, to have so much love". He gave the greatest gifts of all, strength, wisdom, guidedence and unconditional love. I know he will be missed but not forgotten.

Jennie Triola - February 18, 2013 at 09:38 AM

HH

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Henry Hahn - February 17, 2013 at 09:54 AM



I love this picture! ;(

Cindy Bunch Herrin - February 17, 2013 at 10:39 PM

JH

I hope he knew how much he was loved.

Janet Townsend Hahn - August 13, 2024 at 10:55 PM