



David James Michael

March 16, 1940 - April 15, 2016

Age 76, passed away on Friday, April 15, 2016. Jim was born on March 16, 1940 in Norristown, PA. He married Ruth Schoen on August 19, 1967. Before working as a microbiologist at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor where he truly enjoyed working with UofM medical students, Jim served proudly as a Captain in the United States Air Force and was awarded a Purple Heart. Jim was a family-oriented and generous man who loved being outdoors landscaping and playing with his children and dogs. More than anything though, Jim loved to spend time with his grandchildren. Jim is survived by his wife, Ruth (Schoen) Michael, children Jim (Heather) Michael and Sheri Michael, grandchildren Aidan Michael and Sydney and Avery Michael and sister Jean (Mike) Bonja. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Lillian (Jones) Michael. A Celebration of Life Service will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. at the Saline First Presbyterian Church, with Rev. Jaco Bester officiating. Military Honors will take place under the auspices of the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard. After Jim's celebration, family and friends are invited to Jim and Ruth's home for light fare. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Envelopes will be available at the church. To share a story or special memory about Jim, to sign his guestbook, or for more information or directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 1. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Saline
143 E. Michigan Avenue
Saline, MI 48176
<http://salinepres.org/>

Tribute Wall

RL

“ I just heard of Jim's passing today, I wish I had known in time to attend his service. I worked with Jim at Wayne County General and he was indeed a kind and gentle man.

Rayanne Lesinski - May 05, 2016 at 05:51 PM

GW

“ I had the fortune to work and spend a lot of time with Jim Michael at the VA Medical Center. Jim had this special gift of making you feel special. That's one the reasons he was considered the " nicest man in the lab". However, I would introduce him to new people coming into the lab as " Jim Michael the nicest man in the world". He would frown at me and say " stop saying that Grady". But I wouldn't stop because to me, he was the nicest man in my world. He touched my heart and I will never forget the wonderful things he did for me. Jim Michael was a true blessing to everyone that had the privilege of knowing him.

Grady Williams - May 01, 2016 at 07:44 AM

GH

“ The years slip by oh too fast, but my fond memories of playing Pony League (now Babe Ruth League) baseball as a teenager with my friend Jim are etched into my mind as some of the best times of life. Jim was a solid baseball infielder and a solid friend as well during the times we traveled together 60 years ago. While our paths didn't cross much over the years since our high school days, I still consider Jim as a lifelong friend. The family has been blessed to share life with him!

George Hilliard - April 30, 2016 at 11:46 AM

LD

“ Mike and I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to Ruth and Jim & Heather, Sydney, Avery and Sheri and Aidan. I was the lucky one who got to know Jim when he came to work at the VA. The more we worked together and the longer I knew Jim, it became apparent what a wonderful person he really was. He just had this innate ability to always do or say the absolute right thing. He could let you know with a smile or a raised eyebrow if you were treating a person with the proper respect and kindness that he felt every person deserved. I'm very glad he touched my life and in turn shared his life and family with all of us. He was so VERY proud of his children and grandchildren. We shared that with each other. We were all blessed to know "The nicest man in the world" and he will be missed -- by many. Thanks to the rest of you for sharing your memories.

Lyn St. Dennis - April 29, 2016 at 01:39 PM

AP

“ I worked with Jim for several years at the Ann Arbor VA. We loved him. He truly was a treasure. Jim was considered "The Nicest Guy in the Lab". When Jim announced he was retiring, I congratulated him and told him I was so excited about his retirement. He of course said thank you, but I had to tell him, I wasn't excited for him, rather for me. He laughed, and asked why. I told him, everyone considers him "The Nicest Guy in the Lab", and now with him leaving, I will be the "The Nicest Guy in the Lab". Jim laughed, and said, "I always thought you were "The Nicest Guy in the Lab"". He did it again! He truly was "The Nicest Guy in the Lab". Now, he is "The Nicest Guy in Heaven". My prayers are with his family.

Aron Pollock - April 26, 2016 at 03:55 PM

GN

“ I knew and worked with Jim for a short year or so prior to his retirement. Jim was indeed, one of the happiest, kindest, and pleasant person to associate with. He and I shared some veteran talk and we both felt that veterans offering fellow veterans care was special indeed. Jim will be sadly missed by so many.

Gregory Nies - April 21, 2016 at 10:12 PM



“ Becky Rogers is following this tribute.

Becky Rogers - April 21, 2016 at 08:03 AM

BR

“ We are truly going to miss Jim. He was such a GENTLEman and a friend to everyone he met. Ruth and Jim were our neighbors when they lived on Canterbury Ct. Our children spent their young childhood together and there are so many stories to share of Jim, he was one of a kind!! I remember one Christmas Eve that he got on the roof of his house and made footprints to prove to the doubting children that Santa Claus did come down the chimney. Back then we had a lot of snow for winter. He also made reindeer tracks in the yard, but what he forgot to share until much later was that he fell off the roof doing this. We remember how much Jim loved his yard and took such pride in the grass and flowers. Well, one summer day ALL the neighborhood kids decided to put on the play GREASE and used the Michael's porch and lovely yard. Well, Jim came home from a long day at work to a yard filled with kids and his beautiful flowers pulled up for "Sandra Dee" to carry - he got out of his car, smiled and asked the kids to do part of the play for him. If he was upset he never let on.

Jim was such a kind soul and so very thoughtful. Ruth joined Fran Groeb and myself on a trip down south to Kentucky. At the first shop we stopped at Ruth fell in love with a small farmers plow that was very old. She decided it would look great in her yard. Well, since I had the shortest legs I got to travel in the backseat with the plow!! Once we got home and Jim heard about this he immediately came over and brought me flowers as a thank you. He did find a perfect place for the plow in his yard. There are so many wonderful memories of Jim and I just have to add one more!! Whenever I would run into Jim at Busch's he would be standing in the ice cream isle looking over the selections. Of course I thought Ruth had sent him out for a sweet treat - WRONG - he was buying his dog, his buddy, a sweet treat!! Our Lord has gained a very special ANGEL. Jim was a wonderful Husband, Father, Grandfather and Friend.....He will be missed.

The Rogers,
Bud, Becky and family

Becky Rogers - April 20, 2016 at 08:44 PM

SM

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Sydney Michael - April 20, 2016 at 07:13 PM

KK

“ My daughter and Jim and Ruth's daughter have been best of friends for decades, ever since the first grade, I believe. Now they're both adult women, but when they get together, oh my...

According to Jim, as he would come into Busch's with a big smile on his face (always) and talk about these daughters getting together at Jim and Ruth's home. They'd be upstairs giggling just like they did in high school in their Physics class, which would drive the teacher "up the wall". As he talked about Sheri and Jill, I could feel the love and admiration in his voice for this two.

Jim had a way of making people feel so important, always so happy to see you. When my grandson, Hayden, passed away, he left a beautiful voice mail and he and Ruth gave my family a beautiful bouquet of flowers to bring some sunshine into our home.

Jim so often spoke of their grandson, Aiden, with such pride and the same love I spoke of above. He was always so excited when they came to visit, and missed them terribly when they went back to Colorado, but looked forward to the next time.

My heart goes out to Jim's entire family. He was such a gentleman, who loved his family with all of his heart.

I'll still be looking for that smiling face, but will be looking up to heaven to see it now.

Blessings to the Michael family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Kathy Kind - April 20, 2016 at 05:49 PM

RE

“ Our condolences to the Michael's family. We had the pleasure of meeting Jim only a few times because his grandson, Aidan, is a close friend to our children. The last time I saw Jim he was at our house surrounded by his family that he clearly loved, drinking red wine, and warmly speaking with everyone at our gathering. It was a wonderful evening.

Rosalind Wiseman Edwards - April 20, 2016 at 05:17 PM

PB

“ Jim was the best neighbor ever. The very first time I met him was just after we moved in. I was trying to hang a swing for the kids in the backyard, and he came over to introduce himself. When he discovered I didn't have the correct hardware for my task, he immediately went to the hardware store, returned with the parts, and helped me hang the swing. That's just the kind of man he was--always kind and compassionate. I will truly miss seeing him in the yard, chatting when we got the mail, waving when we drove past...

Pat Browning - April 20, 2016 at 12:22 PM

SM

“ 5 files added to the album Jim Michael



Sheri Michael - April 20, 2016 at 08:26 AM

EC

“ *Uncle Jim was an amazing individual - one of the kindest, gentlest souls I have ever known. His positivity and sincerity always inspired me; indeed, his light seemed to rub off on people that way. My dearest memories of Jim will always be of summer afternoons at the lake. Those were times when we had nothing else to do but catch up and enjoy the company of family. We will save a spot for him this summer - we know he'll be watching over us and joining us. I send so much love to Uncle Jim and to the family.*

Erin Campeau - April 20, 2016 at 07:48 AM

PB

“ *I was stationed at Griffiss Air Force as an FTD instructor, and Jim was a Maintenance Officer with the SAC unit there. We were in a two-family house in Rome, NY. Jim lived downstairs, and my wife and I were upstairs. I have many fond memories of that. On one Easter Sunday after church we invited Jim up for dinner..... We had oatmeal, and we all had a good laugh about it. Many days Jim would come upstairs and we would sit at the kitchen table and just talk. Jim came into the Air Force hoping to get into the medical field. I told him that went well for you as Aircraft maintenance is close. You're not working on people but your doctoring aircraft.*

*We have stayed in touch for 50 years after those days at Griffiss Air Force Base. I have always felt Jim was a real friend and will miss his e-mails and Christmas Cards with updates on the family.
God bless
Phillip H Burgess, CMS,ret.*

Phillip Burgess - April 19, 2016 at 10:59 PM

SS

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family of Jim Michael. I worked with Jim at the Veterans Hospital. He was the most kind, humble, gentlest person to have known. Always a kind word for everyone. He had a feeling of caring and enjoyment and calmness about him. It was truly wonderful to have him touch my life and I will always remember Jim with a smile in my heart.*

Sue Stamper - April 19, 2016 at 01:43 PM