



Michael L. Caulk

March 14, 1949 - June 12, 2013

The following is a tentative final obituary.

Caulk, Michael Lindsay
Saline, MI

Age 64 passed away suddenly on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. He was born March 14, 1949 in Louisville, KY the son of Lindsay and Lillian (Yocum) Caulk. On August 12, 1977, in Paducah, KY, he married Missy Caulk and she survives.

Members of the Caulk family of Ann Arbor are mourning a third loss just more than a year and a half after the heartbreak of the unexpected deaths of two of their family members. Michael Lindsay Caulk, 64, died suddenly Wednesday night of a heart attack at Belleville High School, where he worked as a history teacher. The school was closed Thursday and counselors will be available to students when classes resume Friday. The husband of local Realtor Missy Caulk and the father to a family of four adult children, Michael's death hasn't shaken the family's faith - even after they were heartbroken after the losses of two of their loved ones in 2011. Michael and Missy's son Jamie Caulk died in October 2011 at the age of 27 following a car crash near Nashville. About a month later, 11-week-old Lillian Caulk died unexpectedly at home. Lillian was the daughter of Michael and Missy's youngest daughter, Allyssa Caulk. "What happened last night - it was so surreal," said Christa Caulk, 33, the couple's oldest child. "We were saying, this cannot be happening again." Christa, her mother Missy and her brother Matthew were at the family's lake house in Irish Hills Wednesday night when they heard the news from Allyssa. The phone call was crippling - though Michael had experienced heart problems since he was 42 years old, no one was expecting this. Wednesday night in the midst of the thunderstorms that pummeled the Ann Arbor area, Missy drove her adult children back home as they were sobbing in the backseat of the car. "Here's my mother, who buried her son and found her granddaughter in her crib who later died," Christa said. "Her husband of 32 years is dead ... and her hands are right there, at 10 and 2 on the steering wheel."

Missy's strength -- which shone in that moment -- was what Michael loved the most about her, Christa said. "(Missy) said 'In the name of Jesus, death will not defeat this family,'" Christa said. "We will not be rattled in our faith." Born March 14, 1949, in Louisville, Ky., Michael graduated high school in 1968 after playing as the quarterback on the football team all four years. His quarterback career continued when he joined the Marines in 1969, and later with the Navy for a year when he served at the U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay in the Philippines. After the military, Michael earned a degree from Western Kentucky University and met his wife, Missy, at a religious event. "He was so in love with her," Christa said. "He called her 'Muffy.'" They married in 1977 and settled in Auburn, Ala., where Christa was born. Shortly thereafter, when Christa was 2 years old, Michael felt called to open a church in Ann Arbor. The family moved north in 1981 and never returned to their southern roots. Michael and Missy went on to have four more children after Christa: Matthew, 31; Jamie, who would be 29; Andrew, 27; and Allyssa, 23. In Ann Arbor, Michael founded the Cornerstone Christian Church. "He moved here from Auburn with nothing - and grew a church to 300 people," Christa said. Spending his weekday hours on the Diag on the University of Michigan's campus preaching to the students from a park bench, he was known by most as "Pastor Mike." Michael's charismatic style of talking drew even the biggest of skeptics to listen to him speak, Christa said. His religious presence on the Diag from 1981 to 1993 garnered him a mention on the University of Michigan Monopoly board. Michael stepped down as pastor in 1996 after growing his church into a 300-member organization to turn to another passion: Teaching history. With a master's degree in teaching and history from Eastern Michigan University, Michael has taught multiple grades and subjects at Belleville High School. Michael took the teaching job because he wanted to coach football and he thought it would be less stressful, Christa said with a laugh. For five years, Michael coached the Junior Wolverines team in Ann Arbor and acted like he was Bill Belichick with the New England Patriots, Christa said. Michael Caulk coached the Junior Wolverines in Ann Arbor for five years. "Mom made him stop," she said. "That was my dad. Whatever he did, he gave 100,000 percent." About two weeks after losing his son and granddaughter in 2011, Michael went back to work. Relentless, he never took a day off. "It absolutely broke his heart when he lost Jamie," Christa said. "He worked, almost to our anger. ... He was so faithful in his work ethic." Christa said her father always had an aura of Godliness about him. When he angered, it was only ever about University of Michigan football, she said. "In all my 33 years of life, I've never met a man or seen a man that was like my father," Christa said. "He really was unbelievable in who he was. ... He loved life and he loved all of us." Michael's sense of humor lives on in all of his children, Christa said. "I asked him the other day if he was alive during the Civil War and he couldn't stop laughing," she said.

Survivors in addition to his wife Missy include, daughters Christa Caulk and Alyssa Caulk,

sons Matthew Caulk and Andrew-David Caulk, and a granddaughter Presley Caulk. Other survivors include his brother Mark (Debbie) Caulk, his sister Linda Caulk, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his son James, his granddaughter Lillian, and his sister Judith. Funeral Services will take place on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church 1200 North Ann Arbor Street in Saline with Rev. Dr. James E. Tuttle and Pastor Mark Caulk, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund P.O. BOX 33099 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0003. Envelopes will be available at the church. Burial will take place in Oakwood Cemetery in Saline, with graveside military honors to be held under the auspices of the Honor Guard of Washtenaw County. Friends may begin calling at the church on Friday, June 14, 2013 from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. To sign Michael's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit <http://www.rbfhsaline.com>.

Cemetery

Oakwood Cemetery

227 West Michigan Ave

Saline, MI, 48176

Events

JUN **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

14

First United Methodist Church of Saline
1200 North Ann Arbor Street, Saline, MI, US

JUN **Funeral Service** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

15

First United Methodist Church of Saline
1200 North Ann Arbor Street, Saline, MI, US

Comments



“ I am a 1990 graduate from Michigan. I so remembered listening to Preacher Mike so many sunny afternoons on the diag . . . I looked for him . . . and when he wasn't there preaching, I was saddened . . . he was bold. . . he was like my father when I was lonely and so far away from home . . . 23 years later, I'm wondering what he's up to . . . While I'm so sorry to hear of your loss, I know the Lord has found favor with his "Doing Everything As If For The Lord"! God Bless Your Family and thank you for allowing him to make a difference in my life.

Wendy Busch - August 08, 2013 at 11:55 PM



“ I remember him from years ago back in my first year of high school. I ended up transferring to another school, but my memories of him were always crystal clear, and you can ask anyone I know: I tell stories of the times in his class room more than any other teacher from Belleville High. He was always such a sweetie when I knew him, even just for the short time of 1 school year, but I will never ever forget the blessing he was to my life. He gave me self assurance in a place where nobody knew me, made me feel welcome, and never seized to make me laugh at another memorable day in his class room. I wish you all well; I will keep my prayers out to all his friends and family. It was an honor to have known him.



Mackinzie Scott - June 22, 2013 at 06:50 PM



“ Missy, Allysa and family, we are so saddened to hear about Michael. Our prayers and blessings go out to all, Gob be with you all, the Frank Family

karen frank - June 18, 2013 at 06:43 PM



“ Dear Missy and family, I, along with all of your online friends, have been thinking of you during this very sad time. I am so very sorry for your loss. I wish I had had the opportunity to meet Michael as he sounds extraordinary. My thoughts are with you all.

Susan Mangigian - June 16, 2013 at 07:58 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to what sounds like the most wonderful family one can imagine. I knew Michael from the Philippines when he was in the Marine Corp. I watched all the football games with my friends and we all just knew he would probably become a famous quarterback ~ he was that good! Whenever he talked to people a little crowd would gather to hear where all the laughter was coming from. He was as funny as Johnny Carson. He also sketched portraits like a professional and play the guitar. Plus, he was very sweet. Michael made the world a better place for everyone. Deep sympathy to the family members. He will be missed.

Melani Boultier - July 01, 2013 at 05:37 PM



“ Gee, a fellow Christian and guitar player. Loved Preacher Mike's style on the Diag. Ann Arbor's poorer for having lost his presence. The first one to even hint to me that serving Christ could be fun. RIP Preacher Mike.

CJ - July 27, 2014 at 09:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Mike's Days On The Diag



Bob Saad - June 14, 2013 at 08:25 PM



“ Mr. Caulk as I will always remember him...

CJ - July 27, 2014 at 09:29 PM



“ Winding Creek Community Church purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Michael Caulk.



Winding Creek Community Church - June 14, 2013 at 08:34 AM