



Michael Roger Colter

September 19, 1958 - September 26, 2020

Michael Roger Colter, age 62, of Milan, MI, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Mike was born on September 19, 1958 in Ann Arbor, MI, the son of Richard Colter and Rosemary (Conner) Michaels. On November 3, 1979 he married Joanne Haft and she survives. He is also survived by his two sons, Michael II (Monika) Colter of River Forest, IL, and Joseph (Jamie) Colter of Adrian, MI, two grandchildren, Alessia and Lyla. He is also survived by siblings Robert (Sheryl), Steven (Dianne), Brenda Lewis, and many nieces and nephews. Mike was preceded in death by his father Richard Colter and his brother Richard Colter. Mike worked many years in the firefighting service, starting at the age of 18 as a volunteer firefighter at Pittsfield Township, at General Motors in Fire Safety, and retiring from the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department. Mike's other passion was photography. He loved traveling and taking pictures of wildlife, nature and landscapes. Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline, MI, with Pastor Tom Schroeder officiating. Burial will follow the service and will take place in Marble Park Cemetery in Milan, MI. Friends may join the family for a time of visitation on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 between the hours of 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. and again on Thursday from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. We would ask those in attendance to please adhere to the social distancing guidelines and masks will be required. Seating will be limited at the service. To view a Livestream of the service, please visit the funeral home's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/robisonbahnmler.funeralhome/>). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Michael's name may be made to Arbor Hospice or to St. Jude Children's Hospital and envelopes will be available at the funeral home. To leave a memory you have of Mike, to sign his guestbook, or for directions please visit www.rbfhsalinel.com.

Cemetery Details

Marble Park Cemetery

520 West Main Street
Millan, MI 48160
<http://www.marbleparkcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 East Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Visitation

OCT 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 East Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 1. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 East Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Graveside Service

OCT 1. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Marble Park Cemetery

520 West Main Street

Millan, MI 48160

<http://www.marbleparkcemetery.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Robison-Bahn Miller Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Michael Roger Colter



Robison-Bahn Miller Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 28, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ Dear Colter Family,

I was just on facebook and said to my husband, "Boy I haven't seen anything from Mike on FB for a long time..." So I looked up his profile and told my husband the very sad news. He was a very wonderful man and I wish you all the very best and I will say a prayer for you all. He was an AWESOME photographer and he and I talked about the Sleeper Lake Fire a long time ago. We sent him photos for the firehall, for the men that came up here to the UP and helped out. I am a photographer too and shot over 3,000 photos of that fire - we were just 1/4 mile or less from it. Oh, but I am not near the photographer that he was...not even close. After the fire subsided...we would comment on photos back and forth and he would answer any photography questions that I had. All around great guy and he will be missed. I don't know why, but he popped right into my head around 2:30pm today - just out of the blue.

God Bless,

Gina Harman

Gina Harman - February 04, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alanna Laurent - October 05, 2020 at 09:07 PM

MP

“ <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/kensington-memorial-plaque-for-mike-colter>

michael podrasky - October 02, 2020 at 09:56 PM

WH

“ I met Mike about 11 or 12 yeas ago and since spent many hours by his side at various locations (mainly Kensington Metro Park). Mike was a very special person, very generous in sharing his craft (photography). The thing that impressed me most is that he did not look down on anyone, he treated everyone he same. I am not a professional, I shoot with a Canon RX 60HS point & shoot camera and Mike never talked down to me because of my smaller camera but always complimented me on my photos and helped me improve my craft over the years. His patience never wavered and he always took the time to answer my queries. The only time I ever saw Mike without a smile is when some idiot flew a Drone over the Heron rookery during nesting season and disturbed the birds. I was not the only one that Mike helped, there were many. I have seen him miss shots while he helped someone with their problems. They broke the mould when they created Mike. I shall forever have fond memories of his generosity and his wonderful creative photography. I offer his family my sincereist condolences and comfort in the fact that he will on in our memories and we are all better people just in knowing Mike.

Wayne T. "Tom" Helfrich

Wayne Helfrich - October 02, 2020 at 02:53 PM

JF

“ I, Janett Ford too did not know Mike personally, but God put Mike on this earth to benefit mankind in Mike's way through Photography! How wonderful a gift is that from our God Almighty! Memories of Mikes life will linger everywhere. May the Colter Family have a Blessed Life knowing God is with us ALWAYS! From one of "Pastor Sheryls' Ladies" whose prayers will continue for the entire family. May Gods Love Fill You Full!

Love Janett.

Janett Ford - October 01, 2020 at 12:01 PM

ML

“ I met Mike with my husband Simon first at the Clinton Fall Festival and again at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. What an amazing guy! I'm so happy Simon met him in Le Clair photographing Eagles. He was extraordinarily generous as a photographer. We were friends on Facebook and I was always surprised and happy when he took the time to like all my posts!!! One of our last Messenger conversations was to once again invite him to New Zealand to visit us and photograph the amazing scenery. He was excited at the possibility. We will always be grateful for him, and hope his truly beautiful and evocative photographs will be available for all of us to enjoy in the future

Martha Lawrence - October 01, 2020 at 03:12 AM

DW

“ Joanne, there are no words to express how sorry I am. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. Mike was one of the kindest, helpful, friendly, thoughtful people I know. He was an extraordinary photographer who was so creative and patient and his photography will inspire others for years to come. I always enjoyed our conversations whether while we were out with our camera or at the numerous art fairs. It was an honor and privilege to call him my friend and I am so thankful for his impact on my life. My heart goes out to you and your family.



Donna Whyte - September 30, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ My wife Deb and I met Mike when we purchased a Canon extender many years ago. We had an instant connection. What a nice guy, and such a passionate photographer, willing to share his amazing knowledge, talent, advice - his passion was infectious. To Mike's family - I am so sorry for your loss

Bill Rankin - September 30, 2020 at 08:58 PM

MF

“ Meeting Mike about 10 years ago in LeClaire, shooting bald eagles, seemed like just another path crossed in the sea of photographers. However as time passed, I realized what a gift this friendship would become. We would meet several times a year to shoot bald eagles. Although we both already have about every pose and angle available ... we knew the next one would be better.

He was different ... he cared. Not only about his craft, but he also was driven to ensure others would reach their potential as well. He shared locations, camera settings, camera operating technique, post processing, equipment and most of all, his passion. He never complained about the crowd, the cold, the bad light, the icy parking lot, the long drive or the costs. Through it all, he always had a smile on his face.

Over the years we dreamed of ways to make photography more than a hobby together. I tried to convince him wedding photography would be fun and easy. Nope, he refused to shoot people. :) Just last winter we discussed starting a travel/photography business together. How could you go wrong with Mike as a partner?

We have lost a precious human being in Mike Colter.

Peace and love!

Michael Fitzgerald

Michael Fitzgerald - September 30, 2020 at 05:54 PM

SP

“ I first met Mike photographing Eagles at Lock and Dam 14 in Iowa. My casual question led to a conversation that lead to a friendship. He was always happy to talk and was generous with his advice and suggestions. I moved to New Zealand a few years ago but we kept in touch and on a recent visit to Michigan he met me in Ann Arbor and let me play with his new camera. I admired Mike. He was a nice guy, a great talent and a good friend.

I will miss him and his wonderful images.

I am very sorry for your loss,

Simon Parsons

Simon Parsons - September 30, 2020 at 05:21 PM

JF

“ Mike first entered my life with his friendly, outgoing personality when he was a student in my biology class in the mid-eighties. Beginning then and continuing until his untimely passing, we have shared many conversations, often centered on our shared love of the natural world, and usually on the roadside while stopping to talk as neighbors these past two decades. He was a good person and a good neighbor who was helpful and community-minded. He left us much too soon. He will be missed. Our condolences go out to his family.

John and Anne Farmer

John c Farmer - September 30, 2020 at 12:58 PM

VH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I met Mike while hiking along the upper part of Bond Falls many years ago. He was so nice and chatted with me for quite a while. From that simple encounter he stayed in touch on Facebook, and always left encouraging comments on my images, which were far inferior to his amazing work. I loved seeing his images at shows. Heartbreaking. I wish I had the opportunity to know him better. Love and prayers to you and your family

Valerie Hoffman - September 30, 2020 at 11:32 AM

DL

“ I have many happy memories of our days at the Clinton Fall Festival. His eye for photography was unmatched. I so enjoyed listening to the stories behind the photographs as well as tales of his travels and his life as a firefighter. I will think of him every time I look at one of his many creations that grace the walls of my home. In today's world he was certainly one of the good guys. My thoughts are with you and your family Joanne.

Deb Hojnacki (the “egg lady”) - September 30, 2020 at 09:17 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.



September 30, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.*



September 30, 2020 at 08:21 AM

DM

“ *Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr Colter in person, however, I've been following his photography on Facebook for years. It was a great pleasure to see the world through his eyes. I am certain he will be sorely missed by his loving family and friends. May he Rest In Peace.*

Deborah McNeely - September 29, 2020 at 10:28 PM

CR

“ *My heart is so sad....Mike was so kind as a photographer! He was such a talent! He shall be missed...Mike, I hope you are taking the most amazing photos up there!! RIP and condolences to the family....*

Cathy Rockert - September 29, 2020 at 09:43 PM

DS

“ *Didn't know him personally, only through FB and his photography. When he saw my oldest son became a Fire Fighter he sent me the kindest message, I will treasure it <3 He will be missed and prayers for your family for comfort.*

Dawn M Strecker - September 29, 2020 at 08:17 PM

HT

“ *My husband, Joe, and I met Mike on a cold day on Hwy 61 as we looked for a saw where owl. We stood on the side of the road and talked for almost an hour. It was the first of a couple times we would run into him while birding. He was such a bright light and wonderful to get to know. His city photographs were some of my favorites and I will cherish having met him.*
Heather Tomczak

Heather Tomczak - September 29, 2020 at 07:17 PM

AB

“ *I didn't know him well but loved his photography. I come from a long line of Firefighters my Dad died young on the job. I'm so sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

Anne Burke - September 29, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.*



September 29, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with both Mike and Rick Colter in General Motors Fire Department.
Mike came to my retirement party and we were able to keep in touch through Facebook.
Mike you will be missed my brother along with Rick who passed a couple years ago.
R.I.P. until we meet again. 🙏🙏*

Ken Wilson - September 29, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.*



September 29, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ *Brenda Lewis purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Michael Roger Colter.*



Brenda Lewis - September 29, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.*



September 29, 2020 at 07:05 AM

JH

“ Mike was a great friend and one of the best Photographers . Mike and i shared many hours taking pictures at Kensington and the area. He will be missed by all.

Joseph Hurley - September 29, 2020 at 06:43 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.



September 28, 2020 at 05:55 PM

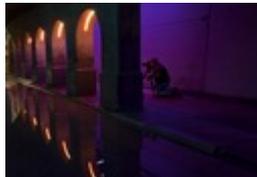
RB

“ Mike you were a great friend and photographer. I'll never forget those trips to Iowa to photograph the bald eagles, or the trips to see the Pere Marquette 1225 train steaming down the tracks. Those places and many more just wont be the same. I'm going to miss you buddy.

Richard Bagdasarian - September 28, 2020 at 05:04 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Robert Plonka - September 28, 2020 at 12:45 PM

JA



Janet - September 28, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ 85 files added to the album Life Tributes



Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 28, 2020 at 12:38 PM

KD

“ The first time I met Mike I was at Kensington Metro Park. I was new to Photography. He was helpful with advice and tips to help me. He was always very friendly to everyone. His photography was beautiful. I could call him at anytime for advice. He would share places and information on where to find Snowy Owls. I last spoke to him this March when I went to photograph the Great Horned Owls. He also shared great places to explore for landscape shots. He helped push me to sell my photography . He was a kind hearted person who will be greatly missed.

Kimberly Davidson - September 28, 2020 at 11:27 AM

JR

“ In the late fall every year, Mike and I would go into late evenings at our favorite park and look for tree stumps . We would then take them to tweety bird lane. Mike had a little shovel. We would dig holes and put the stumps in so by wintertime we had a place to shoot northern cardinals and blue jays. We used to laugh and say is anybody watching? We would say no and laughing so hard because we did it when it was nasty wet and cold out. Last March he helped me pick out my new Sony camera. He was so nice to me. I called him everyday for about two weeks with questions and he always took time to answer me even though I had already asked him the same questions again and again. He was an outstanding person and one of the finest photographers I have ever known. He will be forever missed. May God bless and comfort his wife and family.

Jim Ridley - September 28, 2020 at 11:13 AM

CS

“ Mike, I remember the day I met you at your photo booth I had just started taking photography classes and had a million questions about your beautiful photography. You answered all my questions with delight and invited me to come and shoot with the big boys out at Kensington. Upon arrival you introduced me to all the Guys and graciously offered me a view from your big lens. You could see the delight in your eyes as you watched me absorb all the photo tips you were throwing my way. As the years flew by I continued to follow you on Facebook and visit you at many of your art shows. We kept in touch over the years. You were always willing to show me the ropes and tell me about the latest photo gear. Your beautiful photography has touched so many people and is displayed in thousands of homes. Your warm smile, twinkling eyes and generous soul will surely be missed by all. Thank you for your service as a firefighter and thank you for your beautiful art. R.I.P. my friend. 💖📷

Colleen Stormer - September 28, 2020 at 05:52 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dale Niesen - September 27, 2020 at 11:59 PM

CS

This makes me smile... Photography was his passion! RIP my friend....I can only imagine the view from above!

Colleen Stormer - September 28, 2020 at 06:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Roger Colter.



September 27, 2020 at 10:13 PM

KR

“ Karen Rutkowski lit a candle in memory of Michael Roger Colter



karen rutkowski - September 27, 2020 at 09:49 PM

KR

I am speechless and so very sad. Mike was a friend, and a wonderful mentor in Photography over the years that I had the privilege of knowing him. I will miss him very much. He made the world look so much more beautiful with his wonderful photography. His talent was boundless. Thank you Mike for being in my life, I will NEVER forget you. Much love and Prayers for Joanne and the family. God Bless and keep you until we see you again.

karen rutkowski - September 27, 2020 at 09:57 PM

KA

Mike was a great photography friend. He was an amazing artist and was always helpful and encouraging. God bless his family during this very difficult time.

Karen - September 27, 2020 at 11:59 PM

GS

We have 4 of mikes photographs framed and hanging in our home. a very king person.

glenn shaw - September 28, 2020 at 09:00 PM

MD

I will miss our chats as we often discussed photography challenges and equipment options. So very often he was one step ahead of me on the latest Sony lens or body as we were both early adopters of the new Sony mirrorless system and subsequent releases. Though we were separated by more than 100 miles most of the time our subject interests were in always in sync. I am grateful for our friendship and the sad reminder that we must always make the most of every day and friend that we are blessed with here in this life. GBY Michael~!

Mark Darnell - September 29, 2020 at 03:38 PM