



James Michael (Mike) Joiner

July 19, 1950 - February 19, 2025

James Michael "Mike" Joiner passed away on February 19, 2025, in Orlando, FL at the age of 74, after a valiant fight with skin cancer. Mike was born in Andalusia, AL on July 19, 1950; but his childhood and early life was spent in Baker, FL in the panhandle. Mike excelled in school, skipped 2 grades and graduated from Baker high school in 1967. He lettered in 4 sports: baseball, football, basketball and track. He was an avid reader his entire life and many of his elementary teachers encouraged him to read whatever book he wanted to from the school library. He read most of them before reaching high school. Further, he hunted, fished and played the piano. His uncle taught him to play golf.

Mike attended Florida State University on an Academic scholarship. He graduated in 1971 with a major in geology and minors in History, Languages and Math. He and Donna were married May 1, 1970 (54 plus years). They moved to Orlando after Mike graduated from FSU. Mike was a land surveyor for 45 years: starting from the lowest level (rodman), became a certified professional land surveyor in 1982, worked for several engineering firms in Orlando, ending his career as the Turnpike Surveyor for the FL Turnpike Authority.

Mike loved sports his whole life. He played everything and was pretty good at most everything. From high school athlete to intramural athlete at FMU to

coaching little league and Pop Warner football, family tennis tournaments, basketball and softball. Then age level baseball from his 30's to his 60's and throughout it all, golf. He coached Donnie and Varick in both little league and Pop Warner. One of his favorite times was playing baseball with Donnie in the Manager's/Coach's game at Union Park little league. He participated in Roy Hobbs over 30 and over 40 men's baseball for a little more than 20 years and was on the World Series Championship team in 1999. He learned how to ski in his 30's and loved it. He wanted to be the first up the chair lift in the morning and the last one down the hill in the evening. He and Varick were ski partners. We skied many times over the years, and it was always with family. Other family events included hot dog cookouts in the backyard and yearly summer vacations to visit U.S. historical sites, including almost every Civil War battlefield and some Revolutionary battle sites. We also made it a point to see 23 out of 30 professional baseball stadiums, some more than once, and a few minor league stadiums in FL and TX.

Mike loved to read and also became a writer. He wrote stories for his dad, mom, brother and 2 of his grandsons. He also wrote short stories and dabbles in poetry. His stories spanned genres from historical fiction to medieval fantasy. He wrote music as well and wrote a song for Mark and Laurie's wedding. He played the piano at many family celebrations over the years.

Mike lived life to the fullest. He was driven to be the best he could possibly be at everything he did. He was one of the best "practicers" ever. During his baseball years, we often went to high school baseball fields as a family so he could practice hitting. When the schools closed access to the fields, we switched to wiffle balls in the backyard with Donna or Donnie pitching. Every so often, Craig would catch one of the hit balls and that was a major celebration. He never missed a game because of an injury. He would just wrap the injury and keep on playing. "It just hurts", he would say. Another saying of his was "Are you hurt or injured?" If it just hurts, you keep going.

This belief helped him deal with his 20-year cancer fight.

Mike is survived by his wife, Donna and their 3 sons and 2 surrogate sons: James Donald Joiner (Lisa), Craig Edward Joiner, Varick Clayton Joiner (Ivana), Colten Adam Yahn (Hailey) and Connor Clayton Yahn (Megan). He has 5 grandchildren: Armando Josue Cruz (Lis), James Alexander Joiner, Jordan Bryce Joiner, Lori Hersh Lebo and Gabriel Martin Lebo. Not only was Mike blessed with a large, extended family on both sides, but he was blessed with a good life, and he enjoyed it all.

In lieu of flowers, please consider one of 2 donations: 1) St. Jude because Mike would want to continue to help fight cancer, and/or 2) Maitland Presbyterian Church Bell Choir refurbishment, because he loved music. Thank you in advance for either donation. His family is grateful for anything you choose to do.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Maitland Presbyterian Church
341 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751

Reception following Funeral Services

MAR 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Maitland Presbyterian Church
341 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James Michael (Mike) Joiner.



March 06, 2025 at 05:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Michael (Mike) Joiner.

March 06, 2025 at 05:52 AM



“ *What a great tribute to a man that lived life, looked adversity straight on and never lost hope. I have enjoyed my time with Mike and Donna and the extended family over the years.*

Mike, no doubt that you have reached out and touched the face of God. Rest easy....

Julie Williams

JULIE WILLIAMS - March 06, 2025 at 05:46 AM

W(

“ Dear Joiner Family,
I only knew Mike when I played against him in the Over-40 Orlando Senior Mens Baseball League for several years over a quarter century ago, but his talent, energy, and enthusiasm for the game were memorable as he was a standout among his peers. May Mike rest in peace and may all his friends and family be given the grace to recover from their loss.

Walter Legan, P. E. (Retired)

Orlando, FL

Walter Legan, P.E. (Retired) - March 02, 2025 at 11:42 AM

MC

“ My condolences to the Joiner family. I worked with Mike for about 10 years at different companies. I can't begin to list the things I learned from him about surveying and life in general. We hunted together a couple of times in the Green Swamp, when finished hunting, we sat around the camp fire, drinking (except for Mike who I never saw touch the stuff), telling stories about our lives and families. Mike will always be in my thoughts and prayers. Godspeed in your journey to your next adventure.

Mike Cummins

Michael Cummins - February 28, 2025 at 02:31 PM

PH

“ What a wonderful life! From one surveyor to another we will miss having your knowledge and professionalism in our industry. Russell & Pam Hyatt

Pam Hyatt - February 28, 2025 at 10:32 AM

KE

“ My condolences to the Joiner family. I worked with Mike for 15 years or so and it was always a pleasure. He was always so helpful and so smart. He will be missed. Kevin

Kevin - February 26, 2025 at 11:42 AM

PV

“ You were a client and became a great friend for over twenty five years. Thanks for putting up with me on the many golf courses that we played through the years. Hope you are playing great golf in heaven.
Pat V.

Pasquale Volpe - February 21, 2025 at 06:37 PM

MS

“ I will love you my precious brother forever. Don't worry about Momma I'll will take good care of her! Give Daddy a big huge hug and kiss from me. Like we talked about 2 weeks ago. I am so glad your wish came true and you are not longer in pain. As you said to me! I will miss seeing you! I'll miss loving you! Most of all I'll just miss you! Momma is ok she loves you so much her first born and she will see you soon.

Meri Lee sister - February 20, 2025 at 06:22 PM

KR

I love you uncle Mike.

Kristin - February 21, 2025 at 10:21 AM

DW

My thoughts and prayers with Mike and the Joiner family. Mike was first and foremost a great friend to me and his family with my family. I had the privilege to work for and with Mike for a significant time early in my career and consider him my mentor. Until the next "window of opportunity", rest easy Mike.

Danny

Danny Williams - February 27, 2025 at 12:07 PM

PN

I am sorry to hear that Mike is gone. It seems like I just saw him a few months ago. He was a tough taskmaster and didn't tolerate fools well. But he was always a consummate professional and there are few I would trust as much with a surveying problem.

Pierre Navaille - August 12, 2025 at 01:20 PM