



Michael P. Townend

October 19, 1955 - December 12, 2016

Michael Paul Townend, 61 years, of Ocoee, Florida, was escorted to Heaven on Dec 12, 2016.

Mike was born in Denville, NJ, to William and Mary Townend. He was raised in the Catholic faith, along with his 8 siblings on Fox Hill Rd, in Denville, NJ. He attended NJIT for his Bachelor's Degree.

Mike began working in his chosen field of computer programming with AT&T in NJ. He transferred to their Orlando, FL operations in the early 1980's. That segment of AT&T was later absorbed into IBM. Mike worked at the Lake Mary IBM facilities until October, 2000, when he was victim to his first brain stroke.

Michael fought back from this to recover valiantly enough to relearn to speak the words, 'I do', for his wedding June, 2001, to Cynthia Zavodny Townend.

Over the following years Mike endured many medical challenges, always determined to recover again. The final battle for his body was with aggressive brain cancer. That took his life on earth. However, he was welcomed by God into Heaven at 2pm, Dec 12, 2016.

Mike was an excellent golfer. He loved to fish (not so successfully as his golfing). He has many wonderful friends who enjoyed hearing Mike tell his never ending supply of jokes. He thrived writing short stories, and was truly

creative in photo album 'cropping'. And, he loved to put together music CD's for his family and friends. Michael will be remembered as a kind and gentle soul.

Michael Paul is preceded in death by his mother and father, William and Mary Townend. Survivors include his wife of 15 years, Cynthia Zavodny Townend; 8 siblings, Joe Townend, Peter Townend, David Townend, Helen(Townend) Heindel, James Townend, Anne (Townend) Duffey, Marion (Townend) Wells, and Rita (Townend) Boratav. He has 25 nieces and nephews, and 18 great nieces and great nephews.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to donate to one of the following charities that Mike supported:

Audubon Society

Pet Alliance of Orlando

Z 88.3 Radio Station

First Baptist Orlando

Tribute Wall

CT

“ *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Matthew 5:8*

This was Michael Paul. He always, and only, wanted to make others happy.

I was honored to share his life with him. I loved him mightily.
cyndi



Cynthia Townend - December 21, 2016 at 08:57 AM

“ IN the fall of 1985 Mary and I loaded up the Oldsmobile with Jen, Sarah, Emily and Danny with the appropriate amount of snacks and headed off to Uncle Mike,s in Orlando with a possible side trip to Wallyworld. A good part of the first half of the trip was being consumed by the curiosity of the one hundred mile billboard hype of "South of the Border. For anyone who has driven I 95 from New York to Florida will soon find out that SOTB is nothing more than a rest stop to gas up the car,use the rest room,briefly check out the souvenir crap, that doesn,t begin to compare to the Quality of crap that can been won or purchased on the boardwalk in Seaside Hieghts N J, and purchase legally enough fireworks to turn thousands of cars hurtling down the highway into car bombs.On day two we rolled into Uncle Mikes driveway and instantly were knocked back by the plus 90 degree temps plus matching humidity that even for Mike was uncomfortable. Fortuanetly Mike,s house had central air,a screened lanai that kept out the bugs and most of the geckos and best of all an unground pool with slide in the backyard. Mary, who learned this from her mother, when packing for vacations where swimming will be a major activity, always pack the bathing suits last so they are on top when you need to find them fast upon arrival.Danny and Emily were cooling in the pool before the car was unpacked. Already the trip was a success. Inside Mike,s cool house on a table were prepaid family passes to Disney and Epcot purchased by Mike that he refused to be reimbursed for. Even though Mike had been to wallyworld on numerous occasions he thoroughly enjoyed being our tour guide and although the heat lasted all week, we had Mike,s cool house and pool to look forward to at the end of the day.It is not an easy task to go on vacation with 4 kids of varying ages and not have major complaints and bickering. It was easy with Mike being the perfect host and keeping the activities varied. We got to go to Sea World one day and I talked Mike on going on a fishing adventure with Mike,s fancy Bass boat in his garage. One morning Jen,Sarah Mike and I set out trailering Mikes boat to a fish camp somewhere on the St. Johns river Called Hiley,s fish camp where bait can be purchased and there is a boat ramp to launch your boat. Old man Hiley was a character right out

of central casting. We imagined he retreated back into the alligator infested swamp at night to dine on something like turtle soup or frog legs. The fishing was poor probably because it was even too hot for the fish to bite but Mike expertly navigated through uncharted swamps and got us back on dry land before dark just as you starting to hear dueling banjos coming out of the swamp somewhere. No fish, but truly an adventure we will never forget. Mike being 7 years younger than I and probably in 2nd grade at the time, I was not as lucky as Anne or Marion for having had Mike for a math tutor. I got to have dad be my tutor for 9th grade Algebra. Although I don,t remember Dad complaining about this task I am sure he would have rather have been reading the latest Zane Grey western or going up to Reinertsen Motors to check on the latest crop of cheap old but reliable used cars. Dad did help me get through freshman math to the neglect of World History. I was the first one of his kids to go to summer school. He probably thought when you have 9 children you are going to have some hits and misses. Mike was definitely not a miss. He had a great heart and has been taken from us way too soon. He will be sorely missed by his family and all others he met that got to know him. I hope the fishing is good in heaven with just the right amount of challenge involved and that tee times on good golf courses are easy to come by. Love you always, Pete

Peter Townend - December 20, 2016 at 09:55 AM

JT

“ Mike was my closest brother and I sure have some fond memories. The apple fights with the Mores, the basketball games in the back yard with Hawkeye and Ernie Montgomery, Bugs Chitcowski, Hotdog Erinberg, the Ambrosies and Chris Dachison. We always dressed up as bums for Halloween and would have to come up with a dumb joke for Stan Slavinski. I remember us sneakin on to Mount Tabor and playing a few holes until we were chased off by the greens keeper. Also, daily summer swimming at Clark's pond and enjoying the frozen Milky Ways. Mike was the star pitcher on our little league team as I got to ride the bench until he broke both arms acting out a scene from Man From Uncle, pretending to being shot, grabbing a willow branch, which is not very strong. We would fish at the special spot at Estling Lake. Mike also was so gracious when Deb and I left NJ to become a Firefighter. I stayed with Mike on weekends while in fire school and before I was hired, Deb and I worked part time jobs and enjoyed Mike's hospitality. Mike was always a fantastic uncle to our children. He donated blood plasma as a precaution for Craig when Craig had his open-heart surgery. During that time, we "camped out" at his house and enjoyed Dan's restaurant many times. Mike would come over for Thanksgiving and Christmas and sometimes Easter Sunday. We had great meals and shared wonderful family time together. He was very generous, as he would always give tremendous gifts to all. I am so grateful for Cyndi and the loving care she gave Mike through the years. I'm thankful that I got to see Mike before his passing and tell him that my wife and children and I all love him, just as our Mom told me and Mike before her passing. We will miss you Mike!

Jim and Debbie Townend - December 17, 2016 at 05:36 PM

HH

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Helen Heindel - December 16, 2016 at 09:22 PM

RK

“ Mike was such a wonderful friend. I (Ray Kane) met Mike when I started classes at NJIT in the fall of 1973. We had the same major (computer science) and so we were in most of the same classes and we road the same train into Newark together almost every day. We often joked about the quirks of some of our NJIT instructors. But the funniest thing I remember about Mike was his impersonation of the Swedish Chef on the Muppets TV show. I could not help but laugh at the amazing rendition of the voice of that puppet chef that Mike could imitate so well. We formed such a good friendship that we ended up sharing an apartment together for several years after college until Mike got transferred to Orlando from NJ. Although I did not share Mike's love of golfing :-) we spent much time together and in so doing, created a lot of fond memories. I'm very glad that Mike found such a loving and caring wife, who just happened to be a golfer too. I'm also very glad that I will see him again in glory with the Lord. -- "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" [Revelation 13:14]



Ray Kane - December 16, 2016 at 07:40 PM

HH

Mike is laughing at the shorts now!!!!Thanks for having this picture to share!:)

Helen Heindel - December 16, 2016 at 09:19 PM

CT

Thanks Ray, love Mike in his 'shorty pants', as he would call those.

Cynthia Townend - December 17, 2016 at 08:52 AM

HH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Helen Heindel - December 16, 2016 at 06:23 PM



Mike at Rita and Olus's Wedding Reception, Black Bass Hotel, Lumberville, PA.

Marion Wells - December 17, 2016 at 11:29 AM

AT

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Anne Townend-Duffey - December 16, 2016 at 06:53 AM

AT

Dan, Adrian, Annie, Ethan and Michael Duffey , 11/16 Jefferson, MA

Anne Townend-Duffe - December 17, 2016 at 09:40 PM

HE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Helen - December 15, 2016 at 08:43 PM

HE

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Helen - December 15, 2016 at 08:31 PM

HE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Helen - December 15, 2016 at 08:27 PM

HE

Mike loved playing Pebble Beach with Steve and Dad, a slice of Heaven on earth ..with a captivating view!

Helen - December 15, 2016 at 08:29 PM

JG

“ *I remember Mike as being sweet, kind, caring, and quiet yet funny. He was selfless, very much like his nephew, Bill Townend. A wonderful man. May God's peace surround all of his family, especially Cyndi. You must be an earthly angel. I pray for God's blessings on you all.*
Julia Townend Glasgow

julia Townend Glasgow - December 15, 2016 at 08:09 PM

HE

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Helen - December 15, 2016 at 07:48 PM

HE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Helen - December 15, 2016 at 07:40 PM

HH

Rowan has that Townend smile!:)

Helen Heindel - December 16, 2016 at 12:14 AM

CT

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Cynthia Townend - December 15, 2016 at 04:17 PM

CT

That was our 14th anniversary, celebrated with dear friends.

Cynthia Townend - December 15, 2016 at 04:24 PM

AT


thats a wonderful picture!

Anne Townend-Duffey - December 15, 2016 at 09:09 PM

HH

Beautiful smiles and beautiful souls

Helen Heindel - December 16, 2016 at 12:10 AM

 Katie Townend

“ *God bless you Uncle Mike. Blessings to Cyndi for caring and loving Mike sooo much! You are truly an angel. Love, Katie Townend and Neal Doherty*



Katie Townend - December 15, 2016 at 04:04 PM

RB

“ Mike was excellent in all of the roles that he embraced-- as a brother, son, husband, uncle, friend, worker, co-worker, athlete (he excelled in golf, baseball, and fishing...he always tossed the fish back), student, you name it. As a kid, he helped me with my math homework, and he was a role model to me in so many ways; for example, he was a hard worker who overcame great challenges and obstacles. He put himself through college by working at a nearby Shoetown for a number of years. He lived at home in Denville during these college years and took the train to New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). In Newark, he had to walk through some rough neighborhoods to get to his classes. One day, he said someone threw a rock at him that hit him in the head. He didn't let that hold him back; he kept going and got his degree. Throughout his life he overcame great adversity, persevered, and let his humor and smile shine through. I was so happy that he and Cyndi met each other and fell in love. Their love is an inspiration to me of how deep and strong love can be. I love you Mike and Cyndi.



Rita Boratav - December 15, 2016 at 01:48 PM

AT

“ Mike was a kind, patient, resilient, funny , pet loving brother. He was the brother close in age to me. He had a history of overcoming great adversity starting with falling out of a tree, breaking both arms and showing up for his baseball little league team picture with both arms in full casts.

*I envied his intelligence and compassion to help me with any math obstacle I had in high school . When Mom & Dad moved from Fox Hill Road I came into the possession of Mike's Secretary style fold down desk. Mikes "room" was really a stairway landing but he had his cozy set up. My husband refinished the desk and its been in our home for years . For years Mom would lobby for the family to not send Christmas gifts (preferred we give to charity) and she wasn't always successful in getting 100% compliance so at one point she stated it could only be \$5 and that included shipping! Mike organized the gift exchange list every year too! Well not being one to neglect a challenge, Mike sent me what was the lightest package ever. I opened it to find a Christmas tree ornament in the shape of a mini burlap bag that said 'reindeer feed' on it. It was perfect! I always remember Mike when I hang that ornament up as I will this year with a heart tug of sadness and loss and also a lot of memories of his humor, his talent of taking pleasure in the absurd nature of people and animals , his unbelievable level of patience and kindness. Mike never said a harsh word to me growing up as siblings are prone to do especially in a large family. That's what stands out , his big heart! Love you Always Michael
xo Annie Townend-Duffey*

Anne Townend-Duffey - December 15, 2016 at 12:35 PM



“ Mike always helped me with my homework when we were younger, including math and drawing projects. He taught me how to draw trees, which is no small feat. I will always admire Mike's intelligence, his tenacity against adversity, and his resilient sense of humor. What a sweet soul!

Marion Wells - December 15, 2016 at 12:13 PM

HE

and trees are one of the miracles God opened Mike's eyes to... as he mentioned in his Christmas letter! It was his fall from a high limb(playing Cowboy and Indians, with rifles), that was the beginning of his health challenges: he fell, he got up, got his casts on and was ready for the basball picture! There but for the grace of God, the rest of the Cowboys and Indians resumed the fight!

Helen - December 15, 2016 at 01:28 PM

HH

“ Helen Townend Heindel sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael P. Townend

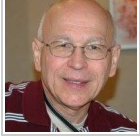


Helen Townend Heindel - December 15, 2016 at 11:49 AM

HH

“ Mike always was self motivated, industrious, funny and loving. He charmed Cyndi with his wit, I'm sure his cooking was not the attraction! They gave their best to each other and I envy and will emulate their love. Cyndi's steadfast love gave Mike countless HAPPY days despite the difficulties.

Helen Townend Heindel - December 15, 2016 at 11:47 AM



“ I also worked with Mike at AT&T and at IBM and remember visiting him in the hospital after his stroke. I was amazed at his recovery and will miss his Christmas messages. Deepest sympathy. Paul Willman



Paul Willman - December 15, 2016 at 09:26 AM

CT

Paul, Mike did write our Christmas letter for this yr, before passing. email me privately: mctownend@aol.com I'll email it to you then. love, cyndi

Cynthia Townend - December 15, 2016 at 10:54 AM

MP

“ I worked with Mike years ago at AT&T. What a wonderful guy. He could find a chuckle in almost any situation, and simply made the work place better for all of us. Deepest sympathy..... Mike Powers

Mike Powers - December 14, 2016 at 11:52 AM

CT

Hi Mike, if you'd like, I can send you Mike's Christmas letter for this yr. email privately: mctownend@aol.com. Thank you for your shared memories. love, cyndi

Cynthia Townend - December 15, 2016 at 10:54 AM