



Michael Eugene Ray

September 15, 1954 - July 14, 2019

Michael Eugene Ray, 64, of Martinsville, Indiana, passed away July 14, 2019. He was born September 15, 1954 in Bedford, Indiana to the late Roy Eugene (Gene) and Mary Jean Ray. He is survived by his sons, Jason Michael and Devin William; his brother, Robert (Bob) Ray, his sister, Susie Hansen and her husband, Pat (also known as his mother Mary's 4th son). He was preceded in death by his brother, Joe.

It was clear early on that he had an interest in sports. When he was in the 1st grade, instead of coming straight home from school (yes, children walked to school in those days), he stopped at the local Boys' Club to play basketball. His dad found him there and signed him up for a membership. His early years continued to be filled with football, basketball and baseball, making several appearances on the Irvington Little League All Star team.

When his family moved to Indianapolis in 1965, as a 6th grader, Mike expressed his disappointment that he had just been appointed a traffic guard at his school. He was concerned that he would not have that opportunity in his new school. Apparently, information was exchanged between schools and he was appointed a traffic guard on his first day at his new school. He proudly wore his white safety belt and badge.

He soon found what would be a life long talent, playing pool. Growing up in Irvington, he sharpened his skills at Mr. and Mrs. Cue on East Washington Street. In his early days, one of his major sources of income was hustling pool. He said it was easy, "just dress like a bum so your opponent will think you don't know your game." He would go on to receive the 1996 Valley National 8-Ball League Association (VNEA) 50 Zip Perfect Match Award, 1st place in the 1993 and 1994 VNEA International Championships in Men's 8-Ball and 1st place in the 2014 VNEA World Pool Championships in Men's Intermediate 9-Ball Singles Division.

While not greatly interested in school, he was one of those kids who could pass the test without cracking open a book. He graduated from Howe High School in 1972. While he had several jobs, including a short stint at Ford Motor Company with his Dad, brother and brother-in-law, it wasn't until 1985 that he found his true calling. Mike was a proud 30-year member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local No. 30. He

would tell anyone who asked that he never “worked” at his job; he was a perfect example of someone who made a career out of doing something he loved. He put his talents to use in many local venues, including Market Square Arena, Starlight Musicals, Clowes Memorial Hall, Bankers Life Fieldhouse and Lucas Oil Stadium. For many years, he worked the annual Yuletide Celebration at the Circle Theatre; he said this event was his favorite. He was privileged to work Super Bowl XLVI (2012) in Indianapolis and proudly displayed his Pre-Event and Game Day credentials. He also traveled to Detroit to work during Super Bowl XL (2006). He worked numerous concerts and was always happy to talk about musicians and other performers he had met or watched from back stage. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was particularly fond of mushroom hunting. Even this year, he told of finding one juicy morel mushroom in his yard and frying it up for breakfast. He was always quick to express his pride in his boys, Jason and Devin. He followed Jason as he played basketball during high school and college at Indiana University East. He was quick to remind people that Jason also obtained his master’s degree. Mike was amazed by Devin’s intelligence and his ability to figure things out. He often described Devin as “the smartest person in the room.”

Mike’s family and friends will remember and celebrate his life at Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel at 5377 East Washington Street, Indianapolis on Saturday, July 27, 2019 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. No need for fancy clothes, just come as you are. Weekend wear appropriate and appreciated.

Cemetery

Washington Park East
10612 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN, 46229

Events

JUL 27 Memorial Visitation 02:00PM - 05:00PM

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel
5377 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN, US, 46219

Comments



“ Mary & I have a broken heart. My best friend for many years, best man in my wedding. All the great memories will always live in our heart. Went through so much together. Wish we had been closer in later years, but I guess we had so many other things to deal with. Rest in peace my great friend!! Willie & Mary Storie

Willie Storie - August 15, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ Great memories of you and Don Duncan at Mr & Mrs Cue in Irvington. A table is reserved for a few racks of 8 ball ..

bruce duncan - July 27, 2019 at 12:58 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Eugene Ray.



July 25, 2019 at 08:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Eugene Ray.



July 24, 2019 at 11:39 AM



“ The Haag family. purchased the Footprints Blanket for the family of Michael Eugene Ray.



The Haag family. - July 24, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Eugene Ray.



July 23, 2019 at 04:31 PM



“ The Godseys Deanna, Jessica and Erika purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Michael Eugene Ray.



The Godseys Deanna, Jessica and Erika - July 23, 2019 at 01:43 PM



“ Susie, Bobby & Families: So sorry for your loss-----My heart felt sympathy to all!
Karen (Turpen)Hillenburg

Karen Hilenburg - July 23, 2019 at 09:54 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Michael Eugene Ray.



July 20, 2019 at 11:08 PM



“ My favorite photo of Michael Eugene Ray



Marilyn Higgins - July 20, 2019 at 03:05 AM



“ Pool was his game!!



Marilyn Higgins - July 20, 2019 at 02:59 AM



“ Last game I saw him play. Winter 2019

Marilyn - July 23, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ Michael loved Seafood, 3 months ago I had him over for scallops and Alaskan king crab legs he was in heaven. So glad I had the opportunity to do that for him. Rest in peace Babe, we'll see you on the other side.



Marilyn Higgins - July 20, 2019 at 02:58 AM



“ Mike was patient when I was new, gruff when it was needed, and could rally a crew through a changeover like none other. I'm proud to have worked by his side.

Ruth Hutson - July 18, 2019 at 10:31 PM



“ Mike will always be for me the best Master Carpenter ever. He was my saving grace on many opera techs and performances. I loved working with Mike. My thoughts and prayers to his family. Gone way to soon.



Deborah Jo Barrett - July 18, 2019 at 06:34 PM



“ ALTHOUGH WE HADN'T TALKED IN YEARS I CAN STILL SEE YOUR SMILE
RACKEM UP SEE YOU IN HEAVEN R.I.P.

BOB & CAROL GILMOUR - July 18, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ Beth Elsey lit a candle in memory of Michael Eugene Ray



Beth Elsey - July 18, 2019 at 01:59 PM



“ I have so many memories of Mike and I a lot of great times one was going to New Orleans in 1987 to watch a great game and an IU victory I am surly going to miss one of my best friends for over 50 years R.I.P. my friend until we meet again

Gary Elsey - July 18, 2019 at 01:13 PM



“ Love Ya Mike , You will be fondly missed , You were my brother & friend ,See Ya in the Pool Hall

John Bronstrup - July 18, 2019 at 12:16 PM



“ Donna Higgins-Honeycutt sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael Eugene Ray



Donna Higgins-Honeycutt - July 18, 2019 at 11:25 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss.

Donna - July 18, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ We didn't call you Big Mike only because you were a big man...but because you had a BIG Heart! Going to miss you until we meet again.
Love you brother.

Tony Blankenship - July 18, 2019 at 11:05 AM