



Michael Keavy O'Donnell

September 30, 1945 - December 23, 2021

Michael Keavy O'Donnell

Born September 30, 1945, the fifth child of seven to parents James O'Donnell and Maureen (nee Keavy), a large American Irish heritage devout Catholic family.

Michael passed away December 23, 2021, at the age of 76 peacefully, following a valiant battle of Multiple Myeloma as a result of Agent Orange exposure during his tour of duty in the Vietnam War.

Precious loving Husband of Sheryl (nee Cauley) for 22 years, the love of her life.

Surviving are dearest siblings Maureen (Carl) Peters, Mary Jo (Hank) Maher, Patrick (Janet) O'Donnell and wife of brother Tom (deceased) Judy O'Donnell. Preceded in death by O'Donnell brothers James Doyle (2003), Thomas William (2009) and William Breen (1972). Leaves behind proud adoring nieces/nephews: Kathy, Judy, Jim, Little Mike, Kenny, Danny, Kevin, John, Little Maureen, Matt, Jimmy, Mike, Andy, Kelly, Billy, Joey, Christina, Ken, Anna, Jaclyn, Danielle. Including 29 great nieces/nephews.

Beloved nephews Brian Patrick O'Donnell (2000), Robby LeFleur (1984) and Father-In-Law William Cauley (2012) and Brother-In-Law Kenneth Cauley (2003) preceded Mike to the gates of heaven.

Left behind to cherish Michael as son and brother are Mother-In-Law Carol Cauley, Brother-In-Law Michael (Perri) Cauley and Linda Cauley (wife of Kenneth deceased). Cherished cousins surviving: O'Donnell are Janie, Terri, Mary Ellen, Patrick, Rosie, Eddie; Keavy are Mary Alice, Patrick, Dick, Bob and each's wonderful spouse. Left to memorize in their hearts are Michael's childhood friends that the passage of time has not separated their friendship are Patrick Reddy, Mike Jones, Jim Eagan, Ron Adamo, Jim Mills, and to greet Mike in the clouds of peace is Phil "Flip" Denton (2018).

Michael attended Catholic schools Gesu and Detroit Catholic Central, graduation in 1963, went on to Lawrence Tech which was interrupted by his Draft Notice in the Fall of 1965. Mike was an Altar Boy at Gesu and an Usher for SS John and Paul Catholic Church in Washington Twp. for 10 years. For 11 years Mike was the Basketball Head Coach for Catholic Youth Organization at St. Andrews Church in Rochester. Mike loved sports! Mike was an active Uncle attending the sporting events of all his nephews' games. Notre Dame Football was an annual event on Mike's TO-DO-LIST since boyhood with his dad, brothers and nephews. Attending a game with family would be a season highlight and cause for a two-day rest afterwards. He was an ardent Detroit Tiger Baseball fan and managed season tickets a few times in his younger days. Took his dad to the Tiger 1968 World Championship game in Detroit.

Michael's greatest honor, pride and privilege was to serve his country!
Dec. 10, 1965 Mike's dad drove his barely 20 yr. old son to the train station to deliver him to the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Within 6 months of basic training, June 1966, Mike was boots on the ground in the Vietnam War. He was assigned to the prestigious United States Army's Troop A 1st of the 9th Cavalry Air Mobile Division (Helicopter Air Assaults). PFC O'Donnell was assigned the title and duty of Crew Chief of his ship, Huey tail #081, a Huey assault helicopter flying up to 150 MPH, fully loaded door guns and rocket fire

power. The Crew Chief was responsible for the full mechanical maintenance of the ship and the armory. Hence, the in battle-readiness and flying safety of his 4-man crew. Additionally, Mike was the "banking door-gunner" behind the pilot on ship's left side, the side of ship that took on most enemy fire. At times up in air battle, he had to exit outside the ship and stand on the rockets for repair. Mike flew in over 2000 assaults over Vietnam during his 1 yr. tour of duty ending in June 1967. He had since reunited these past 10 years his close brotherhood with Jim Talley his Wing Man (the ship that covers his ship in battle), Huey tail #579 and Mike was Jim's Wing Man. They connected by phone conversations and regular emails. Mike's brother Pat in 2016 drove Mike to the Arlington Natl. Cemetery to meet Jim for the first time in 50 years and there they attended the funeral of an endeared Huey pilot. Mike and Jim were able to share that big hug and gratitude to each other after 50 years leaving Vietnam. Never forgotten in Mike's heart, verbalized or written, are all the brothers he lost overseas. Especially, those who had fallen in April 1967. Their names are eternally engraved on "The Vietnam Wall" and Mike has personally touched each name on the wall with deepest grief and remembrance of them. Mike was honorably discharged from 'active' duty Oct. 19, 1967 ranked Specialist Fifth Class O'Donnell (same pay grade as Sergeant), which he was proud of and how he earned his rank SP5. Dec. 9, 1971 Mike as U.S. Army Reservist meeting all conditions of his country was relieved of all obligations and discharged to U.S. citizen. Mike's medals, decorations and citations include: Air Medal with two Bronze Oakleaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam War Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Overseas Bars, Aircraft Crewman Badge, Good Conduct Medal and two Presidential Citations. He has never spoken to anyone of his medals, this is the first announcement they exist in his possession humbly tucked away out of view in his home. He values his brothers-in-arms more than the medals. Michael and all his brothers of the 1st/9th Cavalry loved the children and villagers of South

Vietnam. The troops gave them candy, C-rations and tokens from home to show they cared. Mike often spoke of a little girl with a clef lip who was sweet and wonders still today what became of her. The children too, loved the troops!

Mike was "Welcomed Home" in 1967 by the owner of Burton Abstract, a kind man, who a veteran himself saw promise in Mike as a Title Officer, normally a career of an attorney at law. He hired Mike and he thrived in the industry for about 15 years. 1982 Mike decided to follow the footsteps of his dad as a Realtor and was successfully active until his illness a little over 1 yr. ago. Mike opened his own Broker/Owner Century 21 Cornerstone in 1989 and merged with Century 21 AAA North in 2010. Michael has earned the esteem of his colleagues and clients throughout S.E. Michigan for nearly 40 years as an honest, trusted, thoughtful warm selfless professional. Most of his colleagues and clients remain as dear friends today.

Michael always said, "There before the Grace of God go !!" and "Let His will be done!" His faith was so strong and made him who he was, good and loving. Michael's loving God is pleased with his faithful servant, and Michael faithfully called upon his God to call him home into his arms his last days of suffering. Rest in quiet happy joyful peace my love, Michael.

****For the safety of Michael's family and all guests, please wear a mask as you attend his visitation and services.****

Michael's family will receive friends for visitation on Thursday, December 30, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a prayer vigil at 6:30 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks East of Van Dyke), Utica. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, December 31, 2021 at Ss. John and Paul Catholic Church, 7777 West 28 Mile Road, Washington, instate beginning at 10:30 a.m. until the time of his mass at 11:00 a.m. Interment at

Guardian Angel Cemetery, Oakland Township with full ritual military honors.

It is the family's preference that in lieu of flowers a memorial gift may be sent to one of three charities:

Wounded Warrior Project, Vietnam Veterans of America, or Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

Please share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Guardian Angel Cemetery

4701 Rochester Road
Oakland Township, MI 48306

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Prayer Vigil

DEC 30. 6:30 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Mass

DEC **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

SS. John and Paul Catholic Church
7777 West 28 Mile Road
Washington, MI 48094

Tribute Wall



“ I’m very sorry for everyone’s loss. Sheryl I never met you but I heard of how Mike adored you. In your tribute to him it is apparent the feelings were mutual. I’m so glad you two shared that special love.

Mike trained me in real estate back in 1990. I was a young, single mother and he took me under his wing. I have many fond memories of him. He was a kind man with a very kind heart and was genuinely interested in helping me become a great Realtor. This was my first experience in a professional setting and he always presented in a professional way. He boosted my confidence consistently and gave many hours of his time to assist me. My first listing was one he shared with me. I have not seen him in many years, but I still relay many stories of my training years that include him. I have not seen Mike in many years. He has always and will continue to hold a special place in my heart and I’m sorry I was not able to say goodbye to him.

Dawn McAllister-Sztaba - January 01, 2022 at 12:16 AM

SH

Dawn,
So very kind of you to share the generosity of your heart in remembrance of my Michael. Believe it or not, I do recall one time that Mike spoke of you dropping into the office many years ago just to say and it made him happy to tell me he saw you.

sherylod - January 01, 2022 at 09:47 PM

SH

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So very kind of you to share the generosity of your heart in remembrance of my Michael. Believe it or not, I do recall one time that Mike spoke of you dropping into the office many years ago just to say and it made him happy to tell me he saw you.

sherylod - January 01, 2022 at 09:47 PM

LC

“ *Soooooo sorry Sheryl. I wish I could of attend the funeral. Mike was a very gentle man. He treated me like family from the very start. He will be missed. Also, my condolences to the rest of his family.*

Linda Cauley - December 31, 2021 at 05:41 PM

SH

Linda, you are his family and you belong to all of us, we love you. I know you would had come if you were able, we missed you but we please know how much we love you.

sherylod - January 01, 2022 at 09:44 PM

KC

“ *Our dearest friend Sheryl Lynn*

Only you could write an obituary and tribute in such a way one can feel the love and commitment to your love of your life and partner in life, your dear Michael. We will be missing all our great times for just get togethers, dinners, barbeques and his easy way with no matter who he met. Heaven has gained a great man, a kind and thoughtful man and now Michael please watch over our dearest friend Sheryl and rest in peace.

From the bottom of our hearts with sympathy and love Karen and Donald

Karen Charles - December 31, 2021 at 05:24 PM

SH

BFF's,

*Thank you for sharing such kind words, they offer me great comfort. And you both have always had my whole heart, and Mike adored the two of you very much. He always said we need to get together with Don and Karen, they are fun, but there was always something going on in our life that prevented additional time together. Thank you for everything you offer of yourselves from the depths of your heart. With all our love to you both,
Michael and Sheryl xoxoxo*

sherylod - December 31, 2021 at 08:02 PM

CC

“ *That loving smile with open arms will be missed.*

I will always remember the day Mike called Dad to let him know he was going to ask you to marry him.

Our whole family happed to be sitting around the table at Ken and Linda's house the day you and Mike called to tell us you were engaged. We were all smiles.

After Dad passed away, Mike never complained about you spending so much time helping me.

My prayers are still with him. I know his wings will be super clean and smell good.

*I love you,
Mom*

Carol Cauley - December 30, 2021 at 03:04 PM

SH

*My dearest sweet precious Angel Mommy,
I know how much Michael loved you and Dad with all his heart.
He loved our whole family like his own, he truly did.
Mike had said on more than one occasion, how you reminded him of
his own Mom..just so gentle and selfless. And I know he adored Dad,
he misses him still today. And my brothers Kenny and Mike he called
his brothers too, he loved them. He loves all my neices and nephews
and the great one so much. He wanted to be a part of their lives
whenever it was possible. He just loved being a part of a family, he he
thought the Cauley family was pretty great and that is one of the
reasons he loved me was because I came from a loving close family.
Thank you Mom, we will miss him together as we do Dad and Kenny.
Forever in love with you Mommy,
Sheryl Lynn xoxoxoxo*

sherylod - December 31, 2021 at 07:59 PM

JF

“ *76 years of Septembers to Decembers, the days, months and years
we will always remember, of the life of a man and hero -- well lived
and well loved. And Mike's legacy will long live on for the many
years to come.*

*Our hearts go out,
Joe and Sharon Ferriss*

Joe Ferriss - December 30, 2021 at 02:50 PM

SH

*Dear Joe and Sharon,
Thank you! I appreciate your poem and special words for Mike.
Uncle Sid and Uncle Mike rest with Brain and the Angels, and with
those who served their country. Take care of yourselves and hope to
meet you once again at Pat and Janet's firepit with a toast to our loved
ones in heaven.*

sherylod - January 02, 2022 at 11:32 AM

CP

“ Dearest Sheryl,

What a beautiful, complete story of our sweet brother, Mike. You have said it all, so perfectly.....highlighting his sweet personality, his beautiful humility...to think that I had never known about his MEDALS, something that he had such personal, great pride in, was kept to so few.....now, I think it is time to remove them from their place of “safe keeping”, and mount them for everyone to see. I’m going to miss all of his special birthday card notes, phone calls, and the stories of the love that he shared with sooo many. I recall getting the scores of so many basketball games that he coached, and the giving of his time, as he volunteered to coach at the end of a long day of working in the office, meeting the youth who wanted a winning CYO team, and he worked so hard to make that happen... he volunteered his time and talents to make the world for youth, a happy and challenging better place..... and now, my vision is of him being welcomed at the Gates of Heaven, with Jesus extending his hands, saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant, NOW ENTER INTO THE HOME OF MY FATHER”.....XO XO Maureen and Carl

Carl and Maureen O'Donnell Peters - December 29, 2021 at 03:07 PM

SH

*Dear sister and brother,
Very beautiful what you have shared about Michael.
I savour especially today the cute stories you have told me about Michael as a little boy and how sweet he was...he just never changed...still sweet and always loveable forever.
Love you,
Sheryl xo*

sherylod - January 01, 2022 at 09:52 PM

RD

“ Dear Sheryl and the entire family.
We offer our grief, emptiness, and prayers as we hope in the Lord that God has given Mike his just reward in heaven.
He was a pillar of friendliness and open welcoming to everyone at SSJP and surely everywhere. His diligence and dedication in selling our home in Bruce Meadows offered such confidence and trust.
Thanks to Mike and Sheryl.
It is amazing that God would carry Mike through the toughest times in war to allow him to show us God’s goodness. Thank you for telling his story.
With love and compassion.
Ron and Debbie DiDomenico

Ron and Debbie DiDomenico - December 29, 2021 at 02:43 PM

SH

*Ron and Debbie,
I hope you are both well. Thank you for your kind words for Michael, he was a good man and I know he thought very well of the two of you.
Sheryl*

sherylod - January 01, 2022 at 09:57 PM

NJ

“ Sheryl and family my deepest condolences. I only meet Mike a couple of times over the years. Unfortunately they were at times of sorrow for our family...the passing of my Mom and brother Tim. He was very welcoming to me during these visits. He seemed to fit in well with the Cauley Clan. He was always highly spoken of by my family and a true Irishman according to my brothers. Thank you for your service Mike. Rest In Peace! Nora Cauley (cousin to Sheryl)

nora johnson - December 28, 2021 at 12:21 PM

SH

*Dearest Cousin, Nora,
Thank you for taking the time to offer your heart to me and the family. It means alot. Joe/Roseann, Terri/Mary and Jim/Judy all came too to offer themselves, very special. Tim too served in Vietnam and he and Mike had something very unique to share with each other as brothers in arms. Our Kenny, my Dad and yours along with Timmy have greeted Mike with their Irish smiles in our Lord's presence.*

*Love,
Sheryl xo*

sherylod - January 06, 2022 at 11:15 AM

DR

“ *An Apache Salute to a Brother In Arms.
You have earned your eternal rest Trooper.
D.Rojas Apache Crewchief/Doorgunner*



Danny Rojas - December 28, 2021 at 11:52 AM

SH

*Dear Mr. Rojas,
Did you serve with Michael? Your name sounds familiar!
Mrs. O'Donnell*

sherylod - January 01, 2022 at 09:56 PM

DR

*Dear Mrs. O'Donnell
I served with Apache Troop in 69-70. I recall his named mentioned by other Crewchief's during my time there. We were a very close knit group and will never forget those who served with the "Headhunters " Michael will always be remembered as one who fought with the best Cavalry in the world.*

D. Rojas - January 15, 2022 at 11:33 PM

SO

Mr. Rojas,

Thank you for letting me know how you know of my Michael.

Any story you might be able to share with me would be so enjoyed.

Mike didn't talk much about his tour, when he did, it was mostly about the great guys and the fun that was enjoyed at times. He has several medals and 2 presidential citations, I would love to know what they are for, Mike never said.

If you have a moment some day, please use my email address:

sheryod@comcast.net. Thank you sir for your service in the Cavalry too, Troop A? 1/9th?.

Mrs. Sheryl O'Donnell

sheryl odonnell - February 07, 2022 at 08:02 PM