



Michael Vern Prentiss

September 11, 1962 - June 20, 2025

In Loving Memory of Michael Prentiss

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Michael Vern Prentiss, age 62, of Madison Heights, Michigan, who left us on June 20, 2025.

Born on September 11, 1962, Michael was the sixth of nine children and brought joy and laughter to all who knew him.

Michael was a man of kindness, humor, and individuality. His passion for music was a defining aspect of his life, with The Beatles and singer-songwriter Jackson Browne being particularly influential. He loved the music scene in Detroit, and he dedicated himself to promoting the work of local musicians, right up until the end.

After attending Grand Valley State University, he lived and worked in Chicago for many years. Eventually he returned to Michigan, where he worked at Wayne State University and purchased a home in Madison Heights.

Michael will be remembered not only through his achievements but also through the love and gratitude he expressed for his family and friends.

Michael was proud of his family, cherishing the bonds he shared with them

throughout his life. He is survived by his loving parents, Hugh and Phyllis Prentiss, and his siblings: Timothy (Nancy), Dale (Valerie), Lisa (Ron), Jodie (Don), Eric, Dean, and Amy. He was preceded in death by his younger brother, Keith, who is also remembered fondly.

Michael leaves behind not only his family but also a large circle of friends who will remember him for his generosity of spirit, willingness to help others, and infectious laughter.

Friends and family will gather on Saturday, June 28, from 10:00 am until time of memorial service at 11:00 am at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (4 blks. E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, 48067. Inurnment will take place at Wesley Park United Methodist Church Columbarium in Wyoming, Michigan. A recording of the service will be available for 30 days at the following link: <https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc1MDY5NjY4NzM2ODI3NCZvbmVyb29tLWFkbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw==>

Michael's legacy of kindness and his love for music will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JUN 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Memorial Service

JUN 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Michael Vern Prentiss*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - June 23, 2025 at 12:40 PM

HG

“ *So sad to hear of the passing of our friend Michael, my wife and I met Michael many moons ago when he book my band for the Chicago Peace Fest, at that time we were still in Detroit but had such a great time we were inspired to move to Chicago, after 4 years (and several more Peace Fests) we moved back to Detroit and were happy to find Michael here again, His love of music and his commitment to local music and the Peace movement was unshakeable, he will be remembered as a very giving person, willing to share anything he had with those around him, we shared a very special night hosting an after glow for Alf Bicknell when he gave a talk at the Scarab Club at our house, we valued him as a friend and I will miss our conversations, rest in peace my friend
Howard and Deb Glazer*

Howard and Debra Glazer - June 28, 2025 at 08:18 AM

TP

Mike loved your guitar-playing, Howard!

Tim Prentiss - June 30, 2025 at 04:36 PM

NB

“ We are sharing in your sadness and wish you love during this difficult time. Love Nancy and Ken Bist

Nancy Bist - June 27, 2025 at 09:58 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.



June 27, 2025 at 10:03 AM

TP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Timothy Prentiss - June 27, 2025 at 09:18 AM

TP

“ Nancy Gildart and Tim Prentiss made a donation to an organization Mike worked with: Peace Action Michigan: <https://peaceactionmich.org/donate/>

Timothy Prentiss - June 27, 2025 at 09:04 AM

DP

“ From Jackson Browne’s brother: “I am so sorry to hear the news about Michael. Much love to the family. Severin”

Dale Prentiss - June 25, 2025 at 11:42 PM

TP

That's very nice. I just listened to "Fountain of Sorrow" and I think it'll be perfect at the end of the service.

Timothy Prentiss - June 27, 2025 at 09:07 AM



I have Mike's water bottle from Severin that he left here

Jodie LaVercombe - June 27, 2025 at 12:40 PM

DW

“ *Dean and Will planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Vern Prentiss.*

Dean and Will - June 25, 2025 at 01:45 PM

DW

“ *Dean and Will purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.*



Dean and Will - June 25, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.*



June 25, 2025 at 11:48 AM

JL

“ Mike was a gentle soul. Very caring and would give the shirt off his back. We will miss his laughter and spirit in all that he did.

Jodie Lavercombe - June 25, 2025 at 10:50 AM

NG

I will never forget his jubilant "Yahtzees!"

Nancy J Gildart - June 25, 2025 at 04:11 PM

KA

He truly was and did. I am very glad to have known him the short 4 years I did. He motivated me to achieve things I never imagined I could. He saved my soul. I'll forever miss him and im sorry for what you're all going through.

Kandice - July 08, 2025 at 02:28 PM

DM

“ Daryl, Rose, Rhett and Marie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Vern Prentiss.

Daryl, Rose, Rhett and Marie - June 25, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DM

“ Daryl, Rose, Rhett and Marie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.



Daryl, Rose, Rhett and Marie - June 25, 2025 at 10:30 AM

NR

“Mike was one of a kind. A truly kind and gifted individual who spread a sense of calmness and creativity everywhere he went. I will always remember the conversations about music, art, sports, and life that I shared with Mike over the years. At one point we were fortunate enough to be neighbors and saw each other often. One of Mike's defining characteristics was his championship of local musicians and artists. He always made sure to let me know when exciting events were happening in our community that I may be interested in. We bonded over our shared tastes and philosophies in numerous ways. When thinking of Mike's passing I am reminded of a lyric from Jackson Browne, one of his favorite artists.

*"Tracing our steps from the beginning
Until they vanished into the air
Trying to understand how our lives had led us there"*

Sending thoughts of peace and healing to the Prentiss family from the Rosebush/Pirinis family.

Nick Rosebush - June 25, 2025 at 08:25 AM

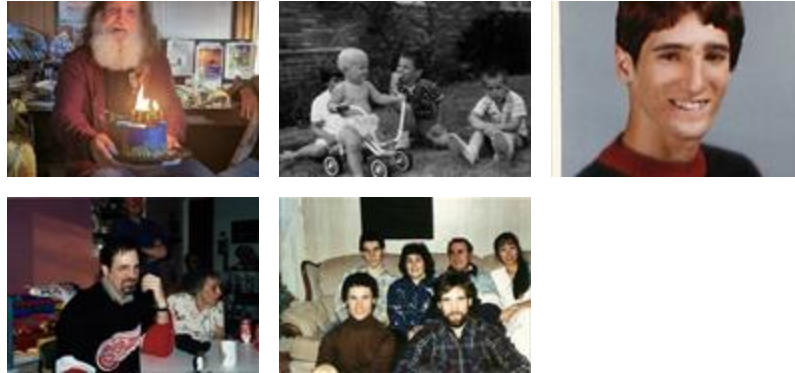
DP

Thank you Nick. I hope you have had a chance to view the service. Mike definitely appreciated your friendship.

Dale Prentiss - June 30, 2025 at 04:50 PM

DP

“ 22 files added to the album MVP Photos



Dale Prentiss - June 24, 2025 at 11:31 PM

DP

“ From Marco Elstermann:

I met Michael online in a zoom chat of Saturday Night Alive (now The Awakening World) we both attended during the early days of the pandemic. We became quick friends. After a couple of weeks we realized that we only lived an hour apart. So the plans started to form for us to meet in person as soon as covid restrictions were over. As everyone knows, many people online are not what they portray online, in real life.

When we finally met in person I was thrilled to find Michael to be not only everything he portrayed himself to be online but so much more! Generous, kind, helpful, and intelligent. Michael had one of the biggest hearts of anyone I've ever known. He will be so missed in our online community as well as in his real world community.

Rest well brother! 🙏❤️🕊️♂️

Dale Prentiss - June 24, 2025 at 11:19 PM

DP

“ 🌿 *In Loving Memory of Michael Prent* 🌿

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our dear friend and long-time Kindred Spirits Ireland family member, Michael Prent. Michael, based in Michigan, was more than just a familiar face on our many Zoom gatherings over the past five years, he was a warm-hearted gentle soul and someone who always showed up with kindness and quiet wisdom.

With a heart rooted in the spirit of the '60s, Michael lived a colourful life, full of stories, music, and deep values. Even once worked as a roadie for The Beatles, and you could always feel that soulful spark in him. Despite having little himself, Michael became one of the very first people to support our campaign with a monthly donation; A gesture that meant more than words could ever say.

He was a brother to many...kind, funny, loyal, and deeply committed to the path of peace and unity.

He will be deeply missed by our whole community and especially by those who knew him personally and shared real time and space with him.

Thank you, Michael, for your friendship, your generosity, your stories, and your unwavering support. You walked this world softly and left a meaningful imprint.

Family isn't always blood, it's the ones who show up, who give, who love. That was you, Michael.

With love, remembrance, and deep gratitude,

The Kindred Spirits Ireland Family



Dale Prentiss - June 24, 2025 at 11:14 PM

DP

“ 2 files added to the album MVP Photos



Dale Prentiss - June 24, 2025 at 10:55 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.



June 23, 2025 at 04:50 PM

CB

“ *I haven't seen or spoken with Mike in close to 50 years. And yet his presence is as clear as if I'd seen him yesterday.*

He had an intensity of enthusiasm and joy that felt almost foreign to an introvert like me. He was downright stubborn in his ability to be radically "present" in the here and now, soaking up and radiating his absorption in whatever people or music or moment was captivating him. For better and for worse, he breathed life in and out with a transparency that could leave me both baffled and more than a little jealous at the same time.

May you rest in peace Mike...but maybe with a little conspiratorial grin always lurking not too far away.

Craig Bamsey - June 23, 2025 at 04:01 PM

DP

This hits the spot for me. The "downright stubborn" description was true in many ways, and I always wondered how people could be as extroverted as Mike was.

Dale Prentiss - June 24, 2025 at 10:58 AM



Well said Craig! Thank you

Jodie LaVercombe - June 24, 2025 at 01:53 PM

TP

Exactly right, Craig: Mike was always living in the present moment, with that mischievous smile.

Tim Prentiss - June 24, 2025 at 01:59 PM

CB

“ *Craig, Janine & Connor Bamsey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Vern Prentiss.*

Craig, Janine & Connor Bamsey - June 23, 2025 at 03:33 PM

CB

“ *Craig, Janine & Connor Bamsey purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.*



Craig, Janine & Connor Bamsey - June 23, 2025 at 03:33 PM

DP

“ I'd like to start by saying that Mike was one of a kind. He probably gave other people the benefit of the doubt too often for his own good, but the flip side of that is he treated everyone as though they were decent and good, no matter how they showed up. So you had him welcoming people into his life who didn't fit into a mainstream view of safe or successful, and at the same time bragging about the people in his life who had built lives that conformed to a very mainstream concept of success.

I'd say both approaches backfired on him sometimes -- people did take advantage of his generosity of spirit -- but at the same time he got to know and appreciate a wider spectrum of people than anyone else I've met. And a lot of people got a chance to see the goodness beyond his quirks and appearance, simply because he treated them so well.

I wish he'd learned to take care of himself as well as he wanted to take care of others, but that wasn't the way he was wired. He wanted to take care of himself but he never was convinced that he could. And in the long run I guess he was right.

But I don't fault him for wanting to be independent. I would rather that he felt free while alive, even if he didn't live as long as he could have, than to see him deprived of his unique, artistic, unselfish spirit. It was a tradeoff, yes, but what the world got was what Mike became, an angel. Sometimes he was an angel in disguise but always he was one underneath that big beard and disheveled sweatshirt. And now he is one in the purest sense, no doubt about it.

Dale Prentiss - June 23, 2025 at 03:24 PM

CB

Beautiful summary

Craig Bamsey - June 23, 2025 at 03:35 PM

NG

He let a lot of kindness out into the world and made it a better place—truly an angel.

Nancy Gildart - June 24, 2025 at 02:12 PM

RL

Mike was so intelligent, kind and artistic, three attributes which are so needed in this world but often not found together in one person. Mike was such a gentle soul who will be missed.

Rose Lawson - June 26, 2025 at 05:06 PM

GU

“ *Greater Southwest District UMC purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.*



Greater Southwest District UMC - June 23, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Vern Prentiss.*



June 23, 2025 at 02:10 PM