



Michael Benner

September 6, 1946 - October 26, 2016

BENNER, MICHAEL WILLIAM Ocala - Michael passed suddenly on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, a lovely warm, sunny day, of an apparent heart attack, while playing golf, one of his favorite past-times. Michael was the devoted husband of surviving wife, Lee Longfield; loving and proud father of children, Lauren (Joe) Gardner and David Benner; doting grandfather of Grace and Elgin Gardner; sisters, Janet (Tom) Taylor and Barb (Tony) Schifano and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and treasured friends, Lora and Lorenzo. His sisters and their husbands were good people who are extraordinary in their love and generosity, and helped Michael weather a difficult childhood. Lauren and her family had just moved to Florida, so Michael anticipated many joyous years with them. Michael served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, and was the recipient of a Purple Heart for injury in combat. Michael became a highly respected educator as a teacher, then an administrator in the Pontiac, MI, School District. He then served as Associate Dean Technology at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan and at Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin. While at Mott, his leadership led to the construction of a state-of-the-art skills center. After his retirement, Michael and Lee moved to Ocala, Florida, so that he could golf all year long. He was fortunate to meet many wonderful neighbors and friends in Countryside Farms and was proud to serve as President of the HOA. He was a member of the VFW. Michael was a man possessed of old-fashioned virtues and values. He did not pursue wealth or recognition. He took

satisfaction in work well done. He would help anyone. He was a kind, gentle, generous man who could facilitate solutions in a wide range of dilemmas. He loved his family and will be profoundly missed. A Memorial Ceremony will be held at Roberts Funeral Home, 6241 S.W. SR-200 in Ocala on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 1:00PM. Burial will be private at the Florida National Cemetery. Memorials in Michael's name to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, 1825 Quantico Gateway Dr., Triangle, VA 22172, would be appreciated by his family.

Tribute Wall

FS

“ I just learn of Mike's passing. Mike was the genuine article; a gentle, kind, man and dedicated educator. I worked with Mike at Mott College in administration. He was a global thinker and insightful problem solver. All who worked with him were fortunate to have him on the team. He also was a devoted family man who freely expressed his love for Lee and his children. I am sadden by his death. My condolences to all his family.

Fran Smith - November 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mike at Mott. He was so committed to making sure that Mott offered it's students a good pathway to gaining jobs in the new technologies ahead. I am sorry for your loss and know that the energy that Mike put forth whenever you were around him will leave an empty space. May all your fond memories grow stronger and warmer as time passes.

Judith Cawhorn - November 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Lee, I am so sorry for your loss. I have the best memories of my time working with Michael at Mott Community College and was shocked to hear of his passing. We enjoyed many years working together on a number of exciting and challenging projects. My prayers go out to you and your family. All the best. Tom Crampton

Tom Crampton - November 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Lee and Family, My Wife Christine and I extend our deepest sympathies. Mike was a mentor to both of us at Mott College and a friend. We wish you and your family the best during this time, Mike will be an outstanding leader and will be surely missed. Best Regards, Dennis and Christine Hughes

Dennis Hughes - November 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Lee and Family, I am sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was not only my boss, but a great friend and mentor! I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with him and know him! Rick and Connie Sveller

Rick Sveller - November 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Lee and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Michael was a good man and I enjoyed working with him in the Regional Technology Center. My husband and I were looking at our wedding reception photos a few weeks ago and came across the one of you and Michael. May God bless you during this difficult time of loss and rest in your loving memories of your life with Michael. Dianne McClure

Dianne McClure - November 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Michael at Mott Community College. He was a fantastic person and a great mentor. My prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Lynne Reynolds - November 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM