



Michael L. Shirk

December 24, 2023

Michael (Mike) L. Shirk, of Baldwinsville, 61, passed away on Christmas Eve after a brief illness, surrounded by love and warmth. His devoted wife of 23 years and his cherished siblings were by his side. Mike's legacy continues through his loving wife Rose; sister Anne Shirk; brother Bradley (Lynn) Shirk; treasured stepchildren, Jason (Yurah) Vaughan and Erin (Steve) Vaughan; and three amazing nephews, Zacharie, Jacob, and Ryan Shirk. His much-loved canine companions, Callaway and CJ, also survive him. We take solace in knowing that Mike is reunited with his late parents, Marilyn (Neitz) and Raymond A. Shirk, along with the many rescue dogs he loved and lost over the years

As an alumnus of North Syracuse High School, Mike shone brightly in golf and musical theater and later attended SUNY Geneseo. For over 30 years, Mike was a dedicated sales consultant for Gerharz Equipment/Central Restaurant Supply, where he forged heartfelt, lasting connections with colleagues and clients alike.

Mike was a joy to be around, known for his larger-than-life personality, distinctive laugh, and the unique ability to brighten any space he entered. His optimism was infectious, and when asked, his answer was always "I'm having the best day ever."

Mike's life was rich with passions, including golfing with friends, top-down

rides in his convertible, and entertaining around his outdoor kitchen. At Radisson Greens, Mike was a familiar and vibrant presence. His big laugh was often heard resonating across the course from three holes away! His most precious moments were spent with Rose - his wife, soulmate and best friend.

There will be two sets of calling hours on Saturday, January 6th. Please feel free to attend either one. Fergerson Funeral Home (215 South Main St., North Syracuse) will host formal calling hours from 8:30 – 10:00 AM. Informal calling hours will be held to celebrate Mike's life at the Syracuse Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (upstairs) from 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Loved ones, colleagues and friends are warmly invited to come enjoy one last round with Mike. Parking will be provided in the lot on Franklin Street. As a tribute to Mike's signature style, please feel free to wear your favorite golf hat.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Mike's memory to the CNY SPCA (or your favorite rescue group), continuing his legacy of compassion and love for animals.

Previous Events

Calling Hour

JAN 6. 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Ferguson Funeral Home, Inc.
215 South Main Street
North Syracuse, NY 13212
(315) 458-1970
<http://fergersonfuneralhome.com/>

Calling Hour

JAN 6. 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

Syracuse Dinosaur Bbq

Tribute Wall



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael L. Shirk.



January 03, 2024 at 06:41 AM



“ The Brewster Inn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael L. Shirk.

The Brewster Inn - January 03, 2024 at 06:41 AM



“ Wow seems like it was just yesterday that Mike would swing by cups or whatever was needed to make sure Syracuse's Original Carmelcorn ran smoothly. He would stay and talk with me and ron. About everything from sports to music to whatever. It's crazy that was 15 years ago last time a saw him at the store. But when ever you ran into him. he would pick up the conversation like it was yesterday... It's sad to hear of his passing. He was a great guy.. your friend aka bummer.

Laford hassler - December 31, 2023 at 12:40 PM

CG

“ I used to play in golf leagues and Mike was my partner for many years. I quote him all the time on the golf course. The best one came after we had to back track to retrieve my wedge alongside a green. He looked at me and said "I have found a lot of clubs along side greens, I have never found one ON a green." I have never lost a club since, true wisdom. He was one of few that would sometimes call me by my full name (Christian). The world will miss Mike - as will I - even though it has been a long time since I last saw him in person (I moved to CO).

Chris Gorski - December 30, 2023 at 11:19 AM

CR

“ Spent a lot of time together in 1983-84 in college with Mike. He used to say that I was deep and that he was shallow. Nothing could be further from the truth. While we had not seen each other in a long train of years I have always considered him a close friend because I knew that if or when we met again the years would wash away and the center of the man I knew would stand and ring true. Love you my friend.

Creech - December 29, 2023 at 11:59 PM

MM

Amen Creech

Mark Munnelly - December 30, 2023 at 06:40 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Michael L. Shirk.



December 29, 2023 at 05:42 PM

TF

“ *The Cooper Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael L. Shirk.*

The Cooper Family - December 29, 2023 at 05:42 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Michael L. Shirk.*



December 29, 2023 at 02:36 PM

JK

“ *Mike was a family man, gentleman, and more! Golf a passion! We wish condolences to the family. God bless.*

john kondakoff - December 29, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Michael L. Shirk.*



December 29, 2023 at 09:39 AM

SF

“Best day ever!” Mike always said and lived this. He first said this to me in 1999 and five years later I asked him, “Why?” He explained that no matter how bad his day was, he knew that there was always someone out there that had a far worse day. I’ve adopted this way thinking since then and I will forever be indebted to Mike. The last few days it’s been hard to say but I still got it out with a tear in my eye. I will miss you my friend.

Stephen Franks - December 28, 2023 at 09:39 PM

RV

“ I met Mike back in the mid 1990’s at Central Restaurant supply when he started. I was there virtually every month and would wait if I had to , to have Mike take care of my restaurant supply needs. He would always refer to me by name and would handle every request with professional accuracy and expedience. In a world of inconsistency Mike was always a steady Ace at his job. He made running a restaurant much easier and I looked forward to just chatting with him about the local restaurant and bar scene.

Richard De Vere - December 28, 2023 at 08:57 PM

BH

“ I’ve known Mike for 40 years as I started buying from Mike when I had a hotdog stand and he was working at Central restaurant supply, then I had a food trailer doing Bloom fest and the state fair, then I moved up to owning a pizza deli, and then I bought a diner, 20 years ago that I still have today and Mike has taken of me for the past 40 years. I just saw him last Wednesday when I simply just needed a \$10 item and he said well I’m getting my haircut in the village of Jamesville and since my Diner was in Janesville he said I’ll drop the part off, he came in told me he was having best day ever, brought my knife sharpener, shook my hand and wish me a merry Christmas , he’s always been a great friend and a great salesman. I’ll miss him so much.

Bruce Heaney - December 28, 2023 at 10:21 AM



“ Mike was my partner in crime eating oysters. He was my Linda's Bistro west. He was an amazing person to make you feel special. Rose, I am without words to say to you. I am so sorry and please know I am here for you. Linda Farley

Linda Farley - December 27, 2023 at 06:56 PM

PK

“ Mike was an intelligent man and a great person to have as a friend he will be missed deeply may his memory be eternal

Paul kondakoff - December 27, 2023 at 06:37 PM

CA

“ Rose,

My deepest condolences. I had the pleasure of working with you and more recently Mike at Gerharz. Mike and I had so much fun working together! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Carlene Alger

Carlene Alger - December 27, 2023 at 04:18 PM

KK

“ *Rose, there are no words. Mike was my best friend growing up, my college roommate, and best man at our wedding. Marybeth and I are reeling right now and cannot even express the grief we are feeling for you, for Anne and Brad, and for all of us who called Mike a good friend.*



Keith Kobland - December 27, 2023 at 09:10 AM

PK

Two gentlemen thumbs up

Paul kondakoff - December 27, 2023 at 06:38 PM

MM

Best friends

Mark Munnely - December 30, 2023 at 06:48 AM

GY

“ Rose, so heart broken to hear this morning of Mike's passing. We shared so many good times and laughs over the years. Sending our thoughts, love and prayers to Mike's family during this time of loss.



Greg and Julie Yoder

Gregory Yoder - December 27, 2023 at 06:45 AM

CY

I have known Mike for 40 years. I know him from the restaurant industry. He was my go to when I was the GM at Zebb's Deluxe Grill & Bar for 36 years when he worked for Central Restaurant Supply. About two years ago I got the opportunity to join the Gerharz team. As a GM I was always amazed at his memory. I could call him and say I bought this part like two years ago, I dont have the part number. He would say I got you, ill have the part there in a couple days. He had a memory like a rock? Now that I work at Gerharz I realize there was a program called TRX that show's all customers purchase history. Memory? He was a master at what he did and his customer service was impeccable. I am so fortunate to have worked with him and to have known him. He will truly be missed. Sending my thoughts and prayers to the family.

Chris Yiatras - December 27, 2023 at 06:36 PM

LR

My condolences Rose, to you and your family. And to the Gerharz team. I dealt with Mike from his first days at Central with Rich and Bill. He will be sorely missed in the central NY restaurant world. Rest in peace my friend

Louis Rescignano - December 28, 2023 at 09:23 PM