



Michael Dean Franklin

October 10, 1962 - March 3, 2016

Michael Dean Franklin

Michael Dean Franklin, beloved son, brother, and proud uncle, age 53, passed away on Thursday March 3rd 2016, after a short courageous battle with cancer. His loving family took care of him, at home, till his last breath. He was born on October 10, 1962, in Leavenworth, WA to Jerry and Dorothy Franklin. Mike was a talented musician, playing several instruments which included drums, brass instruments and his favorite, the guitar. Therefore earning the nickname, "Guitar Mike". He loved writing songs, singing at family gatherings, jamming with his friends, and occasionally participating in "open Mike" events at various places around town. He was very proud of his music and proud of the jobs he had, "but not proud of the way I lost them." Mike ventured to Alaska to stay with his sister, and brother in law, in 1986, working on fishing boats and then landing a supervisor position at a cannery in Cordova, AK. He eventually was sent to Valdez, AK where he helped build the peter pan seafood cannery and became a fresh market supervisor. He was living in Valdez when the devastating Exxon Valdez oil spill happened. He was part of the "first 32" to see the spill and begin the long process of cleaning it up. He earned the nickname "skimmer Mike". 5 years later he moved back to Washington and for 8 years, worked in refrigeration with McDougall and sons. He also worked for HR spinner as a forklift driver. Mike was also very proud of the fact our family found out that we are related to one of our countries founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin. Yes, first cousin 9th removed. He was

very patriotic and beaming proud that 4 of his 6 nephews served our country and there is 2 that are still. One is a gunny sergeant and the other is a staff sergeant. Both are Marines.

Mike is survived by his mother, Dorothy Oelke, brother Kevin (Debbie) Franklin, Sister Kerri (Pat) Walters, Nephews Dr. Christopher (Nichole) Franklin, Andrew Franklin, David (Alyson) Crawley, Mike Crawley, Patrick McWhinney and Hank McWhinney and a special friend, Julie Campbell, and a very special dog, Precious, who stayed by his side, laying with him when he lost mobility, never leaving his side till the end of his life. He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry K. Franklin, Paternal grandparents, Herman and Ann Franklin, maternal grandparents, Bill and Mary Hensley.

A memorial service is planned at a later date upon return of one of his nephews who is deployed. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones – Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

KG

“ Grew up with Mike and one of my favorite and most memorable times was hanging out at his house the night we got home from our 8th grade graduation trip. That was the beginning of some very fun high school years together. You will be missed by the class of '81.
Karlyn Gehring

Karlyn Gehring - March 16, 2016 at 09:51 PM

AR

“ My condolences to the Franklin family for your loss, Michael was a great guy and will be missed.

May God bless

Allen Rayfield

Allen E Rayfield - March 09, 2016 at 03:54 PM

LG

“ I'm shocked and so saddened to learn of your passing. Growing up you were a cherished neighbor, my walk-to-school partner, and friend. Thank you for being my friend. You had such an easygoing spirit and you could always make me laugh. I've always thought of you fondly; as I do now.

My heartfelt sympathy to your family for the loss they are surely feeling-

God bless you Michael, and keep you always-

-SuAnn LaRee (Ells) Goulet

LaRee Goulet - March 09, 2016 at 09:52 AM



“ *I worked with Mike when he was at McDougall & Sons. He was good at his job and fun to work with. He had that sweet dog Angel at the time, and had taught her so many tricks. I'm sorry to hear that he has passed away, so young. I will always remember him.*

Debbie Thune - March 09, 2016 at 08:49 AM



“ *Dear Dorothy, Kerri, Kevin and all of your family. Please accept our sincerest condolences for your loss. It is never easy to lose a loved one, when it happens at an early age it seems to be even more difficult! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Love Dale & Eileen Wilcox*

Dale Wilcox - March 08, 2016 at 11:28 AM