



Michael H. Bragassa

February 18, 1939 - December 19, 2020

Michael “Mike” Hughes Bragassa of Vestaburg, Michigan, passed away peacefully at MidMichigan Medical Center in Alma, Michigan on December 19, 2020, at the age of 81. Mike fought a good battle against his existing health issues for many years.

On February 18, 1939, Mike was born as the first child to Fred and Barbara (Heistand) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family eventually moved to Evansville, Indiana where he attended Harper Elementary School and graduated from Benjamin Bosse High School in 1956. The family summered in Laguna Beach, California to spend time with Mike’s grandparents, Edgar and Bernice Hiestand. In 1956, he became a member of the Army Reserve. In 1962, he graduated from The University of Evansville with a degree in Business. Later that year, Mike married his beloved, Sharon Gates. In addition to the many adventures they had together, they successfully raised three children: Greg, Patrick, and Kelli. The young family settled in the Clare area but later

moved to various states following Mike’s work career in the oil industry. He worked for Baker Hughes/Hughes Christiansen for 38 years in marketing and sales. This took him across the entire United States as well as serving in foreign assignments in Europe, Canada, China, South America, Africa, Thailand, and Russia. Mike and Sharon eventually settled in Conroe, Texas for 30 years before moving back to Michigan. In 2018, after 56 years of marriage, Mike lost the love of his life, his wife Sharon who ironically also died on December 19th, to Parkinson’s. Mike was definitely a “ham” in two different ways! He possessed an extremely witty sense of humor, was an entertaining joke/storyteller, and was ultimately behind any prank that was pulled! Mike was also a Ham Radio Operator (Amateur Radio) for over 40 years. He was known for calling out the International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet to other Ham Radio Operators at all hours of the night as well as constructing 110-foot antennas that shadowed over his houses. Mike was also a TDXS officer, serving as the Treasurer for many years, and was part of a team of radio operators that built communication systems in Malta, Nicaragua, and Columbia. He loved football and would watch any football game that was airing. Mike was a devoted Houston Texan fan, and recently became a big supporter of Patrick Mahomes.

Mike is survived by his children, Greg (Connie Gibbs) Bragassa of Vestaburg, Michigan, Patrick (Jodi) Bragassa of Ririe, Idaho, and Kelli Ann Bragassa of Evergreen, Colorado. Other survivors include his granddaughter, Emily Bragassa of Weidman, Michigan, his grandson, Lander Bragassa of Ririe, Idaho, his sister, Trish Lundin of Temecula, California, his brother, Tim (Bobbie) Bragassa of Peachtree City, Georgia, his #1 buddy, Maggie the dog, and his longtime neighbors, Bill and Lisa Harvey of Hilltop Lakes, Texas. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Bragassa, parents, Fred and Barbara Bragassa, and his brother Robert H. Bragassa.

Funeral services in honor of Mike will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home with Pastor Jackie Raineri officiating. Burial will follow in the Cherry Grove Cemetery of Clare. Friends may visit the Bragassa family at the funeral home on Wednesday from 1:00 P.M. to the time of service at 2:00 P.M. Memorial contributions in honor of Mike may be directed to MidMichigan Homecare & Hospice. Current Covid-19 guidelines will be observed and masks will be required. For those unable to attend, online condolences may be shared on the Bragassa family tribute page at www.stephenson-wyman.com Services will also be live streamed on the Stephenson-Wyman Facebook Page.

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanfh@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Service

DEC **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
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Tribute Wall

NB

“ I used to work with Mike at Baker Hughes in Russia and I am very sad that he is no longer with us. Please accept my condolences.

He was an amazing manager. Once I have shipped two drill bits from Houston to Moscow without making sure that the customer had signed the contract which fell through. Mike was very kind to not point out my mistake and kept them in his office as demos for customers.

I wish all the best to his family. God bless you!



Natasha Badmaeva/Ormiston - June 14, 2024 at 02:51 PM

WC

“ Mike and I both were long time boy scouts in evansville. We went on many camping trips including traveling via train to the boy scout jamboree in Irving CA. Also a week long canoe trip down the Ohio River for over 200 miles and walking the Lincoln trails. Those were great years . God speed Mike.
Wally Caldwell

Wally caldwell - June 24, 2021 at 07:13 PM

SW

“ 4 files added to the album TDXS Malta 2006



Steve W9DX - December 23, 2020 at 01:42 PM

LH

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Harvey - December 22, 2020 at 08:44 AM

HK

“ Harvey family (Bill, Lisa, Cody and Kendall) purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Michael H. Bragassa.



Harvey family (Bill, Lisa, Cody and Kendall) - December 22, 2020 at 08:04 AM

BM

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Barry Martz - December 21, 2020 at 11:51 PM

BM

Terrific person and a GREAT FRIEND. Mike showed me the in's and outs of DXing in Ham Radio. He always had great stories to tell about his travels around the world. He's on the Ultimate DXpedition now. N5UO sk

Barry Martz - December 22, 2020 at 12:03 AM

KB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kelli Ann Bragassa - December 21, 2020 at 10:45 PM

TL

“ Mike was the oldest of 4 children.....and he was the ruler!!! He ran show for many years. He was very tidy and neat and I as his only sister I loved to sneak into his very private area and rearrange his very valuable things....like even an eraser in his drawer.....he finally put a very fine string on the opening of his desk and he could tell I had been there.....it got a real reaction from him. He was very tidy!!!! You know I loved you so much!!!

TRISH BRAGASSA LUNDIN - December 21, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael H. Bragassa.



December 21, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael H. Bragassa.



December 21, 2020 at 08:54 PM

KB

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Kelli Ann Bragassa - December 21, 2020 at 08:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael H. Bragassa.*



December 21, 2020 at 07:23 PM



“ *Kelli Ann Bragassa lit a candle in memory of Michael H. Bragassa*



Kelli Ann Bragassa - December 21, 2020 at 07:19 PM