



Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022



Scan to Visit



Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4
Media	Page 9



Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022

Michael Andrew Ryan, age 63, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died on August 18, 2022, in Fayetteville. He was born on November 29, 1958, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Dorsey McNeelas Ryan and Peggy Marie (Brown) Ryan. Michael graduated from Northside High School in Fort Smith. He last attended the University of Arkansas. Michael loved learning and following his passions. He worked many jobs and was attending the Genesis Church in Fayetteville.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Aunt Betty Brown; and Uncle Donald Watts.

Michael is survived by three sisters: Linda Ryan of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Cathie Heft of Elgin, Oklahoma, and Sharon Dobias of Greenfield, Massachusetts; Uncle James Brown, Jr. and Aunt Iralene Thomas.

A small Celebration of Mike's Life will be planned for later.



Tribute Wall

Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022

SD

Sharon L Dobias posted:

When we were small children, our father took Linda, Cathie, myself, and Michael to Barren Fork Creek so he could fly fish while babysitting on a Sunday. He tethered us together with a rope in birth order, with Michael closest to him. We were meandering about the creek when suddenly, Michael disappeared. Dad casually pulled him out of the water by the rope and moved to shallower water and continued to fish. As I recall, Michael was his only "keeper" that day. I believe that on August 18, 2022, our Heavenly Father, brought Michael to his eternal home, in Heaven to rest. Thanks be to God! Sharon

September 11 at 1:41 AM

CH

Cathie Heft September 11 at 4:59 PM

Oh, Sharon! I never thought of that story ending that way, but indeed Michael was a keeper. Not much ruffled Dad. And not much deterred him from his fishing when he had his line ready to toss in. I also, believe Michael to be at rest and relieved to be without the pains of his flesh.

JU

Jim U posted:

Spike my brother I never had / I am glad you are free from pain and thought - brother I truly missed our 11:00 pm conversations that past three years talking about life and Moog synthesizers - if it weren't for you I would never seen the inside of the Ft Smith jail - oh shit - everyone needs to know when you walked in on Mark Rainey nude in his bedroom- I had to talk you off the ledge when you said you saw his junk - I had to talk myself off the ledge! As stupid as it sounds, smoking a joint while watching Sanford and Son at 9:00 am - we were dumb asses - and the best of all - Jack (in the freezer) and the cheap Coke from the DQ on Broadway / I only loved two other people and sorry - you were third - everyone is saying RIP - screwed that / party on brother!! Love you forever- you dick

September 3 at 6:41 PM

CH

Cathie Heft September 5 at 5:57 PM

Jim, it sounds like your time as roommates left you with a lifetime of memories. Those can be the best! Mike tended to leave a lasting impression, too. I have a memory of you making cheese soup - your mom's recipe I think and it sure is good. It has become a stand by for me when I need to bring a soup to a dinner. I wrote everything down about it on some kind of green plastic 📄. That's how I still have it. Thank you for your thoughts. Mike had calmed down somewhat. The effort it took him just to breathe slowed him down, too. He has to feel much better where he is cause he wasn't doing so great here anymore.



Tribute Wall

Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022



Ada Ruth shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

A walk down memory lane with the Mike we love and remember. ❤️



September 1 at 3:33 PM



Cathie Heft September 3 at 9:37 AM

You were there for some fun times, Shannon. I remember bike riding around Fort Smith with you - and stopped for a donut. 😊 You also had me believing I wasn't graduating High School because you printed the diplomas and program. Ha! Got me good! Diane and I will never forget the Buffalo River float. Wow! It was a miracle we all came off the river together after splitting up one night. Mike kept some journals and in his most recent one he wrote that he wanted the ELP song played at his funeral. With the video is close enough. He also wants it said, "He never gave up."



Cathie Heft September 2 at 5:18 PM

Video playing on phones now. Music credit on video goes to Emerson, Lake and Palmer - "Closer to Believing."



Ada Ruth September 2 at 6:12 AM

It looks like the video will only play on a computer, instead of a phone.



Shannon Bradney September 3 at 4:34 AM

So sorry to hear about Michael's passing. Have thought about Michael through the years, wondering what he was doing. He would give me a call occasionally for a ride or show up at work to chat. How fitting to attach Emerson, Lake and Palmer's "Closer to Believing" attached to the video that his niece posted above. Mike loved his music. That was a great time in my life knowing the Ryan family that I surely won't forget. May Michael Andrew Ryan Rest In Peace.Shannon Bradney



Linda Ryan September 2 at 12:14 PM

Michael, I am sad knowing you are no longer in this world, I truly hope you are finally peacefully at rest. Your very sweet sis , Linda Lou.....



Tribute Wall

Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022

DW

Danny Williams posted:

I am saddened to hear of Michael's passing. We shared a lot in our great neighborhood!

August 29 at 8:42 AM

CH

Cathie Heft August 29 at 5:23 PM

It was the best, Danny. So many clubs and evening games and summers roaming from one house to another. It's taking some getting used to.

ER

Eddie Robben posted:

Rest in peace Mike. I'll never forget the good times and adventures you, Pat Nolte, and I had growing up in our Park Hill neighborhood. Condolences to you wonderful sisters and family. Eddie Robben

August 27 at 10:11 AM

CH

Cathie Heft August 29 at 5:29 PM

Thank you, Eddie. Those were happy days for Mike - in our wonderful neighborhood thick with kids.

RR

Rusty Rinehart posted:

Mike was my roommate at university of Arkansas. We had many things in common. We talked many times over the years. I always thought of him as a friend.

August 26 at 7:13 AM

DI

Diane August 30 at 1:00 AM

Mike Ryan...the early 70's...Good Times! My best friend's pesky little brother who was never a drag to have around! Survivin' and thrivin' with 3 sisters. Trainer of Gomer and as always his Sidekick. Not sure--was Mike the Instigator of Fickle Phantom Pickle Hill? In those days Mike, never one to stand still, made it through the escapades of the Ryan girls and still had adventures of his own--most always with that smile on his face. Just how many clubs were there anyways? LOL. Yep. Good Times. Rest in Peace, Mike Ryan---THE One and Only!

CH

Cathie Heft August 26 at 8:11 PM

Rusty, Mike tried to message you on FB to check in last week with you. He was asking me how to send you a message. His FB seems to have disappeared now. I'm glad he had you for a friend.



Tribute Wall

Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022

CH

Cathie Heft posted:

Michael Andrew Ryan I remember our baby brother coming home from the hospital in Fort Smith. I was 3. The story is told that somehow I got my newborn brother out of his crib and sat on the floor to hold him. The years between 1958 and 2022 were enough for Mike. When he had struggles, he reached out to many for help: spiritual, physical, emotional help. Mike came for a visit a week after having a tracheotomy done. We had fun remembering good times with family and friends. He was focused on learning all that he could. Mike liked reading about Einstein. He adopted a quote Einstein said upon refusal of surgery to repair a ruptured blood vessel. Einstein said, "I want to go, when I want to go. It is tasteless to prolong life artificially. I have done my share. It is time to go." Mike's last conversation with Linda and I was - that he could not live life with a trach! Thursday August 18, Mike died from a probable rupture of an aortic aneurism. His prayer was answered - to not live with a trach. Sharon, Linda and I want to sincerely thank all those who have touched Michael's life over the years. He was raised by a "village!"

August 25 at 8:21 PM

CH

Cathie Heft August 30 at 5:38 AM

Marilyn Alley, thank you for your insight. Sharon and I were talking this week about Hanna's Office and wondering if anyone there had heard the news. When I brought him to OK for what became his last week, he was subdued. Tired from his health issues, etc. You all have always given us support when we have needed it the most. Thank you. My heartfelt appreciation to you and your kindness. Love to you, too.

CH

Cathie Heft August 30 at 5:24 AM

Jerry H. Moore. You are absolutely right that Mike was not where he wish he was or ever planned to be his last years. Especially once he had the trach put in. I agree that he finally has the peace he has struggled to find. Thank you for your comments.

MA

Marilyn Alley August 29 at 6:41 AM

My sincere condolences on the passing of Mike. I truly believe that he was not wanting to prolong his earthly time. Prayers and Love to the remaining Ryan families! Marilyn Alley

JM

Jerry H Moore August 29 at 6:19 AM

I remember Mike as my student at Northside. I saw him about four years ago walking down the street. He now has peace that he was looking for many years. Jerry H. Moore

CH

Cathie Heft August 28 at 7:15 PM

Ahhh, we are getting close to that age, Joe - I don't want to be there yet! Thank you, you were good to our parents and we will forever appreciate you for that!

JW

Joe Wasson August 27 at 11:14 AM

Sending to condolences to the Ryan girls. I'll forever remember your family. When someone asked Jerry Lee Lewis about getting old, he said it wasn't the passing of the years that made



Tribute Wall

Michael Andrew Ryan

NOV 29, 1958 - AUG 18, 2022



him old, it was the passing of the hearses. Man, I believe it now.



Linda Ryan August 27 at 2:53 AM

Peace at lastI love you , Linda Lou.....



Cathie Heft August 26 at 8:18 PM

So many memories of our old neighborhood. I get chills thinking of some of Mike's adventures. He lived life "hard." And you were very good to me to help me get set up at UALR! Glad you get some retirement years!



Steve Nolte August 26 at 5:58 AM

Mike was a adventurous guy. The south Q neighborhood would not be the same without him. He was a generous guy. RIP Michael!



Ada Ruth shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 1 at 3:33 PM



Shannon Bradney September 3 at 4:34 AM

So sorry to hear about Michael's passing. Have thought about Michael through the years, wondering what he was doing. He would give me a call occasionally for a ride or show up at work to chat. How fitting to attach Emerson, Lake and Palmer's "Closer to Believing" attached to the video that his niece posted above. Mike loved his music. That was a great time in my life knowing the Ryan family that I surely won't forget. May Michael Andrew Ryan Rest In Peace.Shannon Bradney



Linda Ryan September 2 at 12:14 PM

Michael, I am sad knowing you are no longer in this world, I truly hope you are finally peacefully at rest. Your very sweet sis , Linda Lou.....



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

