



Mike Nail

FEB 12, 1945 - NOV 8, 2025



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Mike Nail

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Edwin Michael “Mike” Nail, age 80, of Fayetteville passed away Saturday November 8, 2025. He passed at home peacefully with his wife and daughters by his side. He was born February 12, 1945.

Mike is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jean Nail; two daughters; Elsa Nail of Fayetteville and Michelle Kehn and her husband Doug of Trenton, Texas; two grandchildren, John Michael Kehn and Aubrey Kehn. One brother Rusty Nail and sister Beth Nail. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Jim Nail. For 29 years, Mike served as the Voice of Arkansas Razorback Basketball, calling over 900 games, including Arkansas’ 1994 National Championship game. In addition, he worked as a sports broadcaster and writer, serving broadcast areas in Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Central Arkansas, Joplin and Oklahoma City. In 2022, Mike was inducted into the Arkansas Sportswriters and Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He also proudly served in the U.S. Navy.

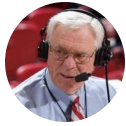
He was honored to be part of the Razorback family and took great pride bringing the excitement of the game to fans wherever they were listening.

The 1994 championship season was a memorable one, marked by a call for which he will always be remembered. Yet, in his eyes, every team he worked with was a champion.

He was deeply grateful to Coach Broyles for entrusting him with the responsibility of play-by-play. While he always looked forward to the future, he never failed to honor and respect the Razorback traditions and legacy of the past.

Mike enjoyed the outdoors. An avid fisherman, his favorite fishing spots included Beaver Lake, the Florida Keys, and Fish Creek, Wisconsin. Mike “donated” several anchors, props and lures to the Green Bay waters off the shores of Fish Creek before investing in a depth finder.

A perfect day for Mike began with an early morning, preparing his boat, poles and



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gear before heading out on the water. He could spend hours fishing, content and at peace, catching the day's meal that he would later clean and cook himself. When dinner was served, he was always the last to fill his plate. He took pride from watching his family and friends enjoy the fresh catch of the day.

A little closer to home, you might have found Mike reading John Grisham and James Patterson novels, feeding his backyard birds, playing golf, or working on a jigsaw puzzle. Mike especially enjoyed watching his grandkids grow up and spending time with family at the lake house on Beaver Lake. In years when the Arkansas spirit squad Christmas party was held at Mike and Jean's house, Mike made sure that Santa dropped in at the party. They say Santa sounded a lot like Mike.

In his retirement speech, he stood center court at Bud Walton Arena and thanked coaches, players and especially the fans—those at home and those in seats. It was a moment that captured everything he was about: gratitude, humility, and the love for the game and the people who shared it with him. He gave his heart to Arkansas, for generations of fans who will never forget his passion and pride. Now, he's watching from above with the best seat in the house.

Visitation will be 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. Sunday November 23rd at Moore's Chapel in Fayetteville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Dolphin Research Center, Grassy Key, Florida at

<https://drc.givecloud.co/general-donation>

Or a charity of one's choice

To place an online tribute, please visit www.bernafuneralhomes.com



Events


Mike Nail

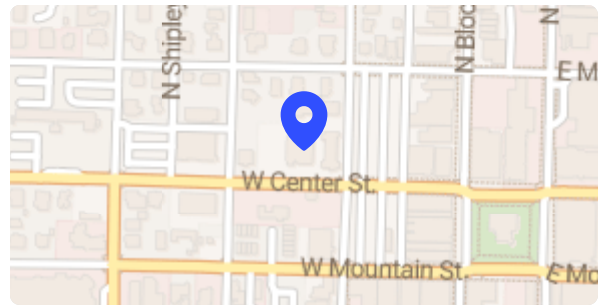
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Visitation

 **Sunday**, November 23, 2025

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

 **Moore's Chapel Funeral Home**
206 West Center St., Fayetteville AR 72701





Tribute Wall

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Luann W. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Mike.



November 30 at 5:28 PM



Elsa Nail December 4 at 10:22 AM
Thank you, Luann. He would love this.



Amy Gourley posted:

In loving memory of Mike,I will always remember the day we met in 2016. From that moment, I knew you were someone truly special. It didn't take long for me to realize that you would become one of my favorite people. Mike, you brought so much joy into my life, and it was a privilege to know and care for you.You hold a special place in my heart, and I miss you more than words can express. Thank you for being my friend; I love you, buddy.To Jean and family, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Mike was incredibly special to me, and I will forever cherish our time together.With deepest sympathy,Amy Gourley

November 24 at 2:48 PM



Elsa Nail December 4 at 10:26 AM
Amy, He loved you!! You were always so much help to dad and mom. You meant a lot to my dad and we appreciate you so much. Thank you for coming to the visitation.



Beverly Elliott posted:

Mike will be greatly missed. Much love to all, Jean. So sorry to lose such a great one. (I will be out of town) Bev(Beverly (Woods) Elliott)

November 18 at 10:31 AM



Rod And Melinda Moore sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Nail family.



November 18 at 9:30 AM



Elsa Nail December 4 at 10:27 AM
Thank you so very much for the beautiful Peace Lily.



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Melinda Moore posted:

What an amazing man and family!!! We have so many wonderful memories of Mike and Jean from my college years-they made the U of A home for me! They poured their hearts into so many young people and made us feel like family! Love and hugs to Jean, Michelle, and Elsa. ❤️-Rod and Melinda

November 18 at 9:19 AM



Deborah Adkins lit a candle in honor of Mike.

TO JEAN& TO DAUGHTERS I WAS SEW SORRY TO HERE ADOUT MIKEPASSING I KNOW HE IS WITH THE LORD & HE IS MY LATE PARENT SIN HEAVEN TO JEAN YOUR SEW NICE TO ME DEBORAH ADKINS& MYPARENTS IN OUR 50TH STATE IN DECEMBER OF 1987 ON THURSDAYDECEMBER 3RD/1987 LOVE DEBORAH ADKINS



November 17 at 9:53 AM



Nancy A. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mike.



November 14 at 6:54 PM



Tanya Mims shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Mike was such a precious man!!! He and Jean were always so good to us and good for us! I miss our Christmas parties at their house and all the other wonderful times and memories shared! I'm sending the biggest hugs and prayers to Jean, Michelle and Elsa!



November 14 at 10:30 AM



Steve Foster posted:

Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate. We have the Watch.

November 13 at 10:03 AM



Tribute Wall

Mike Nail

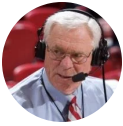
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Karen Olsen posted:

I will always be grateful for Mike and Jean's influence in my life during my college years. The support, the encouragement, the life-on-life mentorship, the cheer memories and the sports broadcasting moments... As I always told Mike, "Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a 'Daddy Nail'". Thank you, Mike and Jean, for everything.

November 12 at 12:10 PM



Tanya Mims shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 14 at 10:30 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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