



Michael R. Burns

June 3, 1956 - June 13, 2024

Michael R. Burns passed away on June 13, 2024 in Fresno, California after a courageous battle with colon cancer. His recent diagnosis was a result of his very sudden decline in health. Michael was only 68 years old. His family is profoundly saddened by his loss.

Michael was born on June 3, 1956 to James and Peggy Burns in his beloved city of New York, New York. He was the youngest of four children: late Jimmy; Marilyn; and late Veronica “Ronnie.” After attending Memorial High School, Michael began working in the health insurance industry. Michael met Janet Burns while they were both working at MetLife Insurance in New York City in 1976. They moved to San Francisco, California in 1977 – where his love for Bay Area sports teams began. Their daughter, Laura, was born in 1984. Michael, Janet, and Laura moved to Fresno, California in 1988. Michael and Janet were married from 1981 to 1996.

Michael continued to work in the health insurance industry as a Claims Examiner. He worked for Principal Financial Group where he enjoyed playing in the company softball games. After his tenure at Principal Financial Group, Michael invested 30-plus years at Health Comp. He was a devoted worker and confident in his abilities.

In 2016, Michael committed himself to an 18-month program (12-month

residential and 6-month aftercare) at the Fresno Rescue Mission. Although the program was admittedly very challenging and required self-discipline, Michael completed it. The program helped Michael not only find sobriety but more importantly, a relationship with God. After completing the program through the Fresno Rescue Mission, Michael was very active in pursuing his relationship with the Lord. He experienced a few different churches and built many relationships. Michael was devoted to various community outreaches and ministries. Michael was most passionate about the Men's Ministry and Celebrate Recovery both through his most recent and frequented church, Cornerstone. And although Michael still battled his struggles with sobriety, his faith and love for the Lord was unwavering.

Family Who Went Before:

Michael was preceded in death by father, James Burns, mother, Peggy Burns, siblings, Jimmy Burns, Veronica "Ronnie" Sweeney and brother-in-law, Henry Grell (Marilyn).

Family He Left Behind:

Michael is survived by his daughter, Laura Gomez, Son-in-law, Art Gomez Jr. and four granddaughters: McKenzie, Aria, Sadie, and Emilia.

As mentioned, Michael is the youngest of four children. He leaves behind his sister, Marilyn; Brother-in-Law, Lucky (Ronnie); Nieces; Tara (Ronnie) and Dana (Jimmy), Nephews; Stephen and Chris (Marilyn), Manuel White, Christian Lopez, and many more family members and friends. And although they had since divorced, Michael was always considered family and vice versus.

Laura and Art Gomez are forever grateful to Michael's friend & neighbor, Roger Coppola as well as Pastor Dave from Cornerstone Church, for their invaluable support and surrounding Michael in love in his last months.

A Memorial Service will take place on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 10:00 am at the Cornerstone Conference Center, 1525 Fulton St., Fresno, CA 93721. A luncheon will immediately follow. Those attending the memorial service are encouraged to wear their favorite team's sports attire to celebrate Michael's life. Anyone who knows Michael knows that he was a true Gold-blooded 49er Faithful Fan. He also loved the San Francisco Giants and Golden State Warriors. He had a true passion for sports, all around.

Michael's departure is felt by his entire family and countless others who loved him. The family deeply appreciates your support during this difficult time and asks that you make contributions to our memorial fund in lieu of flowers and contribute by sharing memories of our beloved Michael on the Chapel of Light website. The funds raised will help with expenses to cover the memorial service as well contribute back to the Fresno Rescue Mission and Cornerstone Church which both played a pivotal role in Michael's walk with Christ. If you prefer, you may also donate directly to either organization in Michael's memory.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 10. 10:00 AM (PT)

Cornerstone Conference Center
1525 Fulton Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Tribute Wall

JA

“ I knew Michael for many years. We worked together at Met life in San Francisco and then at Healthcomp in Fresno. He was a great guy and we shared our love for the Niners and Giants. Even though I moved up to Rocklin, Ca. We kept in touch through Facebook. RIP Mike, you will be missed. 🙏🙏🙏

Joseph Atwood - June 26, 2024 at 10:59 PM