



## Michael J. Melby

March 27, 1956 - December 27, 2019

Hi, this is Michael Melby, and since you're reading this, my time here on this little ball of earth is finished. I want to share with you that it has been a great trip!

I was born in Appleton Wisconsin in 1956 to Thomas and Joyce Melby. I had an idyllic upbringing with few cares or concerns. Great schools and a wonderful community.

It was my father who suggested a career in pharmacy. No one seems to have any idea why my dad thought pharmacy would be the perfect fit for me. After serving in the Navy, I obtained my undergraduate pharmacy degree at Ferris State College in 1982 and then went on to receive my Master's Degree and do a residency in Hospital Pharmacy Administration in 1985 at the University of Wisconsin. There I met five lifelong friends and brothers from a different mother who most fully enriched my life, the 'Guys with Ties.'

I desired to practice where medical care was the best in the country and decided that would be in Boston. I moved to the East coast in 1985 to take a position at the Tufts New England Medical Center. I worked as a clinical pharmacy specialist in general surgery. I felt I didn't fit in very well with the New England culture so after three years I moved back to Michigan.

Grand Rapids Michigan was next for me in 1988. I was promoted into pharmacy administration, first as an assistant director and then as a director. After 7 years I decided that I had had enough winter and gray skies and researched a location that would support my golf habit with 300+ sunny days and year-around play. I chose Tucson, Arizona and moved there in 1995.

I thought moving to Tucson was about golf, but as it turns out I met my wife Maire there! We have carved out a wonderful life together and have known love we didn't realize possible. I couldn't be more fortunate than to have lived with my soulmate!

Sadly in 2002 I was diagnosed with a melanoma on the back of my neck. It was surgically removed at University Medical Center and did not require radiology or chemotherapy. How ironic that the melanoma would return after 17 years and cause my demise!

I moved to Indianapolis in 2004 and eventually to Bloomington in 2006. I had a variety of wonderfully fulfilling positions at Bloomington Hospital/IU Health Bloomington. It was the longest career tenure I ever had and I never experienced a day of dissatisfaction or unhappiness in that organization.

The past two and a half years have been dedicated to the new Regional Academic Health Center building project. It will be my greatest disappointment to not see the first patient occupy the new facility. So much hard work and such masterful strategic planning has gone into the building that I am confident the facility will fulfill all of our community's dreams and aspirations.

I am survived by my wife Maire Quilter, and my brothers Gary, and Tom. Many people have had a tremendous influence on my life and I so appreciate every opportunity I have had to learn from them. I could not have asked for a better journey on this earth.

Michael

There will be a memorial service on Sat, Jan 25, at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Fee Lane. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in memory of Michael Melby to the Regional Academic Health Center "Cancer Center Building Fund." Make checks payable to IU Health Foundation, PO Box 7168, Indianapolis IN 46207. In the memo line, please designate your gift by writing: Melby Memorial - RAHC Cancer Center Building Fund #6644.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

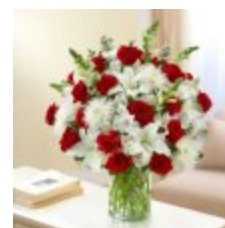
JAN **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Church  
2120 N. Fee Ln  
Bloomington,, IN 47408

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sincerest Sorrow - Red and White was purchased for the family of Michael J. Melby.*



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January 24, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ *It was so great to meet Michael and Maire in Scotland again last year.  
Michael was so positive despite an awful prognosis.  
He was such a nice guy; I so hoped for a miracle, which just didn't happen.  
Michael, you were so brave.  
Heartfelt sympathies to Maire on your loss.  
Thinking of you and all those who mourn your passing.*

*Rob Strachan  
Aberdeenshire  
Scotland*

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**Rob Strachan** - January 19, 2020 at 06:31 PM



*Thank you Rob. We so enjoyed exploring with you! Michael was so happy... He was the happiest I saw him the entire time he was ill. When we were walking back to the car after visiting one of the standing stone circles, I looked back to check on him and he had a radiant smile on his face. We so appreciated the time you took to spend with us while we were visiting.*

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**Máire Quilter** - February 22, 2020 at 10:42 AM

NR

“ I worked for several years with Michael at IUHB. Turns out he and I were both from Appleton WI, two years apart, but attended different high schools so we hadn't Known each other. He remained a huge Packers fan! I will most remember his huge smile. Lit up his face. Huge loss for all who knew him.

Nancy Richman - January 19, 2020 at 03:51 PM

TI

“ Just learned of Michael's passing. Thoughts and prayers for his family. Michael and I served on the Stone Belt Board together. Incredible amount of knowledge that he was willing to share. Will miss him greatly.

Trish Ierino - January 19, 2020 at 08:55 AM

EM

“ Maire,  
I am so sorry for your loss and will be thinking of you. I never got the chance to meet Michael but I loved your stories....the dynamic duo! I wish you comfort during this time and always,  
Emily McClain (OT)

Emily McClain - January 13, 2020 at 10:56 AM

PM

“ Pam MacLaughlin lit a candle in memory of Michael J. Melby



Pam MacLaughlin - January 10, 2020 at 09:33 AM

MC

“ I worked with Michael indirectly  
He had a great sense of humor.  
I admired his sharp mind and high energy level. He was fun to be  
around and he developed co-workers who will continue his legacy.

Mark Crain

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**Mark Crain** - January 03, 2020 at 08:19 PM

ET

“ I met Michael in 2007 when Volunteers in Medicine was started  
locally. He helped support us there in our efforts to insure the best  
care possible in meeting the medication needs of our patients. Over  
the years I have had the privilege of working with him through a  
couple of difficult situations that he handled with finesse and  
aplomb. I have especially enjoyed watching him manage the RAHC  
project. He had an amazing mind, and a heart of compassion. He is  
one of those rare people I have met in my life with the ability to  
quickly narrow in on the issues at hand as well as offer new ways to  
think about solving them, and he always had a long term plan. I  
never observed him to lose his composure. Thank you, Michael, for  
everything. You have left the world a better place.

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**Elizabeth Thompson** - January 03, 2020 at 12:31 PM

JC

“ It is with a heavy heart that I read of Michael's passing. I worked with 'pharmacy' Michael through ASHP (American Society of Health-system Pharmacy) and he was indeed a leader nationally and everywhere he went. I am struck by what a gift he was able to give by writing his own obituary. Something most cannot or do not choose to do, yet a great comfort to all. He expresses great joy for life until the end. My prayers are with you.

*Jan Carmichael*

*Reno, NV*

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**JANNET CARMICHAEL** - January 03, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ In His Honor Pedestal Arrangement was purchased for the family of Michael J. Melby.



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January 03, 2020 at 11:08 AM

BG

“ I am so sad to hear of Michael's passing. We met during his tenure at Bloomington and mine with MCKESSON as a pharmacist consultant. I enjoyed every meeting and interaction. He was always pleasant with a smile.

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**barbara giacomelli** - January 02, 2020 at 06:58 PM