



Michael Stephens

July 5, 1954 - December 14, 2014

Concluding a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis, Michael Stephens died on December 14, 2014 in Bloomington, Indiana at the age of 60 surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his wife, Deborah Collins Stephens, his daughter, Lily Stephens, his son, Aaron Stephens and Miari Skipper whom he loved as a daughter. He also leaves behind his sister, Billie Wellman, his brother Richard Stephens along with beloved nieces and nephews Guy Wellman, Drew Wellman, Michael Stephens, Matt Stephens, Kate Stephens and Daniel Greiger.

Michael was born July 5, 1954 in Rensselaer, Indiana to father Willard Stephens and mother Lillian Hale who predeceased him. Michael graduated from Indiana University and moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1980 where he created a very successful career in apparel manufacturing. He and his family returned to Indiana in 2006 where he spent the last years of his life surrounded by family and friends who loved him dearly.

Michael married college classmate Deborah Collins on September 3, 1980 in Lake Tahoe, California. They created a wonderful life together and were blessed with two children. When diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in fall 2000, Michael was given 5 years to live. Michael's relentless optimism, his courage and his

strong will made him among the longest living patients in the nation with this disease. All those who interacted with him left filled with inspiration. In his final days Michael's sense of humor, his smile and his kindness were always present.

Michael requested to be cremated. His ashes will be spread in Half Moon Bay, California and also on Lake Maxincukee in Culver, Indiana. A Celebration of Life for all whom wish to join will be held Saturday December 20th from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Indiana University Memorial Union (Federal Room) on the Indiana University campus. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that people consider a donation in Michael's honor to Bloomington Hospice House and/or Pulmonary Fibrosis Association. The family would like to thank Indiana University Health Hospice Group and especially Sheryl Gordon and Dr. Robert Stone for their extraordinary and loving care of Michael and his family. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

JA

“ *Deb and Family,
You are all in our prayers. Mike was known for his smile, love for fun, basketball and his friends. I will have to call and tell you a story about what he and the guys did on our jr. Class trip! He may have told you. Although we may not have stayed in touch very much he will always be remembered. Juan, Frank, and Steve have shared his health struggles and I know he stayed strong. I hope the words of comfort, hugs, and sharing stories bring you strength. Know God's love is with you,*

Jacki(Gordon) and Dan Frain

Jacki Frain - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

NE

“ *Deborah and Stephens family,*

Mike was a classmate of mine at Culver. He was always fun to be around and a lot of fun to watch on the basketball court! I can imagine nothing more than Mike battling to the very end! He will be missed by you all and even though we lost touch with him from our high school days, he will be missed by us also! God bless you all as you celebrate Mike's life.

Ned Overmyer - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

GL

“ *Deborah and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. May you take comfort in one another and may God be with you at this time.*

Glendus Dowell - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

ME

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Mike's family during this time. Mike was always so full of life and made going to school and growing up fun. He was a wonderfully gifted athlete and was very competitive. As with anyone who knew Mike, you will never forget him. Again, my thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

Mel Thomas - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

CI

“ Mike was a handsome, full of life young man when I knew him at Culver and that is how he will be remembered in my mind. Glad to hear he will have ashes spread in Lake Maxikuckee. Sorry for your loss

Cindy Riestler - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

DB

“ Dear Deborah and family, David and I are so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was such a wonderful man, as I'm sure you all know. David was amazed at his strength and ability to keep on smiling throughout this terrible disease. Although we can not be there in person to say goodbye, please know our hearts and spirits are with all of you during this devastating loss.
David and Bobbi Schrimsher

David and Bobbi Schrimsher - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM