



## Michael "Mike" J. Tinsley

November 5, 1951 - June 5, 2020

BLOOMINGTON - Michael "Mike" J. Tinsley, 68, of Bloomington, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 5, 2020 at 11:00 pm at his home after a heroic battle against cancer.

He was born in Normal, on November 5, 1951, to Waldo E. and M. Jane Lohnes Tinsley. He is preceded in death by his parents, his Uncle George Lohnes, and his half-brother Bill (Vicki) Tinsley.

He married Carol Houck Christenson Tinsley at their home in Bloomington on October 4, 2009. She survives along with their daughter Kelly (Mark) Simon of Aurora and their son, Corey (Heather) Christenson of Pontiac. He also leaves five adoring grandchildren: Christian and Aubree Simon, and Aiden, Hunter, and Cale Christenson. Mike is survived by two aunts - Joyce Theobald and Mona Lohnes - and three dear cousins - Kathleen Emery, Colleen (Larry) Harris, and Charlene Emmons and their families.

Mike grew up in the Bloomington-Normal area, and his roots there run deep. An important part of Mike's legacy is the impressive catalog of clients and friends he established in his 22 years of business as the owner of Mike Tinsley Heating & Air Conditioning. His dedication and loyalty to them were highly respected, and their friendships and stories are filled with love and admiration. They were more than just clients, as Mike could even tell you not only the HVAC service he provided but also the names of the pets he encountered on each call.

Mike's many interests included restoring pinball and gaming machines, caring for their Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (Eli), and spending time with family and friends at The Farm in Mazon, the athletic arenas in and around Pontiac, or the performance halls and gyms in the Chicago suburbs supporting his children and grandchildren. 'A kind and generous heart.'

Anyone who knew Mike knows that the cancer could not touch his heart, and a Celebration of Life is planned for the fall of 2020 at The Farm. Kibler-Brady-Ruestman

Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

In lieu of a visitation or flowers, Mike arranged for donations to be made to The Farm Building Memorial (c/o Carol Tinsley, The Farm Building Memorial 1907 Owens Drive Bloomington IL 61701) at The Farm property outside of Mazon, Illinois, where his ashes will eventually be spread. It was there that Mike found happiness and joy along the Mazon River while fishing, riding the trails, and enjoying the peaceful surroundings with family.

# Comments

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“ You were always there for us Mike. On numerous occasions, way back in the 80's, you invited us to your home to play volleyball in your back yard, and pinball inside. Your many friends loved gathering there. Thank you! You also maintained our comfort by servicing our furnace and a/c at home, and Rick's HVAC at work. Thanks again! You are missed, and our condolences to the family.

Rick & Mary Skelley

Rick Skelley - June 12, 2020 at 11:15 AM

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“ "As a whole" as Mike would say- he is so VERY deeply missed by all of us at Stout Chiropractic. All our love to Carol and family!



Jessie Taylor - June 11, 2020 at 12:40 PM

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“ Hi everyone. My name is Steve Knuth. First let me say that I send my condolences to the family that I know loved Mike very much and was there for him good and bad in his cancer journey.

I have posted some information on Facebook but for record let me repeat myself and share some other memories. I can not tell you when Mike and I first met. You see we were probably both 3 years old, four at the most. Mike's mom Jane was divorced from his dad or was soon to be divorced. My parents owned a big old house at 1007 S Fell in Normal, Illinois. Mike and his mom lived in an apartment upstairs. The house was second from the corner of Glenn Avenue. Glenn School was for the most part directly behind our house. I have an older sister Linda and younger brother Gary. Myself, the middle child, was almost exactly the same age as Mike, just two months separating us. Of course not remembering the very early years, I can tell you Mike and I entered kindergarten together and were together all through high school, graduating from NCHS in 1969. Back again to our younger years, Mike was like a part of our family. We were always together. My brother also when three wasn't a crowd. We had a huge family living next to, the Bagnell's, who had seven children. So it is without saying with that many kids together in two houses we had a really good time. Maybe sometime later I can share in more detail what all we did. Some things I wouldn't let my kids do that's for sure. Back then things were different and we had a lot of freedom, often without mom(s) knowledge. Mike's mom was nurse for the Mclean Co Nursing Home. Her hours did not match up with grade school hours so Mike was generally with us in the morning before school and then a few hours after school, at least until Mike got older. I have memories when we would all be home from school together for the flu, measles, and other child illnesses. My mom was like a second mother to Mike. She would nurse us all back to health the same time. We were in Cub Scouts together and my mom (Dorothy) and Jane were Den Mothers. Lots of memories, lots of fun.

Jumping ahead past high school, Mike and I both entered ISU in the fall of 1969. My memory is not perfect to this, but i know Mike soon decided that college wasn't for him. I know at some point thereafter he pursued his interests in HVAC. I remember him coming home with book after book on the subject, self teaching as much as he could. I was very proud of him, especially after he achieved journeyman status and went into his own business. I would see his truck all around town.

Although family, careers, etc. pushed our closeness apart over the years, we always remained friends. Zorbas Restaurant was frequented by both of us, as an example, where we got to catch up on each others lives.

I will close now in saying Mike was truly like a brother to me. I was proud to call him my friend and I will miss him dearly.

God bless you all