



Michael Leslie Helfand

April 12, 1953 - December 28, 2024

Michael “Mike” Leslie Helfand, age 71, of Drummond Island, Michigan, passed away on December 28, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Mike was born on April 12, 1953, in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Samuel and Helen (Wiggins) Helfand.

Mike married his wife Melody on November 29, 1996, on Drummond Island, and she joined him in owning and operating The Gourmet Galley, Drummond Island Fudge and Confectionery, and their other various businesses, initially established in 1988.

Mike especially loved cooking for customers and family, developing new recipes, designing and creating model train sets, and rearranging and restructuring the layout of their store.

Mike was a brilliant, innovative entrepreneur who always had several irons in the fire. Mike’s passion for seeking to bring new things to Drummond Island was ongoing.

Remaining to cherish Mike’s memory are his wife, Melody; stepchildren, Joshua Deal and Bethany (fiancé Jeff Burton) Deal; and his close, beloved friends (you know who you are).

Preceding Mike in death are his parents, Samuel and Helen Helfand; and his sister, Sherry Pieper.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at the Drummond Island Lutheran Church with service at 2:00PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests remembrances be made in the form of contributions to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.
Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Drummond Island Lutheran Church
29515 E. Channel Rd
Drummond Island, MI 49726

Tribute Wall

CT

“ We were so sorry to read of Michael's death in the Drummond Island Digest. He was certainly a fixture at the Port O' Call and we always enjoyed talking with him. Melody, know that we are holding you closely in our prayers. May God's love and peace give you comfort and strength in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. Hugs, Paul and Clara Thompson

Clara D Thompson - February 09, 2025 at 03:53 PM

RR

“ I always enjoyed Mike's passion for sharing his knowledge on the products he sold and anything new he was exploring to enhance business. I'll cherish our family ice cream trips and drone updates the most :)

Melody & Family, May you find joy, comfort and precious example as you reflect on his life, his passion and all the fun memories he will be remembered fondly by the multitude of people and families he came in contact with.

Rich Rollis

Rich Rollis - January 06, 2025 at 02:47 PM

SC

“ Very sorry to hear about Mike's passing. My parents Glen and Dee Chrisler lived on Drummond Island for decades before their passing. I have many memories of his store, restaurant and family. My love to Melody.

Suzanne Chrisler-Peterson - January 06, 2025 at 02:11 PM



“ We will reflect with sorrowful joy as we remember Mike throughout the years, his good humor and brilliant business acumen were some things to aspire to.

Throughout the years of knowing him, it has been a pleasure catching up anytime I could stop by. Stories flew along with good cheer.

I hope and pray for Melody, Josh and Bethany that the love and light of Gods Peace cloak you in this time of loss.

I hope that all of his loved ones can receive the peace and comfort intended by all of our loving caring thoughts and prayers...

Bill and Cathi Shaul

Cathi Benson-Shaul - January 05, 2025 at 03:16 PM

PM

“ Mike did the flowers for our wedding on the island in 2018 in addition to making so many great meals for my friends and family over the years during our visits. We will miss seeing him. We are thinking of Melody and the family.

Paul Milligan - January 05, 2025 at 08:55 AM

SP

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mike this summer and taking him to treatment in Petoskey. He shared many stories of his life with me, Mike had a full and many adventures through his life. My favorite memory...his smile and hugs. Mike I love you and will keep you in my prayers and heart ❤️



Sara Parish - January 04, 2025 at 06:48 PM

DS

“ Mike has been a part of our lives for about 30 years. When we met he was the bait and tackle guy, that also did flowers :). He was always up for a challenge, bringing another diverse product to his ever growing and changing business. Year after year we would come to the island and visit Mike to see what was new, but more importantly to say hi to a friend. Mike, and then you Melody, became people who we shared ups and downs with, and a lot of laughs. Always remembering our favorite ice cream orders and tracking the big events in each others lives, on and off the island. I will remember Mike as a big guy with a big heart to match. His absence will be felt by many, who I know had similar experiences. Peace to you all, to all who cared for him, and to all who will miss him. God's assurance of his life without suffering is a comfort we can be thankful for!

Deborah Simmons - January 04, 2025 at 06:47 PM

SW

“ Swaye lit a candle in memory of Michael Leslie Helfand



Swaye - January 04, 2025 at 05:29 PM

CJ

“ My parents purchased property on Drummond about 30 years ago and almost every year since then we have vacationed there. It has been an annual tradition to stop at Mike’s place for ice cream and snacks. My kids grew up going there and my grandkids have also grown up going there. Several years after we started vacationing there I got to know Melody at Keryx and so our visit to their Galley became like a family reunion. I love this family deeply and mourn with them, but not as the world grieves because I know the hope we have in Christ and we shall be reunited in glory for eternity! I know Mike is no longer suffering and is enjoying that place where there is no more pain or tears. Praying for the sweet comfort of the Spirit to minister to the family as they transition to their new normal. All our love. Shane & Chris

Christine Johnson - January 04, 2025 at 02:44 PM

AN

“ Melody, Bethany, Josh

Praying for you that God will comfort you. You will feel His presence and peace.

Lonnie and Alice Newton

Alice Newton - January 03, 2025 at 01:25 PM