



Michael David Wilds

January 22, 1964 - January 12, 2021

Michael David Wilds, age 56, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away on January 12, 2021, at home with his wife Susan. He was born on January 22, 1964, in Sault Ste. Marie to Marlow and Bonnie (Williamson) Wilds.

Mike grew up in Sault Ste. Marie. He attended Sault High School and played hockey for the Sault Amateur Hockey league, Sault High School and the Soo Indians Junior B team. Mike was a young boy when his father passed away and was told by a family friend that he was now the 'Man of the House' which, to Mike, meant that he had to go to work, and he did just that. After high school Mike went to work for Ed Jacques Construction, traveling throughout the Midwest for work. He then started his own construction company and began building numerous homes for his family, friends and many residents in and around Sault Ste. Marie. Mike also worked as a corrections officer for the State of Michigan from 1988 until his retirement in 2016. He served a portion of his career in corrections as the MCO president. After his retirement from the MDOC, Mike was able to work doing his favorite job at the George Kemp Marina, getting to spend time with all his fellow boat enthusiasts. He was an avid boater and could navigate the local waters as well as anyone. He was well known for being a very social guy and could make friends with anyone.

In January of 1984, Mike met the soon to be love of his life, Susan McDowell. Mike and Susan were married on September 19, 1987 at the Holy Name of

Mary Pro-Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie. The Wilds family grew with the arrival of their son, Derek, followed two years later by daughter, Marquita. The most recent precious addition was their beloved granddaughter, Willa.

As hard as Mike worked, he still found time to be with his family and friends enjoying many activities including snowmobiling, hunting, boating, camping, and fishing. Family vacations included trips to Sea World in Ohio, Disney Parks in Florida, the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky, the Wisconsin Dells, and many trips boating on the Cheboygan/Indian river system, Torch Lake, and the St. Mary's River. Weekend rides combing the back roads around the Eastern U.P. with his family bird hunting was also a favorite pastime.

After retirement Mike and Susan enjoyed a trip to Nashville and were also able to travel to the Florida Keys several times enjoying the warmth and fishing. Mike's favorite place to be though, was the family cabin in Brimley, here he got to spend many special moments with his family and friends. Times that we all will cherish. He also loved the family hunting camp in Rudyard that he built with his brother-in-law.

Mike had a need for all things with speed. He loved his boats, snowmobiles, four wheelers, and side by sides. He had been referred to by friends as the 'King of Toys'. Mike had a very strong interest in the unknown, Susan would often tell him to believe in all things seen, and unseen. For him this included Big Foot, aliens, and even ghosts. He still had a bucket list of things he wanted to accomplish like finding gold, silver, and the ever-elusive Sasquatch.

As so many of us know, Mike was a very loving and generous son, husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. He will be missed and continue to live on in the memories of all that knew him. Susan would tell Mike he was generous to a fault, but that just made her love him more.

Michael is survived by his wife Susan. Children, Derek (fiancé Elia Lonestar) Wilds of Glendale, California, Marquita (Paul) Mullen and granddaughter, Wilhelmina Faye Mullen of Sault Ste. Marie, Rachael (Chad) Brunet and their sons Bauer and Easton of Indianapolis, Indiana. Siblings, Shelley (Rudy) Ronquist of Sault Ste. Marie, Jennifer Wilds of Eden Prairie, Texas, and Nathan (Amy Rajewski) Wilds of Midland Michigan. Niece, Keaton Wilds. Brothers-in-law, Gary (Carrie) McDowell, Bob (Bernadette) McDowell, Ron McDowell, Jim McDowell, and Kevin (Kristen) McDowell. Sisters-in-law, Mary Kay (Ernie) Aho, JoAnn (Walt) Betcher, Karen (Dick) Boncek, and Annette (Bob) Malaski. Numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Marlow and Bonnie, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Glen and Theresa McDowell.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 26th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie, to be followed by a private family Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. The family strongly requests adherence to the guidelines for Covid-19 be followed. Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in the spring, with a Celebration of Life to be held at the Brimley Cabin this summer.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Big Foot Association (just kidding). Memorial contributions may be made to whatever charity or organization you hold dear in your heart.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 South M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **26**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral
337 Maple St.
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael David Wilds*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Michael David Wilds*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Michael David Wilds*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *You always knew if you were working the shift with Mike there was gonna be lots of laughs/jokes & the day was gonna fly by. Mike had a way of making sure no one took themselves too serious. Had many conversations about the great unknown beyond, Roswell, Area 51 and the things Mike had seen. Godspeed on your cosmic journey my friend.*

My condolences to the Wilds family, Stan Helms.

Stan Helms - January 26, 2021 at 11:27 AM

JC

This is late I know I'm sorry but I really needed to tell this memory I have of Michael. I was a very good childhood friend of the Wilds family. On Saturday mornings Michael's idea of breakfast was a giant bowl, and a whole box of cereal while watching Sat. Morning cartoons. I'll never forget that. Just one of the many Blessings I had while spending alot of my young childhood with the Wilds family. Janet Roy Clow

JANET M ROY CLOW - April 11, 2021 at 10:35 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Michael David Wilds.*



January 25, 2021 at 02:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael David Wilds.*



January 22, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael David Wilds.*



January 21, 2021 at 09:35 PM



“ *Mike was one of the good guys. Always helpful and just knew how to keep things light. He definitely was generous to a fault. He help so many people, including my family, be able to build a house. and make it affordable. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him RIP my friend. Gary & Peggy Suriano*

Gary Suriano - January 21, 2021 at 10:35 AM

SH

“ I recall a trip up to visit when Mike offered to take us for a boat ride, but some could ride with Shelley. I chose Shelley as I knew of Mike’s love of speed. He went flying by us a couple times with a boat full of the more brave amount us 😊. God speed cousin Mike.

susan howe - January 20, 2021 at 10:08 PM

BB

“ I’m truly saddened by the passing of your beloved Mike, husband, father, grandfather & brother. My thoughts and prayers to the family at the difficult time.

Becky Brockman - January 20, 2021 at 02:07 PM

TH

“ I was a classmate of Mike’s through high school and while we were never really close, he always impressed me as one of those people who always had a smile on his face. When our paths did cross he was also so much fun to talk to and was genuinely a kind spirit.

A good man gone far to soon.

To his family and loved ones - hold on to all of those good memories for he left a lot of them behind.

*Tom Haydon
Sault High Class of 1982*

Tom Haydon - January 19, 2021 at 07:12 PM

BH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. My condolences and prayers to all.

Beverly Harwood - January 19, 2021 at 03:07 PM

RK

“ Sorry for the loss of a good man.
As a youth, I have a lot of fond memories of the cabin in Brimley when Mike and I built the 1st sauna we had no idea what we were doing but it didn't burn down lol
I worked with Mike for several years on the road, he always worked hard and we always found time to have fun.
We lost touch over the years but I will always think of him as a good friend, he will be missed.
Richard Kopitsch

Richard Kopitsch - January 19, 2021 at 02:39 PM

BH

“ Bonnie J Hewer lit a candle in memory of
Michael David Wilds



Bonnie J Hewer - January 19, 2021 at 01:14 PM

DZ

“ Mike was a great guy. I remember the days of
slashing Ashmun and his brownish truck with it
all raised, playing his music loud. Those were
the days. Then I worked with his sister and
his Mom and got to know his family well even
spent one Christmas at his house with the
family. He always had a smile and was always very kind.
My sincere sympathy to his family and friends, know your in my
thoughts and prayers. RIP Mike gone too soon but not forgotten.
Kiss your mom for me



Debbie Zabelka - January 18, 2021 at 09:15 PM

PO

“ *RIP Mike. Condolences to you and your family Susan. Mike was quite the character. When he was around - people were always laughing. Keep laughing Mike that grin of yours always made me smile.*

Patti Osterhout

Patti K Osterhout - January 18, 2021 at 08:21 PM

VM

“ *I knew Mike only from HTF he was a fun character, didn't surprise me to see he was President of MCO God knows he tried the union many times in his career. We both loved to fish, hunt and build that was lots of good stories we shared. Mike was a Big Ford truckman, had a 250 diesel and I had a Ford 250 with a V10 we had a run off and I won. Well that didn't settle well he went out and chipped that diesel truck and the next time we run off he won his smirk was worth a million.*

Last sotry Mike was worried he was losing his hair it really seen to bother him I'd go to mikes unit for coffee but before I'd get their I'd pluck a few hairs from my head. While I was getting a cup of coffee I'd put those hairs on Mike's desk. As we talked i would say damn Mike is that some of your hair on that desk!! He look at it then me and say you SOB that's not funny.

My deepest Condolences to his Wife and family may he R.I.P.

VERNON MALKOWSKI

Vernon Malkowski - January 18, 2021 at 07:16 PM

CK

Mike was always entertaining when he would come into the HR Office at the Correctional Facility. He always had a story that would keep us laughing the rest of the day. He will be sadly missed. My condolences to Susan and Family. RIP

Cheryl Kutzley - January 18, 2021 at 10:07 PM

PF

“ *Condoléances to you and your family Shelley.
Penny Fillion*

Penny Fillion - January 18, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family
of Michael David Wilds.*



January 18, 2021 at 07:13 PM

JN

“ *RIP my friend.
so many amazing memories some at work some not,
One of my favorites, Ryan And I stopped to see if anyone was at the
cabin, a nice day, Mike was putting trim in the cabin and he showed
Ryan how to cut all the corners so they fit perfect.*

Joe Nault

Joe Paul Nault - January 18, 2021 at 06:21 PM

DC

*We were so sad to hear about Mikes passing. We both worked with
Mike at the MDOC. He was a great guy & always had a smile & giggle.*

Our sympathies to Susan & family & Mikes family.

Deneen & Tom Chase

Deneen Chase - January 18, 2021 at 08:43 PM

DC

Mike will be surely missed. Lot's of good laughs sitting at the DownTowner. A great guy with a big heart. ❤️Peace and prayers to the family. Sincerely Deb and Chris Carroll

Debra Carroll - January 19, 2021 at 06:26 AM

CD

Mike and I hired into Corrections at the same time. Mike was definitely one of the good guys. Fun to be around but could be serious when he had to be. My deepest condolences to his family. You will be missed my friend.

Chris Dougherty - January 22, 2021 at 02:54 PM