



Mr. Michael Eugene Culbreath

May 16, 1961 - February 17, 2021

Michael Eugene (Mike) Culbreath, 59, of Hartsville, suddenly and tragically departed his earthly home on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Mike was born on May 16, 1961, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to William Richard (Bill) Culbreath and Helen Louise (Lawrimore) Culbreath. At just over 11 pounds, he was one of the largest babies born in Horry County Hospital up until that time.

A lifelong South Carolina resident, Mike started school at Ridgeland Elementary School, attended Laurens Elementary for one year, and then continued school in Newberry, from the 5th grade through his high school graduation in 1979. Never one to focus on academics alone, he was an outstanding athlete, stellar tennis player, and a loyal, outgoing friend to all. While living in Newberry, he developed his closest and most enduring friendships, mostly with his traveling softball teams, appropriately named the Outlaws and Bad Company.

Mike originally decided to forego college upon graduating from high school and began work at Central Soya in Newberry. After a year of working in the poultry business and unloading boxcars full of fertilizer, he decided college might be the correct path after all. He attended the University of South Carolina and Spartanburg Methodist College before settling in at Newberry College, where he graduated in 1985. A Physical Education major, he

excelled at intramurals and having a really good time throughout his college years.

It was in 1985 he also met the love of his life and the lady he was destined to spend his life cherishing. Catherine (Kathi) Barefoot was the first person able to tame his wild side (a little) and tolerate his antics (a lot) and they fell hopelessly in love. They were wed on December 8, 1990, and never once left each other's sides. In January of 1995, they welcomed a son, Michael Levi Culbreath, into the world. Levi was the apple of his mother's eye and his father made over.

Mike worked for the SC Department of Transportation, John de la Howe Orphanage (where his mother was raised), and the Abbeville County School System. He culminated his many years working for the state of South Carolina with his retirement in 2014. But, as one given to a life of hard work and not sitting around on his rear end, he immediately started work at Walmart in Greenwood and later transferred to Walmart in Florence when he and Kathi relocated to Hartsville in late 2020.

Mike would tell you his best years were spent working with youth, mostly in the Abbeville School System. He coached youth sports, particularly football, and eventually coached sports at both the middle and high school levels. He drove the bus for all the team sports and developed wonderful relationships with Abbeville's youth that would be the envy of any educator. He was extremely proud of his Abbeville girls' tennis teams and loved his Abbeville Panther football teams with an unbridled passion. He never missed a sporting event if possible and the kids would look for him every time. He loved each and every one of them and he cared about, and kept up with them, long after they graduated. They, in turn, shared that love for him.

Mike loved all animals, particularly his puppies, golf, music of every type,

Nebraska Cornhusker football, and all Newberry Indian (he'd never call them Wolves) athletics. He loved good food and good times. But mostly, he just loved life. He loved his Lord, his Kathi, his Levi, his family, and his friends. He lived every day to the fullest and had no regrets. A man not focused on worldly things or status, he was rich in the wonderful relationships he had with everyone he knew. He always had a smile or a story and absolutely knew no strangers. His huge, genuine laugh was beyond infectious.

Mike was raised in the church and belonged to a church his entire life. But, in true Mike fashion, he didn't just go to church; he worked with youth and other groups and truly lived a Christian life. No one who knew him doubted his faith or steadfast moral compass. To those around him, he truly epitomized the role model for all things good. His passion for life and doing good, and fun, things was an example for all. The void he leaves in all our hearts will never be filled.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Kathi Culbreath, of the home; his son Levi Culbreath of Hartsville; his mother Louise Culbreath of Mt. Pleasant; his brother Will Culbreath (Teresa) of Mt Pleasant, nephews Trey and Andy Culbreath, niece Julianna Culbreath, sister in law Deanna Kay Brooks, mother in law Kay McCormick (Don) and Emily Brown and her family of Hartsville. He is preceded in death by his father, Bill.

A small, private service will be held to celebrate Mike's life on Monday, February 22nd at Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home in Hartsville. His lifelong friend, the Rev Paul Rowe of Newberry, SC will officiate the service. A larger, and much more informal, service to celebrate his amazing life will be held at the conclusion of the pandemic, most likely in his hometown of Newberry.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests any memorials be made to

the Darlington County Humane Society, 1705 Adoption Way, Darlington, SC
29532.

Cemetery Details

Private

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Michael Eugene Culbreath*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - February 21, 2021 at 04:30 PM



*Kathi and Levi I am so sorry my prayers are with you and please know I loved Mike he was a special wonderful friend and to me family. I will miss him so much. Too many great memories to share... All of them wonderful. So "Big Dog" I will miss hearing this... Go rest high and watch over us.. See ya again my friend.
Love you all so much
Ali*

Ali Day - February 22, 2021 at 11:34 AM



What a beautiful tribute to Mike. I hold yall close to my heart. Much Love and many prayers. Linda Cousins

Linda Cousins - February 22, 2021 at 03:53 PM



What a friend. I will miss talking about 70 & 80s music. Never met a sport he wasn't great at. I know he must have been a great husband & father. God's grace to you both, and indeed to us all adjusting to this loss.

Merritt Moseley - February 22, 2021 at 04:12 PM



Shattered and speechless. Literally no words.

Heather Odell - February 22, 2021 at 05:23 PM

TD

Prayers of peace and comfort! Rest easy my friend!!!!

Tad DuBose - February 22, 2021 at 06:01 PM

CC

Kathi and Levi, I am so sorry for your loss 🙏 Praying for you all in the days to come. Mike was an amazing person with everyone. He will truly be missed. Prayers and Love to you all ❤️

Cynthia Cutter - February 22, 2021 at 07:55 PM

LH

“ Prayers for Kathi, Levi and family. I met Kathi and Mike while they were still dating. Kathi and I froze and roasted during traveling softball games. Great memories from years ago! Mike and Kathi have always been such a great couple and example to all who know them. Hugs and prayers of comfort for you during this difficult time.

Lisa Hughes - February 22, 2021 at 08:04 PM

LC

“ Marty and I are so sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of Mike whether it was at the football game in Abbeville or seeing him at Walmart. He always had a smile on his face. We will miss him. Prayers for you and the family..

Linda Cann - February 22, 2021 at 04:41 PM

LB

“ Kathi and Levi I am so sorry for your loss. My heartfelt prayers sent to you and each family member. May Mike’s memory be a comfort to you in the days ahead.



Linda Brock - February 22, 2021 at 03:57 PM

SS

“ With heartfelt sympathy, I am so sorry for your loss. Sending up prayers of comfort, healing, and joyous memories for the Culbreath Family.

Simone Shelton

Simone Shelton - February 22, 2021 at 02:09 PM



“ Kathi and Levi I am so sorry my prayers are with you and please know I loved Mike he was a special wonderful friend and to me family. I will miss him so much. Too many great memories to share... All of them wonderful. So "Big Dog" I will miss hearing this... Go rest high and watch over us.. See ya again my friend.

Love you all so much

Ali

Ali Day - February 22, 2021 at 11:38 AM

MR

Many prayers for you and family

Mike Ross - February 22, 2021 at 03:07 PM

GW

Kathi, you probably don't remember me but I always remembered your smiling face at Pro Towel, I will pray for you and Levi. So sorry for your loss,

Gloria Whitt - February 24, 2021 at 01:57 PM

MC

“ There are so many memories of Mike at Walmart #1382. He was one of our best Cart Associates. He had a certain whistle when you heard it you knew it was him and his favorite saying at work was, so and so (he put whoever's name in) will work. I am so blessed to have gotten to know Mike. I am blessed to have gotten to see him about a week an a half ago. My prayers and love are sent out to all his loved ones. Thank you for sharing him with us. Our store misses him deeply. RIP Mike.

Margaret Compston - February 21, 2021 at 08:11 PM



“ 76 files added to the album Life Tributes



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - February 21, 2021 at 04:27 PM

TC

“ Kathi and family, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Mack and Susan Clary

The Clarys - February 21, 2021 at 12:56 PM

LS

“ Kathi and Levi I’m so very sorry for your loss. Praying for y’all and your family. May you find peace in Jesus Name.

linda Shirley - February 21, 2021 at 12:41 AM

TZ

“ Kathi and family, Mark and I are saddened to hear of Mike’s passing. We’ll be praying for all of you in the days to come. Mark and Trudy

Trudy De Zurik - February 20, 2021 at 02:38 PM

MB

“ Kathi and Levi I am so very sorry for the loss of Mike. I think the world of you and I so enjoyed my time working with mike at de is Howe I always talked with him when I saw him at Walmart. He will be greatly missed. You are in my prayers.

Melanie Banks - February 20, 2021 at 09:17 AM

DD

“ Kathi and Levi I was so saddened to hear about Mike. I worked with him at de la Howe. He was always such a great guy. He will be missed. I will be praying for you and your family.

Debbie Daniels - February 20, 2021 at 08:27 AM

RJ

“ Kathi and Levi, I pray you experience the wraparound presence of our loving Heavenly Father which scripture tells us, “is near to the broken-hearted”. Love and continued prayers. We love you!
Jamie and Rhonda Johnson



Rhonda Johnson - February 20, 2021 at 06:08 AM

EH

“ Prayers for you all during this difficult time...praying for you to feel God's presence and love
Elizabeth & Darel Hance (St. Luke UMC)

Elizabeth & Darel Hance - February 19, 2021 at 11:22 PM

RG

“ KATHI AND LEVI WE HAVE Y'ALL IN OUR PRAYERS AND WE KNOW THAT MIKE IS WITH HIS LORD TODAY LOOKING DOWN AND SMILING, KNOWING THAT HE WILL SEE YOU AGAIN. SENDING UP PRAYERS!

REGGIE GRIFFIN - February 19, 2021 at 10:44 PM

TH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a great guy. I worked at de la Howe while he was there. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family!

Tammy E. Hill - February 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM

KJ

“ We are so sorry. My husband thought the world of him. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Kevin and Laura Jordan

Kevin and Laura Jordan - February 19, 2021 at 07:16 PM

MC

“ So very sorry, Kathi and Levi. Will be keeping y'all in our thoughts and prayers in the coming weeks.

Marcia and David Cartledge - February 19, 2021 at 05:48 PM

BB

“ *Kathi and Levi I am so sorry about Mike. Y'all have always been so special to our family. We love you and will be praying for you.*
Johnny and Belinda Bowie

Belinda Bowie - February 19, 2021 at 04:19 PM

PF

“ *Pam Timmerman And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Eugene Culbreath*



Pam Timmerman and family - February 19, 2021 at 02:25 PM

AS

“ *Kathi and Levi,*
We are thinking of you and have you in our Prayers.
Love Always,
Amy and Michael

Amy Southard - February 19, 2021 at 02:22 PM

CS

“ *Kathi and Levi, We are so saddened learning of Mike's death.*
Prayers, love and hugs for you all!

Conway Shirley - February 19, 2021 at 11:35 AM

DR

“ *Kathi and Levi we are devastated at the loss of our special friend Mike. He was a wonderful man and such a huge asset to our community. We are praying for you in the days ahead and for Gods comfort and peace during this difficult time.*

Don and Kathy Reese - February 19, 2021 at 10:27 AM

RB

“ *Kathi, my heart hurts for you and Levi. Mike was a fun loving guy, and my guys loved him!*

Rachael Blackburn - February 19, 2021 at 10:22 AM

SS

“ *Kathi, Levi So sorry to hear about Mike Aka Legend. He will be missed by many. 🙏🙏 Steve Sutherland*

Steve Sutherland - February 18, 2021 at 08:20 PM