



Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck

May 2, 1969 - May 21, 2018

Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck, 49, died Monday, May 21, 2018, following a two year battle with cancer. Mike was born May 2, 1969, in Toccoa, Georgia to Michael and Joanne Hutcherson Merck. Raised in Hartsville, SC, Mike graduated from Hartsville High School.

On October 4, 2003, Mike married Dawn McIlwain. Together they had two children: Ellie and Joseph. Being a father was the delight of Mike's life. He enjoyed reading to his kids, playing trains, and teaching them about the world. Mike also loved being an uncle and would play games with his nieces and nephew for hours.

Mike was an avid fan of all of the athletic programs at the University of Georgia but especially Georgia football. In addition, Mike was a voracious reader of all types of books, but especially fictional and nonfictional stories about history. He was involved in a long-term Bible Study group at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, Lost and Found. Mike did audio-visual work for GNTV, where he enjoyed helping to produce large events for church groups, traveling around the country, and meeting many new friends.

Mike is survived by his wife, Dawn; his children, Elizabeth Anne "Ellie" and Joseph William; his parents, Michael and Joanne; his mother-in-law, Mary McIlwain; his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Hope and David Wood and

nieces Sarah and Hannah Wood; and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Andy and Wendy McIlwain, nephew Jackson McIlwain, and niece Addison McIlwain.

The family would like to thank Dr. Philip Baldwin of SC Oncology Associates and nurses Wendy, Michelle, Holly, Lillian, and so many more for their dedicated and compassionate care of Mike during his illness.

A service to celebrate the gift of Mike's life will be Saturday, May 26, 2018, at 11 a.m. at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian, 5503 Sunset Boulevard, Lexington, S.C. Visitation will follow at the church. Barr-Price Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home is assisting the family in Hartsville, SC.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The SCOA Cares Foundation, 166 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 or www.scoacares.org.

The family also encourages you to donate a book to a local public school library in Mike's memory to encourage the next generation of avid readers.

Tribute Wall

MR

“ *Marty Robbins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Marty Robbins - May 29, 2018 at 07:45 AM

DH

“ *Dedra Hart lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Dedra Hart - May 28, 2018 at 10:31 AM



“ *Dick and I were sadden to hear of Mike's passing. I pray God will wrap his arms around your family and comfort all of you in the days to come.*



Vicki Price - May 26, 2018 at 10:42 AM

AW

“ *Anna Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



anna williams - May 25, 2018 at 04:57 PM

DM

“ *Dee Dee McKnight lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Dee Dee McKnight - May 25, 2018 at 12:30 PM

DK

“ *Donna And Henry King lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Donna and Henry King - May 25, 2018 at 08:07 AM

AJ

“ *Ann King Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Ann King Johnson - May 25, 2018 at 05:02 AM

KL

“ *Joanne and family, my heart is saddened by your loss. You both were such great support to Maggie and Bradley for this you will always be special to me. Praying for peace from above during this sad time. Love to both.*

Kathy Lawhon - May 24, 2018 at 10:17 PM

KL

“ *Kathy Lawhon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Kathy Lawhon - May 24, 2018 at 10:13 PM

AB

“ *Amyf Blackburn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



amyf blackburn - May 24, 2018 at 08:18 PM

RW

“ *My heart and my prayers go out to the family. Rebecca Wadsworth Walker, Durham, NC*



Rebecca Wadsworth walker - May 24, 2018 at 04:27 PM

LG

“ *Mike ,Joanna and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Praying for God's continual peace,comfort and healing. Sincerely, Lisa Goodale(formally Lisa's Hair Design.*

Lisa and Michael Goodale - May 24, 2018 at 03:06 PM

PG

“ Phillip Gandy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck



Phillip Gandy - May 24, 2018 at 01:35 PM

AB

“ Mike, Joanne and family, we are so sorry saddened to hear about Mike's passing. Reading about his love for our God and Savior gives great comfort knowing he is now sitting with Jesus. I pray you find peace in that in the many days to come. I pray you feel God's arms around you. Prayers and love to all.

Anne Chaplin Braddock - May 24, 2018 at 09:49 AM

JG

“ Jeff Galloway lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck



Jeff Galloway - May 24, 2018 at 07:39 AM

BM

“ Billie McManus lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck



Billie McManus - May 24, 2018 at 05:37 AM

BC

“ Michael and Joanne .. So sorry .. Thoughts and Prayers for you and your son's family.. God be with you , your daughter in law and your grandchildren during this very sad period .. Byron Caulk



Byron Caulk - May 24, 2018 at 04:14 AM

LT

“ Mike and Joanne my heart is so broken for the two of you I feel as if I should know your son, but just wanted the both of you to know you are in my prayers and also all of his family.



Linda Tolson - May 23, 2018 at 11:22 PM

DD

“ Joanne, so sorry to hear this news, my heart hurts for you! All of you are in my thoughts and prayers and may God comfort you in this time!



Dale Davis - May 23, 2018 at 09:46 PM

JB

“ Joanne---so sorry to read of the passing of your son. I truly understand what cancer can do and pray for God's continued love and strength in your heart. Continue to wrap them in your arms God

Janelle Britt - May 23, 2018 at 08:45 PM

BM

“ *Becky Bob McWatty lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Becky Bob McWatty - May 23, 2018 at 08:26 PM

WH

“ *So sorry to hear about Mike. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers!!*

Wade Harris - May 23, 2018 at 07:54 PM

RI

“ *Rebecca Skinner, Ben And Glenn, III lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Rebecca Skinner, Ben and Glenn, III - May 23, 2018 at 06:36 PM

RB

“ *Roy Bowers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Mike" Joseph Merck*



Roy Bowers - May 23, 2018 at 03:12 PM

AS

*Joanne,
My prayers are with you and your family. I remember Mike as a wonderful young man and a very special friend to Rodney. I am sure the differences he has made in this world will be seen in his children and many lives he has touched! May God bless you all.*

Anne Sprayberry - May 24, 2018 at 07:17 AM

EW

Joanne, I am so sorry for your loss. May the peace that passes all understanding be with you and your family during this difficult time. Love you. Ellen

Ellen Winburn - May 27, 2018 at 08:08 PM