



## Michael Kaleel

August 29, 1937 - December 21, 2024

A devoted husband, loving father, and joyful grandfather passed away unexpectedly on December 21, 2024, at the age of 87. Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1937, he was the eldest son of Martha and Michael Kaleel. A gifted student and athlete with a great sense of responsibility, he excelled in science, math, and engineering, and played baseball and hockey throughout his youth. Mike enrolled in a work-study program offered through General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) to put himself through college. There, he excelled, graduating at the top of his class with a degree in engineering, later going on to receive an MBA from Wayne State. Intelligent, confident, and competitive – Mike was a natural-born leader in the business world, where he enjoyed a successful career as an engineer and manager, ultimately serving as Director of European Operations for a global manufacturing firm. But his greatest pride was his family. He married Joyce in 1962, moving to Sterling Heights, Michigan where they raised their

daughter, Michelle. A devoted family man, known for his humor, energy, warmth, and outgoing presence at every family gathering – he started and carried on traditions, adding meaning to family holidays and vacations.

To his grandchildren, Mike was the perfect grandfather – being both a wise mentor and a playful companion, filling their lives with unforgettable adventures, from trips to the Upper Peninsula and Traverse City to vacations around the world, including Hawaii and Europe.

He was an avid golfer, champion card player, and savvy real estate investor, constantly seeking new challenges and enjoying life's pursuits.

Mike Kaleel was a true family patriarch – strong and protective, yet fun and goofy. An irreplaceable individual whose absence will be forever felt by his loved ones. His energy was seemingly boundless – his enthusiasm for his work and his hobbies, endless. His love for his family, eternal.

Mike is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joyce; his siblings, Iris Uhlar, Joe Kaleel and the late Larry Kaleel; daughter Michelle (Martin) Mordarski; grandchildren Michael and Allison Mordarski, and many nieces and nephews, all of whom will miss him incredibly.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:00 am with instate at 9:30 am on Saturday,

January 18, 2025, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 32000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI, with a luncheon to follow at Fern Hill Golf Club.

# Previous Events

## Instate

JAN 18. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
32000 Mound Rd  
Warren, MI 48092

## Mass of the Resurrection

JAN 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
32000 Mound Rd  
Warren, MI 48092

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ Yes, us Upper Peninsula cousins have decades of cherished memories of Mike and his family, who visited our farm annually, the birthplace of his mother. An especially cherished memory is the nickname he and my dad, his “favorite uncle,” gave each other: “Boston.” I don’t know how that started, but I remember Mike coming downstairs to our farmhouse kitchen first thing in the morning, full of his usual exuberance, planning his day with my dad. Of course, Dad already had the coffee pot on! They would credit themselves on starting each day early—“First light!” They would say to each other. Mike was a kind and considerate person, planning and taking Dad on day trips. When finally retired from his career in farming, Mike even took him on a circle tour of Lake Superior, filling an album with pictures of it, several with funny captions (attesting to his sense of humor). He was a great family guy—yes, a patriarch in his own right— who is fondly missed.

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**Linda Burcar** - January 14, 2025 at 10:39 PM

EM

One of my greatest joys was when Mike would come up to see my Dad. I had a permanent smile listening to there political humorous bantering, the stories how when Mike was young my Dad and him found Indian arrowheads in the 40 acre parcel behind our farm He was a great help on the farm for my parents during the summers as a young man . The bonfires, hayrides. Words cannot express all the joy I felt seeing him once a year. I truly will miss him!, My prayers and condolences to his family. Eric Makkonen

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**Eric Makkonen** - January 17, 2025 at 07:23 PM

SJ

“ *Sherri, Jess, Kevin & Jackie purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Michael Kaleel.*



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**Sherri, Jess, Kevin & Jackie** - January 14, 2025 at 11:55 AM

MM

“ *Our sincere condolences to the family. Mike was the patriarch of our family and his passing will leave a huge void. He tackled life with vim and vigor. Unbounded energy with a zest for life. Always fun to be around. Mike loved his family, the Upper Peninsula, and the farm. I have many countless fond memories of Mike. Many of the fondest memories was the loving banter between Mike and my dad. Although their politics were different, they truly loved and respected each other. Wouldn't the country be a better place if we all followed their example?*

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**Mark Makkonen** - January 11, 2025 at 01:41 PM

CL

*I love your comments Mark. I can't add anymore. Mike's spirit will always be in each one of us. He was so loved. God bless Joyce and Michele and her family. Prayers and love to each family member.*

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**Char Leinonen** - January 11, 2025 at 05:58 PM

LB

*Yes, us Upper Peninsula cousins have decades of cherished memories of Mike and his family, who visited our farm annually, the birthplace of his mother. An especially cherished memory is the nickname he and my dad, his "favorite uncle," gave each other: "Boston." I don't know how that started, but I remember Mike coming downstairs to our farmhouse kitchen first thing in the morning, full of his usual exuberance, planning his day with my dad. Of course, Dad already had the coffee pot on! They would credit themselves on starting each day early—"First light!" They would say to each other. Mike was a kind and considerate person, planning and taking Dad on day trips. When finally retired from his career in farming, Mike even took him on a circle tour of Lake Superior, filling an album with pictures of it, several with funny captions (attesting to his sense of humor). He was a great family guy—yes, a patriarch in his own right— who is fondly missed.*

Linda Burcar - January 14, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Michael Kaleel.



January 11, 2025 at 01:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Kaleel.

January 11, 2025 at 01:20 PM

RI

“ Rrjp, I. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Kaleel.

Rrjp, I. - January 10, 2025 at 11:11 AM

KL

“ *Aunty Joyce , Michelle and family, I'm so sorry to hear of Uncle Mike's passing. May he rest in peace.  
Kim Lamirand Pauline s granddaughter*

Kimberly R Lamirand - January 09, 2025 at 12:11 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Kaleel.*



January 06, 2025 at 01:14 PM

LH

“ *Sincere condolences to his family. Mike was my Manager at the Crown Group many years ago. He was a great mentor and a very fine person.*

Lynette Houser - January 05, 2025 at 01:56 PM

CG

“ *Mike was a wonderful mentor and friend! He always had something uplifting to add to my life and was always genuine with his thoughts and opinions. I will truly miss him.*

*Carey Garber*

Carey Garber - January 05, 2025 at 10:02 AM

JF

“ *Jim kramer family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael Kaleel.*



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**Jim kramer family** - January 05, 2025 at 08:09 AM

JF

“ *Jim kramer family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Kaleel.*

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**Jim kramer family** - January 05, 2025 at 08:09 AM