



Rafe Michael Piper

December 13, 1942 - October 26, 2018

Rafe Michael (Mike) Piper, age 75, passed away on Friday, October 26, 2018 in Denton, Texas of complications from diabetes and congestive heart failure. He was born December 13, 1942 in Harlingen, Texas to Rafe (Bud) and Emma Day Piper. Mike graduated from H. M. King High School in Kingsville, Texas. After obtaining his Mortuary Degree, he joined his father, Bud Piper, as a partner in Piper Funeral Home in 1964 while completing his business degree at Texas A & I University in Kingsville. Mike will be remembered for his athletic ability and love of sports. He was an AllState Football player his senior year at King High School. He played many games and sports with his friends at his gym in Kingsville. One of his greatest joys was starting a football league in Kingsville for elementary students. Mike became a seeker of religions. He traveled to India and studied in Israel three different times. He spent the last few years writing journals of his studies of the Holy Land and the Bible. Living most of his life in Kingsville, Texas, Mike spent the last five years in Virginia and recently moved to Denton, Texas to be with his children, Rafe and Erin. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bud and Emma Piper. He is survived by his former wife, Kathi Riser Piper of Denton, Texas; his son, Rafe Ireland Piper and grandson, Rafe Aydan Piper of Denton, Texas; his daughter, Erin Piper and her husband Mike Urness of Denton, Texas; sister, Pat and husband Captain Bob Ferguson of Gasburg, Virginia; and sister, Sandra and husband Larry Brister of San Antonio, Texas. Nieces and nephews include: Blair Ferguson, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Piper Reddick, Smithville, Virginia;

Rob Ferguson, Raleigh, North Carolina; Paige Roy, Keller, Texas; and Mandy Kohutek, San Antonio, Texas. Mike will also be remembered for his kind heart, fun sense of humor, his knowledge and faith in Christ, and his love for his family and friends. The Piper family gives a special thanks to Mike's friends, Bru and Nel Brubaker of Gasburg, Virginia and old friends Delwyn Randall and his lifetime partner Jeff Price for their support during his illness. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Mike will be buried in Kingsville, Texas beside his parents. You may send condolences to Denton Funeral Home in Denton, Texas.

Tribute Wall

RN

“ I have fond memories of working with Mike and his family in Kingsville. Mike's family will be in my thoughts and prayers during this time.

Richard Norton

Richard Norton - October 27, 2018 at 02:03 PM

BS

Mike was one of my firsts employers always treated me with respect and enjoyed working for him

Billy Saul - November 02, 2018 at 05:31 PM

FI

“ We are sorry to hear about Mike. He was always laughing and happy. Working with him at the Funeral home was an enjoyable experience. He will be missed by many, but am glad to know he is out of pain.

Frank& Jimi Irby - October 27, 2018 at 12:35 PM

FI

Frank & Jimi Irby

Frank&Jimi Irby - October 27, 2018 at 01:37 PM

RF

I have many memories of working with Mike and his family in Kingsville. Will also always remember Kathy and such precious children and my thoughts and prayers will be with them during this time. Rev John Fluth

Rev John Fluth - October 27, 2018 at 07:10 PM

GB

So sorry to hear one of my best friends from our Kingsville roots has passed. May he Rest In Peace and a perpetual light shine upon him and his family. Blessing on Kathy and his children.

Gerald Boyer

Getald Boyer - October 29, 2018 at 06:41 AM

LH

I am so sorry to hear this. Mike was always a lot of fun. He is the only boy I ever dated who took me on a tour of the sewer tunnels under A&I. :-) I will keep his family in my prayers. Linda Ham (now Linda Hocker).

Linda Hocker - October 29, 2018 at 04:06 PM

JF

To all of Mikes family and dear friends

My memories of Mike go back to about the 3rd or 4th grade at Lamar Elementary. He was the first person to introduce me to putting peanuts in a coke bottle. I remember his being interested in my cousin Kay Westlake and going down to Harlingen with us one time----where, at South Padre Beach, he impressively walked across a slab of concrete on his hands. Kathy and I went to S. U. together and I introduced them to each other. Mike was my fraternity brother here at A&I----I remember riding with Bee Wilson to go to Mike and Kathy's wedding.

When Mike and Kathy split up I palled around with him for a while, going to Sufi Meditation Classes in Corpus and Kicker dances at Doc Holliday's. One night we knocked on Sandy's door and persuaded her to help us make ice-cream.

I am glad he was in Denton with the kids and grandkids.

Jim Fischer

jim fischer - October 30, 2018 at 12:39 PM

JJ

We would like to know when and where the memorial service will be. We would like to attend if at all possible. Our phone is 512-757-1792. Frank & Jimi

Jimi irby - October 31, 2018 at 03:34 PM

AP

I never was ashamed of being mistaken for being a member of the Piper's family. Bud, Emma and family always treated me like I was. Rest in Peace Mike.

A. Courtney PiEper.

A. Courtney Pieper - November 05, 2018 at 05:10 PM

RH

May God hold Mike, his family and friends in loving arms!

Before I started my Naval Aviation career, Mike gave me a short-term opportunity to make some extra money attending his Gym in the trailer park where my late mother-in-law lived. I gained a love of indoor badminton there, and continued to play whenever I could inside the NAS Pensacola, Florida gym.

Rob Harris - November 08, 2018 at 07:03 PM