



Michael A. Buchta

December 26, 1959 - March 7, 2025

Michael A. Buchta, the man, the myth, the legend, joined the party with the big man upstairs on Friday, March 7, 2025. Memorial Mass will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Kearney with Father Paul Colling as Celebrant. A “Cheers to Mike” will be held for him at Platte Valley Taphouse in Kearney following the lunch at the church. Visitation will be 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home with a Vigil Service following at 6:00 p.m. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services charge of the arrangements.

Mike was born on December 26, 1959, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Raymond and Agnes Buchta. Mike would be their final contribution of children into the world, completing “The Big Ten”. He attended school at Holy Name School, graduating in 1978. Growing up and being the baby of the family, he followed in his brothers’ footsteps working at Delight Wholesale Company as a freezer boy, then for a bit at the Coca-Cola plant until he graduated. After graduating high school, his venture brought him to Kearney where he attended Kearney State College where he graduated with a Major in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Corrections. While in college, he met Kathy Johnson. They later married and during their 22 years together they had three children - Arron,

Austyn, and Alex. Through the years, their lives took different paths, during which they separated. This stud wasn't on the market long though, he ran into Deb while checking out at Boogaarts (local grocery store), who he'd already known from his daughter Arron and Deb's oldest daughter Emma being friends. She called him Kevin, and they've been together ever since, marrying in 2009 and forming their very own Brady Bunch. Mike loved his stepdaughters Emma, Erin, and Abby and was overjoyed to love and spoil his five grandkids- Agnes, Thatcher, Barrett, Gunner, and Penny.

After graduating college, he started his career at YDC (Youth Development Center), now known as YRTC (Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center). He took great pride in helping reshape and mold "the states finest" or "little shits" if you caught him on one of his very few bad days. He loved his job so much that he dedicated 41 years to it, finally retiring in 2024 and receiving a great honor and major award - Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska! When Mike wasn't working, you'd catch him outside grilling (though he'd gladly pass the responsibility off to the first volunteer), mowing his lawn, despite his hobby of keeping his shoes white and in pristine condition, which coincidentally, was the first thing he would notice about you, and enjoying a nice cold one while soaking up some rays. He'd always make sure to get all his errands done by 4:00, so he was home to watch Jeopardy. He always impressed people with expansive knowledge of classic rock. Playing 'who sings it' with his kids and son-in-law Derek was one of his favorite things and always the cause of a late-nighter.

As much as I wish I could stop here, I wouldn't be writing this if he hadn't faced any struggles. In 2015, Mike was told those dreaded words "You have prostate cancer". He fought hard, went through chemo, evicted his prostate, and did radiation all while continuing to go to work (what a badass). In 2017, he was declared cancer free! Unfortunately, a few years later, after numerous hospitals stays, chamber dives, and sleepless nights, he was forced to trade out his bladder for a stoma bag, which he hated but hey, "at least it could hold a 6 pack". These, along with several other things, eventually became too

much for him. Raised Catholic, Mike's faith meant a lot to him. He always put his life in God's hands. On March 7, God came for him, not wanting him to suffer anymore. He passed peacefully while he was sleeping. Let's not end on such a sad note though, because Mike wouldn't want that. So, when you can't recall who sings that song stuck in your head, it's Mike's whisper that makes the name come rushing back. Remember to say "Cheese" for every picture, always "Be Nice", and there's always time for just "one more". A hero to many, a friend to all. We love and miss you more than words can express, Dad; save a spot at the Skip-Bo table for us for when we see you again. Cheers!

Here to cherish him and the memories and continue to brag about how much of a badass he was are his wife, Deb Buchta, his ex-wife, Kathy Johnson, and his kids (and their other halves/ husbands): Arron Buchta (Logan Policky), Austyn (Derek) Persson, and Alex Buchta, stepdaughters (and their husbands) Emma (Ben) and their children Agnes and Thatcher Montag; Erin (Dan) and their children Barrett and Gunner Walgren; Abby Radtke and her daughter, Penny Svoboda.

Remembered and loved by his siblings Marie Bray, Sr. Margaret Buchta, Bob Buchta, Ray Buchta, Richard (Jackie) Buchta, Bill (Nancy) Buchta; sisters-in-law Laura and Joan Buchta.

Also left to mourn his loss are many other in-laws, nieces, nephews, family, friends and coworkers - too numerous to list but not forgotten.

He is reunited with his parents Raymond & Agnes Buchta, his sister Marianne Jedlecki, his brothers Bernie and Ron Buchta, his brother-in-law Ed Bray, and sisters-in-law Kathy, Shirley, and Denise Buchta.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Vigil Service

MAR 19. 6:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Memorial Mass

MAR 20. 10:30 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
2407 W 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Hey Mike, OMGoooooodness, what a riot it was growing up with you so close to me in a gazillion ways. I find great comfort, joy , closeness, reliving now the memories of our childhood. I also am delighted that we had a 'long talk' on the phone March 1st that lazy Saturday morning, just a week before you joined mom and dad and a few of our siblings in heaven ! You surprised me with that last phone call, it was / is such a great loving happy memory !! I FEEL our time then was a HUGE gift to me, now ! We had no reason to talk but talked and laughed the entire time !! I am still laughing and LOVING your for it. Today, more than that day it feeeeeeels so so SO good ! THANK YOU BRO. I love you so SO SO MUCH ! Here's a few joyfilled moments right now sparking laughter in my soul growing up with you and our 8 siblings.... IT's gonna be snippets of sentences and a flash of events mixed into each other.....as I attempt to capture 15 years in 15 minutes here:

BIGGEST excitement in our DECEMBERS. God lined up for us, right ?

Marge 12/15.....Rick 12/24..., Jesus 12/25... Mike 12/26... whoo hooo!

****** presents galore..right ? new toys, new clothes. wrapping, unwrapping... making messes all over the tables, all over the floors.. excitement.. dashing into back yard and back in the house. moment by moment.. cheers.. curiosity. laughter.. children 'everywhere' noise! NOISE ! radios on, cheering on kids. trying to get away from older sibling and arguing.. "he did it, not me" or "I'm telling mom ! ! " " HEY THAT's MINE ! singing the birthday song at the dining table with everyone, solo then dad's thundering voice " NOW EVERYBODY SING" candles on the birthday, lighting, dripping, blowing them out ! laughter.. laughing.. yelling .. telling.. arguing.. sharing.. ups and downs smells of birthday cakes being baked .. being decorated, messy kitchens.. cleaning up.. wanting to clean up and blaming others ! putting up Christmas trees... and the first 'artificial trees silver, made of shiny steel.. front porch lights.*

streamers in ceiling of living room and above our big o dining table.
Had to go to bed early... pretending to sleep... waiting wait wait..
then HO HO HO, MerryChristmas to all and to all a good night" in
DAD' big voice.. running .. bumping to sit up close to the tree, room
FILLED with a huge stock pile of wrapped up presents waiting to be
opened ! oh, my Mike... YOU were there every eager breath of the
way !!! Margaret's Birthday, My Birthday, Jesus' Birthday, Mikey'
Birthday..... extremely rich and grateful fun with you "little"
brother your 6 foot 5 makes my 6 feet feel like a small boy !

You begged me once to make you a skate board .. as I had just
made one for me with a window frame board and roller skates. this
was before you could just go to a store and buy skateboards.... I got
it done, you took your skate board and left... that first ride your first
ride? I found you like 5 houses away, in tears. sitting next to the
board on the front side walk... your ride ended badly as your new
pair, (first pair) of glasses were broken !! you were not hurt but I got
heck and yelled at for making that board for you. " BUT mom, I
pleaded, he asked me to"..... I was grounded just the same.

I could go on, but let me end, the fun of us Buchta boys had with
names . the last 5.... Ray,Bob,Rick,Bill,Mike....

Is it true that your name Michael Anthony actually came from mom's
t.v. show she watched call 'THE MILLIONAIRE" where the star
character was Michael Anthony ? ?.. anyhoo..

in the mix of nicknames we came up for all 10 of us were... Bozo,
Bernardo P.P. Pigfish Boober, Moosehead, Dickie Bird, Dickoo Bird,
Birdy feather plucker, Garbage Can, Boohonk, Boohonk the 4 year
old hippie, Smelch, and Biff to name a few. I am not clear who got or
had which one, but seems you had quite a few, perhaps more than
most my dear little brother Mike.

Richard Buchta - March 17, 2025 at 09:29 AM

J(

“ Uncle Mike was a gem of a human being. I'll definitely cherish the times we had the family reunions when I was growing up, but I'll really love the last couple of years (and beers) we shared at my Mom's and Uncle Ron's funeral when we would share stories, beers, and thoughts of the world. Love you, Uncle Mike.

- Joseph Buchta

Joseph Buchta (Buck) - March 13, 2025 at 03:19 PM



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

March 10, 2025 at 07:06 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael A. Buchta.



March 10, 2025 at 07:06 PM

PD

“ I grew up with Mike at Holy Name Grade School and High School back in Omaha. He had such a profound impact on my life.

Twelve years of hard work and good times. We played football and basketball at HN and he was always a great inspiration. I played more basketball in his back yard than any other place on earth.

One of the funnest people I have ever known. My kids even repeat many of his favorite lines that I would joke about through their lives, even though they never met Mike. I wish so bad I could have seen him one more time.

I love you now as I did back then Biff and I always will. So, so sad.

Paul Doran

Paul Doran - March 09, 2025 at 03:34 PM

VI

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Mike . He was a great guy & father. You never saw a photo of him & his children where they weren't smiling. There were many great memories they will forever be able to share. We as a family purchased 3 trees in his memory .One for each child that when planted their branches will reach up to Heaven stating " Dad we are always here for you." God Bless Mike & his entire family in this time of sorrow. The Ivey Families

Valerie Ivey - March 08, 2025 at 02:22 PM

TC

“ *Deb, family*

I was so sad to hear of Mike's passing. He was a great guy. I will always remember his smile, his saying hello to me in the BDR everytime he came in. I know he will be missed by everyone. I pray God can bring you comfort during this difficult time



Theresa Childers - March 08, 2025 at 02:04 PM

TF

“ *The Ivy Family planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael A. Buchta.*

The Ivy Family - March 08, 2025 at 02:02 PM



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

March 08, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael A. Buchta.*



March 08, 2025 at 10:54 AM