



Michael McLaughlin Gervais

JAN 17, 1963 - JUL 28, 2024



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Michael McLaughlin Gervais, age 61, died by suicide on Sunday, July 28, 2024, ending his story arc here on Earth. He was born January 17, 1963, in Sacramento, California. Mike moved to Lindon, Utah at age twelve and was raised in the home of Elmon and Elmeda Christensen. Despite the neglect, abuse, and abandonment inflicted by his biological parents in the early part of his life, Mike found safety and a home with the Christensen family. He was welcomed and accepted by all the Christensen family, siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and grandparents, for which he was forever grateful.

He graduated from Pleasant Grove High school in 1981 and earned his associates degree from the University of Utah. Mike married his high school sweetheart, Rosalie Montgomery in 1984. They moved to East Millcreek in 1993, and together they were married for thirty three years and had two daughters, Lauren and Lindsay.

Mike had many careers including woodworking, cabinet and furniture making, custom gun making, and industrial sales.

He loved cycling and riding motorcycles, hiking, collecting and smoking pipes, roasting coffee, grilling, cooking new foods, designing his own landscaping and doing home improvement projects, feeding the neighborhood birds, watching the sunset from his balcony, playing scrabble, listening to NPR and Utah Jazz games on the radio, and solving the New York Times crossword puzzle. He enthusiastically embraced trying new foods, things, and experiences, challenged himself to continue learning throughout his life, and was a WWII history and aviation enthusiast.

His daughters both inherited his skill in writing and language, his love of music, and a sharp wit and unfailing sense of humor. They also share good memories of camping, boating, fishing, mountain drives, and taking road trips together.



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Mike was honest, loyal, and lived his life with integrity. He was also industrious and resourceful, and creatively expressed himself through the works of art he designed and built by hand. Despite his early hardships, Mike lived these values every day and strived to pass them on to his daughters and others that he mentored.

Mike is survived by daughters Lauren and Lindsay Gervais, brothers Adam (Lashele) and Bruce (Nancy) Gervais, Aunt Sylvia Zuck, and the Christensen family. With gratitude, we would like to thank his friends Rick Webster, George Fisher, and Sean Reum for standing by him to the end, as well as the friendship of his neighbors over the years.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial in remembrance of Mike's life. Please contact his daughters for details. Those wishing to honor him may donate to a cause of their choice, as he has done.



Tribute Wall

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George Fisher posted:

One of my first meetings with Mike was in my wood shop. He saw a cabinet I was building and called it a "wooden pile of junk." Further, he examined my table saw and told me it was 1/32 of an inch out of proper alignment. Of course I took umbrage to his somewhat caustic observations, but I would find out in several more weeks time the scope of his artistry and woodworking skill. I have met many wood workers over the decades, but I never met anyone as good as Mike. My heartburn turned to admiration and respect. Friendship followed. I found I had more than a few common interests with him. I enjoyed lively conversation with him. He was much more informed of Putin's invasion of Ukraine, more so than Lester Holt of NBC News. I watched him give his time to my injured daughter in building a beautiful Roubeau work bench from Brazilian Cherry wood. Mike would take no compensation for his many many hours of labor. He did not know Kylie or I, but just responded to her plea for help. I miss Mike a great deal. He was a true friend to both of us. I believe Heaven needs good craftsman and artisans. I know Mike is busy building and creating there. He has found peace there I believe. My condolences to his family and other friends. We all will miss him! I think about him often especially as I strive to enhance and improve my woodworking efforts. Love and hugs to you Lauren and your family! George Fisher

August 23 at 5:56 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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