



Michael Robert Williams

October 8, 2021

It is with profound sadness that we have said goodbye to our cherished brother, uncle, and friend. Michael died on Friday, October 8, 2021 at the age of 56. Michael was a kind, compassionate, intelligent, witty, talented instigator with a warmth that drew people in, making him loved by all who crossed his path. His caring and empathy for those less fortunate was evident in the relationships he formed. He listened to people, learned from and with others and showed sincerity in all areas of his life without criticism or judgment. Michael lived with integrity, courage, and wicked humour. He also gave the fiercest hugs! Those who knew him, understood his smirk could speak volumes, leading to various forms of mischief whether good or bad. He was a card shark, a trait passed down from his Williams roots as well as an impressive debater on all things, especially politics, religion, and history. Although Mike had his own struggles, he always had time for others whether he knew them well or not. Michael loved art and the arts, acquiring an eclectic collection and created his own pieces even when he was sick. His artistic nature, inherited from our mother, coupled with a vast knowledge on any subject made him a force to reckon with. He showed determination remaining upbeat and positive until the end. He gathered strength and hope from his family and friends, whom he loved dearly. He will be deeply missed, always remembered, and loved by his siblings: Neil (Deborah), Janet (Peter), Valerie (Joel), and Katherine; his nieces and nephews: Rhiannon (Sam), Gordon, Louise, and Roy as well as his beloved "girls" (which he affectionately called them) and numerous friends. Michael is predeceased by his mother, Enid Maize and father, Richard Williams. Michael's family would like to thank Transition House for embracing him wholeheartedly giving consistent support and friendship. Building lasting bonds with people was an integral part of Michael's personality. We are grateful for Drs. Bobrowski and Cassola who helped, influenced, and guided him. Michael received exceptional care from the staff at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and we recognize their contributions too. We would also like to thank the compassionate staff at Kensington Hospice for providing superior care to our special brother these last few weeks. A celebration of Michael's remarkable legacy will be scheduled at a later date when restrictions allow. Online condolences may be provided at <https://www.aftercare.org/>. Donations can be made to Transition House Toronto (<http://www.housetoronto.org/>), the Canadian Cancer Society (<https://cancer.ca/en/>) or Art Heart

Toronto (<https://www.artheart.ca/>). Until we meet again comrade!

Tribute Wall

VP

“ It is so hard letting you go Mike, but I hope you have finally found your peace now amidst the struggles and hardships. I believe our paths aligned for a reason - is it hard to believe that you made such an impact in my life as well? You'd tell me you would always worry about me. I would think to myself, "well I'm more worried about you, why are you worrying about me Mike?!" That simple, brief descriptor merely depicted the true, genuine, kind and warm hearted friend Mike was to us - his "Toronto girls".

I wish we could've fulfilled more of the things you wanted out of life - to go see more plays, to go explore more art, to get you that furry companion of a cat you had when you were younger. You were my muse when I would write poetry, you supported my journey and I miss that dearly. But through this struggle, you taught me to be even more kind-hearted, empathetic and understanding - everything lovely about you I will try my best to carry that on moving forward. You will always be a part of me Mike.

I am sending so much love and support to his siblings - the Williams family gives the warmest hugs! Something that was a part of Mike's kindness I will always cherish.

I am also sending love and support to his care team as well - without the constant effort, support and reminders to get Mike to eat his food before his girls could come visit - it was the little, funny moments of Mike's "resistance" that made him one-of-a-kind.

I will miss you dear friend, and until we meet again. Rest in peace.



Vivi Pham - October 22, 2021 at 03:21 PM

NW

“ So many memories... So many mental photographs... Mike was my brother and my comrade, We would have lively discussions, and debates, and arguments on history and politics. Mike was creative; definitely in visual arts which had always been his hobby and his passion. He was creative in thought, also. Mike always questioned and refused to accept any concept based solely on dogma. And yes, at times, we were both "trouble-makers" together ;) Mike was a man with a sense of elegance, and style, and taste; a kind and gentle man who listened and encouraged others. And what is the most sad, is there will be no new memories. Our last memory is that of my wife Deborah and I being with Mike as he passed. I was holding his hand and talking to him -- my phone was playing The Monks album Bad Habits. The memories remain, and still... I miss my comrade. I miss my little brother.

Neil Williams - October 21, 2021 at 04:37 PM

CF

“ I learned so much from Michael during the last year of his life. How to face the end of your life with positivity, humour and a little bit of denial. How art can be healing, and that sharing it with others was therapeutic.

He has left a void here, and it is hard to believe that he is really gone. All of us still expect to see him sitting in the living room, making his beloved cards.

I feel so grateful that he allowed me to be a part of his journey, and I will never forget him.

Sending you all my very sincerest condolences. Colleen Franklin

Colleen Franklin - October 20, 2021 at 11:47 AM

KA

“ Jan & Pete's memories with Mikey.



Katherine - October 18, 2021 at 08:25 PM

KA

“ I have lots of wonderful memories of my big brother but I cherish the moments we had at the end. He is deeply missed by Louise and I.



Katherine - October 18, 2021 at 10:08 AM