



Michael Francis Vendetti

May 26, 1942 - June 8, 2022

Michael Francis aka Michael Anthony Vendetti aka Mike 5/26/42 to 6/8/22

St Augustine, Florida

Mike Vendetti died in his home battling cancer.

Mike was proud of his ability to make one can of baked beans last for what seemed a lifetime and to have an extensive collection of fishing knives and rods so he didn't have to rely on working to eat. You know, teach a man to fish and all that.

Dad was a ladies man who loved buying sneakers that he also loved to complain about and return. In fact his family counts no less than 15 pairs of sneakers still in their boxes and lamented he didn't have enough time in this life to return them and complain about the next 15 pairs. Dad loved baseball and deftly led the little league team he coached in NJ to 22 winning seasons. He didn't believe in crying in baseball and that brought him and his team to glory after glory. Mike worked relentlessly at the Philadelphia railroad for 42 years and told increasingly cornier dad jokes as he aged. The jokes became especially distasteful when he retired 20 years ago and became a full-time fisherman and ladies man but you can't blame a hard-working guy who raised 4 beautiful children for letting it all hang out near the end.

Mike was fiercely proud of his collection of what he called "shit heaps for cars" that he paid no more than \$500 dollars each for in some sketchy Camden

neighborhood when his children were still living in the house and took quiet pride in his children learning to drive in the “blue fendered otherwise white car” that his kids and wife (deceased) literally had to stand on the brakes and pray for them to work. “Now my family’s prepared for anything on the road” he would say and he was right. To this day none of his family have had car accidents despite many attempts. Dad loved and stayed with his wife Joan for over 55 years (way to go, Dad!) and begrudgingly helped with household chores. Unfortunately, much to his chagrin, his wife had a penchant for gardening and would sweet talk him into digging holes in the garden for all new plants every year in the 100 degree Florida heat for the last twenty years. What a trooper!

As for his children, Mike was secretly proud when his youngest daughter Jackie got pulled over going 70 in a 40 zone with her father in the car and charmed her way out of the ticket with a short skirt, tall boots, and a smile to die for. Maybe one of his proudest moments. He was also extremely proud of his second born daughter, Cindy, who became a nurse and helped so many people but passed to the other side at the young age of 30 from cancer and left the world a much better place than she found it. He was also proud of his eldest daughter Michelle and all her children (Nikki, Jimmy) and their children (Elliot, Oliver, BenJen, Bella).

He was also proud of his only son Mike for his talent in baseball, music, humor and his killer smile. Unfortunately, both of their male egos and stubborn personalities would play a part in their relationship causing a love that only a father and son would understand. Mike loved his many cousins (he was Italian so there were many) and adored his mother Joesphine(deceased), his sister Grace Marie (deceased), and her children Lisa (deceased) and his nephew Sal who was his best fishing buddy and lover of cars, trucks, jokes and beer. Mike was also happy to be a father figure for his favorite adopted grandson Gavin who lapped up all of Mike's charms and learned to dish it out as well as Mike. Mike loved his life partner, Juno, who he got to travel, fish, laugh, and found his peace with. What else is there?

In lieu of flowers Mike would like it if you could donate to cancer research as ultimately he wants everyone to be able to smoke like a chimney and not have to worry about pesky cancer. You can donate here: <https://donate3.cancer.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Francis Vendetti*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - June 14, 2022 at 02:35 PM

MO

What a lovely album. I loved seeing the pictures of your whole family! I had no idea he/you spent so much time fishing!

michelle olson - June 14, 2022 at 10:24 PM

JA

Thank you, Michelle!! Fishing and baseball were his favorite things!

jackie - June 14, 2022 at 11:37 PM

SS

“ This photo is from 1988 when our family was first introduced to Mike (little league baseball). Mike’s son (“Mike” - front & center in the photo) was a teammate of my son (kneeling left of “Mike”). We were fortunate enough to be able stay in touch with Mike after he transferred to Florida - getting together with him at least once a year. Although fishing was his passion, I don’t think baseball was far behind. I believe baseball was the only thing that could get him away from the fishing pole. We all lost a genuine fun loving friend and we’re going to miss him dearly.
Our deepest sympathy - Steve, Denise, Josh & The entire Samartino family



Steve Samartino - June 15, 2022 at 04:55 PM

JA

I could agree more Steve!! Thanks so much for sharing this photo and this story. My dad loved baseball and fishing equally for sure. He loved coaching the kids. When I would watch baseball or even football with my dad he would call all the plays before the umps would and knew all the stats of everyone. In fact the night before he passed he was looking at baseball stats on his phone. He was so excited when they introduced that service on cable where you could watch like 7 games at once. Dad had a real talent and love for sports. Thanks again for sharing. We are all going to miss him!

Jackie - June 16, 2022 at 10:38 AM

RD

“ My favorite memory of Mike, occurred at Grace Marie's. I had not seen Mike for some years. When he first saw me his comment was "Jesus Christ, you never age". Since that time Mike and I formed a close friendship. I sorry I'll never see his smile again.

Rosalie DeMarchi - June 15, 2022 at 12:24 PM

JA

Haha he would declare "Jesus Christ" in front of many many things. It was his favorite form of expression. Thank you Rosalie.

Jackie - June 16, 2022 at 10:41 AM

“ World famous in St. Augustine for catching the biggest fish — with the tiniest fishing rods imaginable — the St. Johns County Ocean & Fishing Pier community will miss Mike and his acerbic wit. Mike never suffered fools gladly — as the non-fishing pier tourists were quick to discover when they attempted to interrupt him to ask the usual asinine fish questions. He also quickly gave up trying to explain to me the intricacies of his other passion (baseball) and correctly surmised that Brits like me were incapable of grasping the obvious however, for those who displayed a genuine desire to learn, he had unlimited patience and that was especially applicable to the youngsters who were just starting out, like Gavin and Milo (my eldest grandson).

Milo is visiting St. Augustine this coming August and is so excited about fishing with Mike again because Mike helped him catch his first Bull Whiting. As of this writing, I haven't yet summoned the courage to tell him about Mike's passing.

I never did have much success in convincing Mike to surf fish with me on the beach (because he really didn't like to get his feet wet) however, even when the fish were not biting, Mike and I always passed the time heatedly debating and arguing about how we would solve the world's problems. This was not difficult to do, as Mike had multiple opinions on everything and those were subject to change on a daily basis. Once we had agreed upon the solutions for fixing the world, there was always time left to visit our mutual acquaintance — Bud Light — to cool us down.

It should be clear by now that my family and I will really miss Mike's companionship and friendship.

Howard Camber - June 15, 2022 at 11:37 AM

JA

Howard this is so beautiful and funny and so accurate. His opinions and solutions were quite fluid but that just added to his charms. And yes you hit the nail on the head about asinine comments around anything pertaining to his passions of fishing and baseball. Hahahah! He always talked about you and was proud to have you as a friend.

Jackie - June 16, 2022 at 10:46 AM

MC

“ *When we would travel south to FLA to visit my dad Howard, Mike was always someone we enjoyed spending time with. He was always so kind to my family and I. I have the best memories of Mike taking my little boys fishing on the pier. He was always so patient and gentle with them. Mike will be missed. Love from Milo, Matis, Marie-Noelle and Michael.*



Michael Camber - June 15, 2022 at 10:07 AM

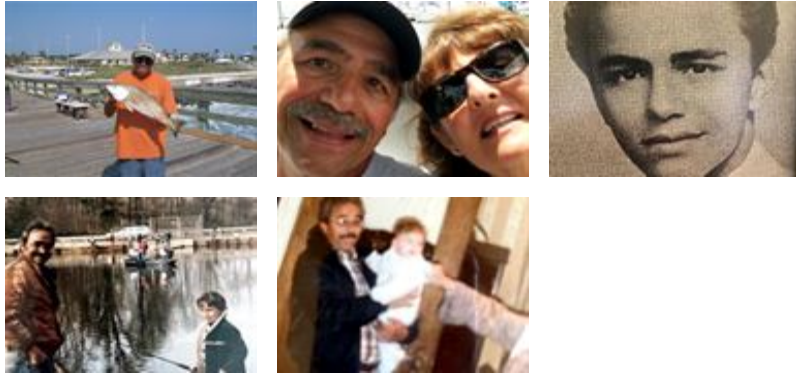
JA

Thank you so much for sharing this wonderful photo and memories of my dad. The boys look so happy it's inspiring! Mike will miss all of you very much.

Jackie - June 16, 2022 at 10:47 AM



“ 16 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - June 14, 2022 at 02:28 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Jackie - June 13, 2022 at 10:24 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jackie - June 13, 2022 at 10:17 PM

JA

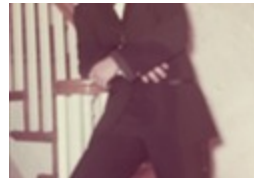
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jackie - June 13, 2022 at 10:15 PM

JA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jackie - June 13, 2022 at 10:09 PM

JA

“ Love you Dad. Hope your journey is a safe one xxooo



jackie - June 13, 2022 at 02:21 PM

MO

I love seeing these pictures of him and you and all your family Jackie. He looks like he lived life to the fullest. I wish I could have met him. You clearly share his great humor and love of life and people. The fish are fantastic!

michelle olson - June 14, 2022 at 10:14 PM

JA

He taught me so much! I wish you could have met him, too.

jackie - June 14, 2022 at 11:37 PM