



## Robert Michael Betz

April 4, 1956 - July 27, 2025

Robert Michael Betz, affectionately known as "Michael," passed away on July 27, 2025, in Saint Augustine, Florida, at the age of 69. Born on April 4, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois, Michael lived a life marked by service, dedication, and deep compassion.

Michael proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1973 to 1977. Following his military service, he embarked on a long and successful career at Deepwood Industries, where he worked for 30 years as a Contract Procurement Specialist. His professional life was defined by diligence and integrity, earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike.

Beyond his career, Michael found great happiness in life's simple pleasures. He enjoyed tending to his flower garden, exploring new places through travel, cheering on his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes, and immersing himself in the rhythms of Rock and Roll music. These passions reflected his zest for life and appreciation for beauty in all its forms. His brilliant mind and disarming wit were matched only by his empathetic heart. Michael had a rare gift for building community wherever he went—bringing people together with ease and joy.

He is survived by his loving wife, Catherine A. Betz (Wirtanen), who stood by his side with devotion and love. He also leaves behind stepsons James Neiner (Khadija), Jason Neiner (Patricia), and Kevin Kopin (Daron); his

mother Beverly (Sue) Betz; sisters Lyn (Robert) Bishop, Kelly Lachner, and Lee (Chris) Flegel; brother James (Melissa) Betz; brother-in-law Eugene Wirtanen; sister-in-law Ruthann (Dennis) Fernandez; several grandchildren who knew him fondly as “Grandpa Mike”; numerous nieces and nephews who cherished him as “Uncle Mike”; as well as many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Michael was preceded in death by his father, Robert Betz, and his nephew, Robert Bishop.

Michael’s legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew him—a man whose laughter filled rooms and whose kindness left lasting impressions. May his memory bring comfort to all who loved him.

The family will celebrate Michael’s life privately as he wished.

Those desiring may leave messages of sympathy and encouragement by going to his tribute page at: <https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/robert-betz-5/#!/TributeWall>.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home of St. Augustine is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

IK

“ He played DJ at my wedding reception. Always kind to me LOVE YOU MICHAEL B

Irene kleinsorge - July 30, 2025 at 10:39 PM

DO

“ I always loved the guy. And when I lost my house in a divorce he offered me a place to stay cuz they were in Florida at the time. I will never forget his friendship and even when I didn't see him for long it was always like a reunion. Forever in my heart! RIP Mike. ❤️😌🙏

diane orav - July 30, 2025 at 09:59 PM

DB

Michael was a great person to know and play with on the many teams that he and I were on namely, darts, balina. Always a fair and respectful competitor, it was my pleasure to have known him and call him my friend. May he rest in peace and find eternal happiness with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen ! 🙏👍🇺🇸

Don babich - July 31, 2025 at 12:45 AM

KL

“ My "big brother," my best friend who always had time for me and my family.

*I have so many fond memories of going to music festivals and concerts but my favorite will always be when we saw John Fogerty at Blossom and it poured down rain and we stayed and it was so fun. Lots of laughing!*

*You will be missed so much by myself and my children/grandchildren. The yearly "family reunions," kayaking, and just hanging out in your beautiful back yard will always be cherished memories of mine.*

*You were an old soul who taught me to slow down and "smell the flowers" and that lesson I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Rest in peace, dear brother, I know you are watching over us from heaven.*

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**Kelly Lachner** - July 30, 2025 at 08:18 PM

MC

“ I met Mike in 1982, at work and since then I've been able to know him as a coworker, teammate, mentor and best of all, a friend. I'm gonna miss him. Janet and I will remember him and his family in our prayers.

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**Michael Clavin** - July 30, 2025 at 07:16 PM