



Michael David Anderson

January 20, 1967 - August 17, 2020

Michael David Anderson was born on January 20, 1967 to Paul & Ivery Anderson in Bartlesville, OK. He died peacefully in his sleep on August 17, 2020 at The Journey Home hospice care center in Bartlesville. In his 53 years of life he was a joy to everyone around him and had many accomplishments in spite of his Down Syndrome condition.

He attended Bell Ringer School, Garfield Elementary School and Central Junior High in Special Education classes, then was integrated into regular classes at Bartlesville High School where he graduated in 1987.

He was active in Special Olympics most of his life, participating in running, walking, swimming and bowling, and went to the International Special Olympics Summer Games at Notre Dame University in 1987 where he demonstrated his mastery of the butterfly stroke. He was also active in People First and made several presentations in Oklahoma City to members of the legislature and other government agencies.

Mike was active in People First, serving as an officer and making speeches. He was also a member of Kiwanis and gave a presentation to the members about people with disabilities. He spoke at the Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities. He was always ready to be helpful to anyone and everyone whenever he could.

He moved into a group home operated by ARC Group Homes (now AbilityWorks of Oklahoma) when he was 18, and that was his home until shortly before his death. His best friends were his housemates and his staff.

He loved his staff like his parents. He was a Boy Scout and reached Eagle rank. He loved to go to Camp Cherokee every summer. In his later years, he loved attending Camp Barnabas in Missouri every summer for 9 years. He had several jobs throughout his life, both with ARC Industries (now AbilityWorks of Oklahoma), primarily in the ARC Thrift Shop, and in the community.

Mike also loved to sing and act. He originated the role of Assistant Dog Catcher in Children's Music Theater's production of Annie. He also had an important role in Emil Malik's movie "To the Wonder," with Ben Affleck. He was also a member of the ARC Singers, who gave concerts at least twice a year and sang at various functions in Bartlesville.

Mike traveled extensively, both with his parents and with groups from ARC Group Homes. He has visited Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, and several of the lower 48 states and Washington DC as well as several Caribbean islands on various cruises. He also traveled to Scotland and Ireland on his own on a group tour. He had always wanted to visit them because of his Irish and Scottish ancestry.

Mike loved to read, watch TV, go to movies, dance and socialize. He was an avid Star Trek fan from the beginning and became a Star Wars fan later. He loved dogs, whether his own or someone else's. He loved going out to eat and attending the Broadway musicals in Tulsa with his parents and his girlfriend, and always wanted the music from them on his iPod afterward.

He is survived by his parents, his sister and brother-in-law Michele and Ron Severt of Issaquah, WA, his aunt Esther Adams of Escalon, CA, his uncle and aunt Steve and Diane Anderson of Myrtle, MS, his nieces and nephew, and many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Journey Home, 900 N.E. Washington Blvd., Bartlesville, OK 74006 or AbilityWorks of Oklahoma, 501 S.W. Virginia, Bartlesville, Ok. 74003.

Graveside services will be held at 11 A.M. on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at

the Memorial Park Cemetery with Mr. Mark Weeter officiating. Services and interment are under the direction of the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery
4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael David Anderson*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Michael David Anderson*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I very, so sorry about Mike...he held a SPECIAL place in my heart since I worked at the Cherokee House in the early 80's. Prayers for the whole family. Debbie Hefel Folk*

Debbie Hefel Folk - August 21, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ *Dear Ivery and Paul, I send my condolences at the loss of Mike, your precious son. The obituary so beautifully outlined his life that was full of love, accomplishments, travel and service to others. May he rest in peace with the Lord. Love, Susan Lacey*

Susan Lacey - August 20, 2020 at 08:49 PM



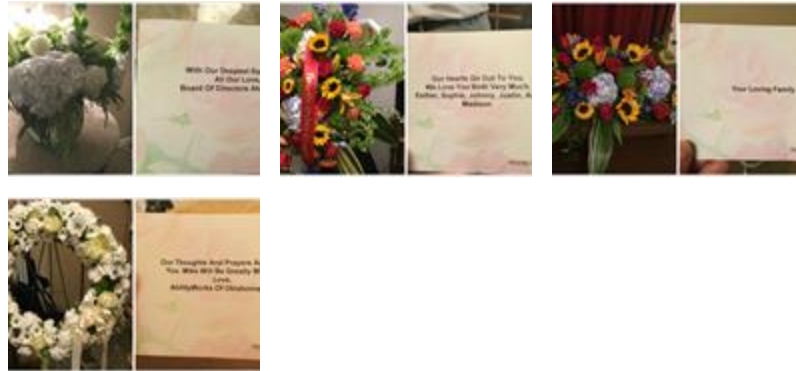
“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael David Anderson.*



August 20, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ 4 files added to the album *Flowers*



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - August 20, 2020 at 10:51 AM

DL

So sorry for your loss Paul & Ivory, & may Michael R.I.P. in Paradise with his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ 🙏

Dennis & Judy Logan - August 20, 2020 at 04:07 PM

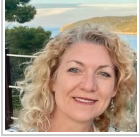
AW

“ *Sending all our LOVE to the Anderson family and all those who knew Mike. He had the sweetest smile and always a twinkle in his eyes. I spent a little time in my studio drawing Mike today and thought about his wonderful life; his loving family; and all the lives he touched in a positive way. What a GIFT he was and will continue to be!*

*May the PEACE of God be with you all during this time,
Amy, Mike, Lucas, Han and Drew Whitaker*



Amy Whitaker - August 20, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ *Deepest sympathies for your loss. Mike was such a happy, fun and sweet guy. Wonderful life but too short. Sending you all hugs.*
Alexandra

Alexandra Harvison - August 20, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ *Dearest Paul and Ivery, My deepest sympathies to you both. Mike was a bright light. I'm sorry for your loss.*
Love, Kimberly Doenges

Kimberly Doenges - August 20, 2020 at 08:39 AM

ES

“ *Thoughts and prayers for the family 🙏*



Ernie &Tami Snodgrass - August 20, 2020 at 08:05 AM

LW

“ *Paul and Ivery. My deepest condolences. Mike was my buddy, my honery friend. As one of Mike's caretakers for several years, I was blessed to witness him through all 4 seasons. Through the frustrations and Joy's, he was always true to himself, stating, "I can only be Mike" he brought smiles to the faces of many and now tears to those of us who will selfishly miss his presence here on earth with us. Now he is lighting up heaven with his antics. Forever, he will hold a fond place in my heart.*

Loren Witherspoon - August 20, 2020 at 02:50 AM

 Judy
Goodwin

“ Ivery and Paul, please accept my deepest sympathy and most heartfelt condolences. Mike was certainly a bright star in the universe and will remain so. In the time I was privileged to know him, he was always larger-than-life and great fun. He was a lucky man to have such loving parents just as you were lucky to have such a wonderful son. Sending you both prayers of love and solace.
Judy G.

Judy Goodwin - August 19, 2020 at 08:35 PM

JM

“ Michael lived a wonderful life with the love and assistance from his parents that allowed him to develop fully into a man of the world. Remembering clearly Paul's disclosure, the morning of his birth, of his condition after accepting congratulations for coworkers, was the beginning of a marvelous story. He was given the best and responded to develop his wonderful personality. My condolences to Ivery and Paul.
John W. Miller

John W Miller - August 19, 2020 at 07:49 PM

SP

“ My heartfelt condolences to Ivery, Paul and the entire family. Michael was such a great young man. I loved his sense of humor and all the stories of his “mis-adventures” in life. He will be missed.

Sheree Powell - August 19, 2020 at 07:26 PM

PA

“ 39 files added to the album *Mike's Life in Pictures*



Paul D Anderson - August 19, 2020 at 06:50 PM

BM

“ *My condolences to Paul and Ivery and the family. Mike was an incredible man. He was ornery as could be but also had a sweet heart. I cherish the time we worked together and the time we served on committees including the Mayor's Committee and OK-APSE. He will always have a place in my heart. RIP my friend.*

Barry Maxwell - August 19, 2020 at 06:18 PM

MF

“ *Mike and Joe. Friends forever.*



Melody Frakes - August 19, 2020 at 05:45 PM

MF

“ When I started working for ARC thirteen years ago, I met an extremely friendly and helpful guy named Mike Anderson. The two of us became fast friends with him calling me Yogi and telling me that he was Michael, the mightiest of all the angels. We shared many years together and it’s hard to imagine never sneaking into the kitchen early in the morning to share coffee and make plans or to make bracelets out of beads. Mike, I am jealous because I know Heaven has you now, but it comforts me to know that someday I’ll see you again. I love you. -Mel



Melody Frakes - August 19, 2020 at 05:43 PM

PS

“ Pam Soeten lit a candle in memory of Michael David Anderson



Pam Soeten - August 19, 2020 at 03:18 PM

PS

What a wonderful person he was & will be missed dearly.

Pam Soeten - August 19, 2020 at 03:29 PM

CR

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers to the Anderson family. Mike was such a sweet soul. So blessed I got the chance in knowing him. Sure going to miss his sweet face!* ”



Crystal - August 19, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael David Anderson.* ”



August 18, 2020 at 11:57 PM

MS

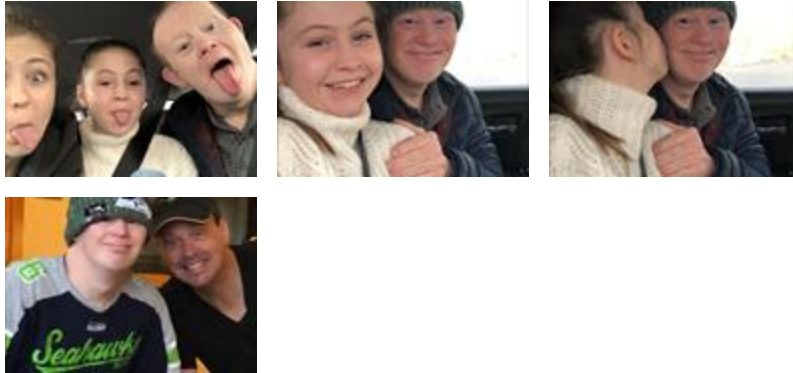
“ *Mike adored his family, and we adored him.* ”



Michele Anderson Severt - August 18, 2020 at 10:07 PM

MS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Michele Anderson Sevart - August 18, 2020 at 09:28 PM

SG

“ I'm so sorry to hear about his passing. I enjoyed working with him and seeing him put and about town. He will be greatly missed.

Samantha Green - August 18, 2020 at 09:09 PM

AF

“ Mike was such a beautiful person. We were all so lucky to have him in our lives. ❤️



Aarrestad Family - August 18, 2020 at 08:31 PM

JC

“ *Such a positive sweet spirit. Such an engaging personality, not a wallflower. Always a pleasure to teach and count as a friend in his adult life. He will be missed in so many ways. Luckily I have many “Michael” stories that will never be forgotten.*

Judith Caywood - August 18, 2020 at 08:04 PM

MS

You were one of Mike’s favorite teachers and always very special to him.

Michele Anderson Severt - August 18, 2020 at 10:02 PM

AB

“ *Almost 17 years ago I walked into an old school building for a job interview. I was greeted by a very charming man who introduced himself and chatted with me a bit, that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Many people throughout the Bartlesville Community and beyond could say the same thing. Michael spent many years as an ambassador for not only our organization, but for all individuals with disabilities. He served many years on the Oklahoma Association for Persons in Supported Employment committee. Our friend was not afraid to stand up and use his voice to spread his message. Michael will be deeply missed by all his friends at AbilityWorks.*

From all of us at AWO, we would like to send our deepest sympathies to the Anderson family.

AbilityWorks - August 18, 2020 at 06:02 PM

SA

Michael was our nephew and we loved him dearly. After reading his story, we were amazed at how talented, busy, social, and well traveled he was. We are very proud of all his accomplishments and his unique ability to fight for the rights of people with disabilities. To us, Michael was a lover, kind, fiercely independent and devoted nephew. He often would FaceTime us just to say hello and he was thinking of us. That was very special. We will never forget how he teased our oldest son Ken about still living at home at 19, since he (Michael) was living on his own. He gave Ken quite the pep talk. I also remember how enamored he was with his cousin Becky when she was about 18-19. He loved her and thought she was beautiful. He followed her all around when we visited together. He was always happy. He was just a joy to know. We are very proud of his mom and dad for raising such a fine young man. He will be missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing and loving him. Paul, Ivery, Michele and Ron, you all have our deepest condolences and you are in our prayers as you learn to go forward without this sweet Man in your life. We love you. Steve and Diane Anderson.

Steve & Diabe Anderson - August 18, 2020 at 07:26 PM

JK

My Dearest friend you will be greatly missed!!!! No one will ever replace you, who is going to bet with me on the bedlam game? You always made sure I paid up when you won, but it was like pulling teeth to mine. RIP my friend till we meet again.

Julie kesler - August 20, 2020 at 01:35 AM

K-

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kay baker -Morris - August 18, 2020 at 04:35 PM

SM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sara J Minor - August 18, 2020 at 03:51 PM

SC

“ *Mike was such a beautiful soul. He accomplished so much and touched so many people's lives while he was here on earth. It was an honor to work with him for the short time that I did. I know that Michael is in heaven and is in a new body, free of disease. Knowing Michael he is probably dancing in joy. Rest in peace.*



Steve Campbell - August 18, 2020 at 03:36 PM

AF

“ *Amanda Skinner & family. purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Michael David Anderson.*



Amanda Skinner & family. - August 18, 2020 at 10:03 AM