



Mike Porter

March 15, 1956 - August 18, 2017

Mike Porter, age 61, born and lived in Murphysboro, Illinois, all his life. He died at his home Friday, August 18, 2017.

Mike was born on March 15, 1956, to Henry Porter and Elda (Albers) Porter, graduated from Murphysboro High School and married Janet Stone on October 27, 1978.

Mike graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a bachelor's degree from the Department of Agriculture. He worked for the State of Illinois Mines and Minerals for close to thirty-nine years.

Mike is survived by the one's he loved, wife, Janet, daughter, Sarah, son, Jesse, grandson Henry Michael, and brother Donald.

Mike is preceded in death by both parents and earlier this year his brother Henry Allen.

Mike's most cherished memories were spending the day hunting with close friends, fishing with his brother Don, growing the best corn ever and in general living a life of wonderment and love from all he knew.

His body will be cremated. There will be no services. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lake Murphysboro State Park, and sent to the funeral home. For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mike Porter*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Janet and family, Words cannot describe what I felt when I heard of Mike's passing. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. I met Mike through his work just a few years ago and become friends. He was like a Grandpa to my 11 year old son. He came and duck hunted with us, took Trevor turkey hunting, brought Jazz and helped us train our chocolate lab and showed my son more things about the outdoors than anyone so far. He often talked about getting you to ride down with jazz in his smelly Jeep and introduce you. It was a honor to know him what few years we were able to share. Our deepest sympathy.*

Rex Wilburn - September 20, 2017 at 09:16 PM



“ *To Janet and the family: I am very sorry for you loss. Mike was a great guy whom I enjoyed working with and carrying on conversations about our hunting and fishing experiences. We always got around to this conversation after work conversations. I will miss him!*

Myron McCaskey - August 30, 2017 at 12:14 PM

“ After reading Mike's obit on Face book this morning, I went outside and sat on my back deck to have my first cup of coffee for the day. My teary red eyes are immediately drawn to a hummingbird feeding on Cana flowers. My mind instantly went back to Mike and my quandary on how to attract hummingbirds. Mike he gave me about a dozen the Cana bulbs with specific instructions on how to care and grow them and said "if you plant them, they will come" I could write a book about Michael Dale Porter, but in time of sorrow, what can one say about the passing of a lifelong friend and confidant?? In past couple of day I have spoken too many of Mikes' family, friends and coworkers and they all had similar great stories about Mike's character.

Mike was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and brother! He was a compassionate and caring man. He had a heart of gold and would not hesitate to come to aid of a distress friend or family member. Mike greatly enriched my life and the lives of everyone that called him a friend. In 2006 when my son passed Mike came to funeral and on a daily basis continued to call. He was instrumental in my recovery from my grief.

As children Mike and I lived close to each other and we first met when we were riding our bicycles. We soon became friends. We first went to school together at Caruthers Junior High School where our similar passion for finding Indian artifacts led us to completing a science project together where we won a 1st place prize in Springfield. Mikes' father, Henry would drive us to field and drop us off where we would spend hours searching for arrowheads. Mike had an exceptionally good eye for finding things and always found more me.

I remember one of our trips to find arrowhead exceptionally well. Henry dropped us off to go camping/arrowhead hunting. We set up our tent/campsite and started hunting. It soon started raining in fact it was a monsoon... not only were we were soaked to the bone but so was the tent and everything we brought, including our matches to start a fire. My fun meter was pegged and I was ready to go home. But in those days calling for help wasn't an option. We were there until his father would pick us up. I was at a loss we had expended

almost all of our wet matches trying to start a fire when Mike came up with the idea of putting a match between the glass and bulb of D-cell flash light. The heat of the bulb dried out the match and we were able to start a fire... We dried our belongings and continued on to have a great campout. Ever since then Mike was my HERO! He saved me from certain death....or at least an agonizing weekend. Mikes dad would let me tag along on countless outdoor adventures. When in High School we were tasked to find 50 different insects. And as many of know collecting 50 insects was not a simple task. So Henry would take us to Bald Knob Cross at night. I was amazed at the diversity of insects. And Mike captured the elusive Luna Moth which was the centerpiece of his collection.

My last visit with Mike was in June where we went to dig up some Golden Seal that I could plant in my back yard. While in the woods it started getting dark. I told Mike that we need to get back, that there was a storm coming. He shrugged it off and continued his search. Of course the bottom fell out and we were soaking wet but it didn't deter Mike from his quest. When were back at his vehicle he commented on how much fun he had and enjoyed our short time together.

As I stated earlier I could write a book about my adventures with Mike.... But I need to stop now.

There is a hole in my heart from Mikes passing that will never heal! I've learned from experience that time does NOT heal a man's soul. We have to learn to live life without our love ones, always remembering the lessons that we have gained from their presence. Mike Porter was a great man and did amazing things with his short time on this earth. My prayers and thoughts are with all of his family and friends!

craig pope - August 21, 2017 at 05:42 PM

CO

“ Janet and Sarah and family. I am so sorry for your loss. There really are no words that will bring comfort at this time. I will pray for strength to get through this.

Cathy overturf - August 21, 2017 at 10:30 AM

LR

“ Janet and Family:

I am so sorry about the loss of Mike. I worked with him the last 15 years and he was truly a good friend to me. I will always cherish that. He loved his family very much and talked about all of you often. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Rest in peace Mike. You were loved.

Linda Raufer - August 21, 2017 at 07:34 AM

JH

“ It has been a true honor to have Mike as a close friend for over 20 years. I will always remember him as one of the kindest, compassionate and sincere individuals I have ever known. All of us that knew Mike well can easily think of a moment that brings a smile to us.. I will always cherish those moments and miss my "buddy" Mike.

My condolences go out to Mike's family and friends.

Jim Hafliger

Jim Hafliger - August 20, 2017 at 08:55 PM

DS

“ *Not sure what to say. Mike and I worked together his entire career. He was a great guy, good friend and colleague in our profession. I always looked forward to our annual favorite trip to catch up on new times and old. He will be missed by all who knew him. May God give me you peace.*

Dean Spindler - August 20, 2017 at 07:41 AM