



Michael Lee Lathen

January 15, 1947 - April 18, 2017

Michael Lee Lathen, age 70, of Albia, passed away on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Mike was born on January 15, 1947 to Gene and Mary Ellen (Ellison) Lathen in Centerville, Iowa. He grew up attending schools in Moravia and Albia graduating from Albia High School with the Class of 1965. He enrolled at a college in Nashville, Tennessee for auto diesel mechanic education. Mike worked for Gibbs Cook in Des Moines before being drafted and serving his country in United States Navy Seabees mobile construction battalion #133 during the Vietnam War. On November 5, 1967 he was united in marriage to Irene Stewart at the Presbyterian Church in Albia. To this union 3 children were born, Roger, Jeff and Carrie.

Mike worked in Ottumwa at the International Harvester dealership as a truck mechanic. He also worked for Clifford Belzer and Monroe County Truck Implement in Albia. In 1977 he starting farming full time and also ran Mikes Tractor Repair before going to work for Oskaloosa Implement. He returned to running and operating his tractor repair company until retiring at the age of 65. He was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia and played Andrew in the living disciples of the last supper for many years. He was also a member of Southeastern Iowa Tractor Club where he enjoyed the plowing days competition, he was a 4-H leader and a member of the Monroe County

Pork Producers. He enjoyed being outdoors, attending his grandchildren's sporting events and spending time in the fields, farming. His real joy in life was spending time with his family and friends especially his grandchildren.

Mike is survived by his wife, Irene Lathen of Albia; his three children, Roger (Jennifer) Lathen of Fremont, Jeff (Jennifer) Lathen of Albia, and Carrie (Chris) Wirtjes of Albia; six grandchildren, Clayton, Rylie, Paige, Emma, Blake, Isaiah and a set of twins on the way; a brother, Mark (Kim) Lathen of Sioux Falls, SD and two uncles, Merv and Kenny Ellison.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Gene and Mary Ellen Lathen; his grandparents, Frank and Bertha Lathen and Roy and Bernice Ellison.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, April 24, 2017, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia, with Pastor Roger Henry officiating. Burial with military rites provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose and Lovilia will follow the service at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery south of Albia.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Sunday, April 23, 2017, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Michael's family present from 5-8 p.m. to greet family and friends.

An open memorial has been established and will be determined at a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Funeral Service

APR **24**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church
1117 Benton Ave East
Albia, IA 52531

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Lee Lathen*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Michael Lee Lathen*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Platinum - Angel Holding Flowers was purchased for the family of Michael Lee Lathen.*



April 24, 2017 at 12:17 AM



“ *Paul & Kathleen Koffman purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Michael Lee Lathen.*



Paul & Kathleen Koffman - April 20, 2017 at 06:34 PM

M.

“ *May God hold you in the palm of his hand ... purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael Lee Lathen.*



May God hold you in the palm of his hand ... - April 20, 2017
at 11:03 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Lee Lathen.*



April 19, 2017 at 08:30 PM

CH

“ *Sorry for your loss. Mike was always doing something funny and joking. we had fun in class . Will miss him at our reunions. Connie Sayres Harris.*

Connie Sayres Harris - April 19, 2017 at 03:20 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Michael Lee Lathen.*



April 19, 2017 at 10:48 AM

LL

“ Sincerely sorry for your loss Irene. May His promise of eternal life be of comfort to you and family, remembering you in my thoughts & prayers.

Liz Larson - April 19, 2017 at 10:04 AM

FM

“ Irene and family, I was so sad to hear about Mike. Although, it is God's promise to all of us, it doesn't make it easiest. You are in our prayers.



Fran DeMoss Magie - April 19, 2017 at 10:01 AM

DN

“ Irene so sorry for your loss thinking of you and times we spent together will keep you and your family in my prayers. Donna Nicodemus

Donna Nicodemus - April 19, 2017 at 09:49 AM

GE

“ I have many memories of my cousin Mike, but one that stands out predominately is when he chased me, the city girl, into Grandma Lathen's bathroom with a locust in his hand. I slammed the door in safety just as he stuck the locust in the door jam. His eyes popped out as he got squished! Mike thought he was pretty funny! He was quite the joker.

Generia - April 19, 2017 at 09:40 AM

JY

“ We are sorry to hear about Mike. We remember him best from our high school years. He was a great guy who married a very sweet gal. Irene, our prayers are with you and your family in the days ahead.

Jenni and Glenn Yenger - April 19, 2017 at 09:28 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the entire Lathen family. Praying for peace to bring you comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to hold close.

Laura Teno - April 19, 2017 at 08:32 AM

JT

“ Dear Irene and Family, I am so sorry to hear about Mike. He certainly fought a courageous fight, with all of you at his side. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers as you continue your journey. Take care, Judy and Lynn Thompson

Judy Thompson - April 19, 2017 at 12:09 AM

MR

“ Irene, so sorry you lost the love of your life. My prayers are with you and asking grace for you during this heartbreaking time. You almost made it to 50 years. He's gone from this world but you can see him again. None of us are home yet.

Martha DeZwarte Rankin - April 18, 2017 at 11:06 PM

DH

“ Dear Irene and family, You have our Prayers holding you up through this time. Mike was such a gentle man. May Our Lord hold you in His arms through it all.
Don & Janece Hutchinson

Don & Janece Hutchinson - April 18, 2017 at 09:52 PM

KC

“ Thinking of Mike's family at this time - he was a great guy and good friend.

Kenny Chance - April 18, 2017 at 07:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Lee Lathen.



April 18, 2017 at 07:20 PM

CS

“ Great neighbor and our dear friend. Sorry about your loss.

Carol Scott - April 18, 2017 at 06:13 PM

AA

“ Irene and family,

I am so sorry to hear about Mike. I remember sharing many family events at Grandma and Grandpa's with him, Mark, Uncle Gene and Aunt Mary Ellen. Time sure passes by us so swiftly. Those were the good ol' days.



My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

*Love,
Ann*

Ann Anderson - April 18, 2017 at 05:57 PM

KJ

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for you during this difficult time. May you feel God's loving and comforting presence in the days ahead.*

Sincerely,

Kim Jolly

Kim Jolly - April 18, 2017 at 02:35 PM

KB

“ *My sympathy and prayers are sent to Irene and family at this time. Thinking of you as you face this time of grief and sorrow! Hugs sent!!*

Kate Brock - April 18, 2017 at 02:08 PM