



Michael "Mike" John Hopp

December 12, 1971 - July 22, 2025

Michael John Hopp, 53, died on July 19, 2025, at his residence. He was a son, brother, uncle, father, grandfather, and friend. His life was profoundly shaped by physical and mental health challenges—realities that dimmed his light, but did not define him. We are grateful that he no longer suffers.

Mike was loud—you always knew when he walked into a room. He was passionate and cared deeply for his friends and family. He loved watching sports, solving puzzles, and making homemade beef and noodles from scratch (which we all thoroughly enjoyed). Some of his favorite moments were spent around a table—playing cards, sharing board games, and laughing with the people he loved. He was brilliant and deeply loved by his mother.

Mike was born in Muscatine, Iowa, on December 12, 1971, to the late Sue Fogle of Chariton and the late Bill Hopp of Muscatine. He grew up in Chariton with his Mom and sister, Molly. There, he graduated from Chariton High School in 1990. Later, he returned to college and earned his engineering degree from Iowa State University (Go Cyclones).

He married Kathy with whom he loved and raised three children, Gage, Seth, and Tyler. He was thankful for the years he was able to love his older children, Ashley and Aaron. He cherished his grandchildren and was a beloved uncle to his nieces, Aleah and Maggie, who fondly remember his adventures and love

of fun.

Mike held a special bond with his dog, Boots—his “best friend in the whole wide world.”

In the early 2000s, Mike’s life was deeply impacted by his relationship with Jesus. That season changed his heart and mindset and allowed those closest to him to experience his love and light more fully. We take comfort in knowing that he is now with the Lord, the Healer of all diseases and brokenness.

Mike’s ongoing battle with addiction and mental illness clouded that light. His illness led to choices and circumstances that would irrevocably alter the course and impact of his life. The effects of those struggles were far-reaching, and the damage they caused was not always repairable. Still, the people in his life never forgot the version of Mike that was full of humor, warmth, hope, and love.

He is survived by his sister, Molly (Michael) Gregory; his children, Ashley (Justin) Redding, Aaron (Tara) Alexander, Gage Hopp, Seth Hopp, and Tyler (Emma) Hopp; grandchildren, Jax and Holden Redding, and Ryland and Riley Alexander; nieces, Aleah Armstrong and Margaret Burke; stepfather, Jerry Fogle; and his faithful dog, Boots. He is also remembered by his former wife, Kathy Hopp; aunt, Karen Hopp; brother, Pete Hopp; and sisters, Lori Taylor and Jodi Gasper.

Mike was a complicated person—as many are. He was loved. And he is remembered—not only for the struggles he faced, but for the light he carried, even when it flickered.

If you’re struggling with addiction, we urge you: keep fighting this disease. Each moment is an opportunity and a gift to choose healing. You are not

alone. You are seen. You are valued. And you are held in the hearts of families like ours—who know the cost yet still hope for healing.

Per Mike's wishes, his body has been cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, cards of condolences/memorials can be sent to Mike's family c/o Tharp Funeral Home, 116 Benton Ave. West, Albia, IA 52531.

Tribute Wall

LL

“ I was fortunate enough to know Mike through his best years. He truly did make a positive, God-center impact on the lives of many of us in the youth group. For us nerds, he tutored all of the hard math and physics courses and dedicated so much time to us. I knew of his struggles and it was hard to hear that they consumed him once again in more recent years. Put simply, God is good, drugs are not. Thank you for an honest obituary and I pray in Mike's memory we can help others with similar struggles.

Liam Lafferty - August 01, 2025 at 12:30 PM

MG

Thank you for your kind words. You put it wonderfully... "God is good. Drugs are not." He loved his ministry with the Youth. And yes... I am praying my brother's life will continue to help others with similar struggles.

~Molly Hopp Gregory

Molly Gregory - September 09, 2025 at 04:22 PM

SM

“ Shannon Sullivan Morris sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael "Mike" John Hopp



Shannon Sullivan Morris - July 29, 2025 at 01:20 PM

MG

Thank you so much

Molly Gregory - September 09, 2025 at 04:23 PM

MF

“ Hopp!!!!!!

-Flender!!!!

Miss you buddy. Appreciated Mike's big heart ministering to teens and the friend he was. May his family have peace.

Mike Flender - July 28, 2025 at 09:57 PM

MG

Thank you so much. My brother did have a big heart.

Molly Gregory - September 09, 2025 at 04:19 PM

BM

“ *My daughter Mercedes attended youth group at the church years ago. Mike had a profound impact on her and although they didn't stay in touch, she carried him in her heart and refers to him as helping her understand who Jesus was.*

Tonight she commented “ she must have known him in the good years” as we read this obituary.

Our prayers for his children, grandchildren and family. May he finally rest in peace. It's not often you find a family be so open to express the addiction and mental health of the deceased. Thank you for being so humble and acknowledging what that may do for someone else struggling.

Brandy Morton - July 28, 2025 at 09:43 PM

MG

I loved my brother. He had such a big heart. I do pray his life will continue to point others to Christ, who is a breaker of chains, such as addiction. Thank you for sharing how he impacted your daughter. It was my prayer that God would draw Mike back to Himself, and he would be a light to others who are dealing with substance abuse. God had other plans by taking him home to be with Himself. I am thankful that he is at peace now, and no longer in pain physically and mentally. Sending love.

~Molly

Molly Gregory - September 09, 2025 at 04:30 PM

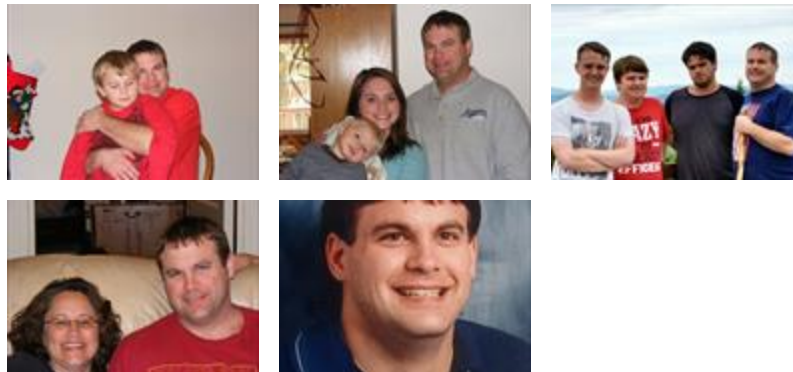
BR

“ Prayers for the family. Mike was a good friend and I always enjoyed talking with him. We had a lot of fun together back in the day.

Bruce Rietveld - July 28, 2025 at 09:25 PM



“ 35 files added to the album Memories Album



Tharp Funeral Home - July 28, 2025 at 03:18 PM