

Michael Anthony Townsend

January 30, 1985 - February 8, 2017

Michael Anthony Townsend, age 32, of Ottumwa, passed away on February 8, 2017, in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Michael was born on January 30, 1985, to Patrick and Dede (Wilson) Townsend at Blytheville Air Force Base in Arkansas. He attended school in Ottumwa until moving to the Eddyville-Blakesburg High School where he graduated with the Class of 2003. He served his country in the United States Army as a combat engineer for 9 ½ years and was stationed in Iraq, Iran, South Korea, Hawaii and several other locations. On October 7, 2010 he was united in marriage to Jolene Torricer at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Michael received his AA degree from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa and was currently attending William Penn University to receive his degree in public accounting.

In his early years Michael worked as a salesman for the Kirby Vacuum Company. He loved helping his grandfather on the farm. Michael was also employed at Hy-Vee during high school and later he worked Menards. Michael was a member of the Wounded Warrior Project, The Lions Club and The Masons. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, being outdoors, camping, fishing, hunting, and target practice. His real joy in life was spending time with his family and friends, especially his children.

Michael is survived by his wife, Jolene Townsend; his three children, Makayla, Hunter and Lilyana; his parents, Patrick Townsend and Dede (Robert) "Bob" Sherman; his grandmother, Laurine Townsend; a brother, James Townsend; a half-brother, Zack Townsend; step-siblings, Samer Kafawain, Krista Long, Bobby Sherman and Paula Sherman. Michael is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Arthur Townsend; his grandmother, Sue Wilson; his step-mother, Roberta Townsend; his uncle Michael Townsend and his mother and father-in-law, William and Jeanne Torricer.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Pastor Brad Gray officiating. Military honors will be provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose and Lovilia. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Michael's family present to greet family and friends.

An open memorial has been established in Michael's name.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

FEB 18. 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Anthony Townsend*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Michael Anthony Townsend*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Randy Caudron lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*



Randy caudron - February 14, 2017 at 06:15 PM



“ *Im still in shock michael was a great guy and a great friend i have known michael for years and he was a likeable person when i saw michael for the first time when he came back he was with his wife and i finally was able to meet her everytime i see him he would radle my ear off about how his children and his wife was which didnt bother me cuz i was glad to see his smile im so sorry for the loss of a great man jolene and to his family*

Mary Carnes - February 13, 2017 at 07:24 AM

BW

“ *Brenda Wignall lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*



Brenda Wignall - February 12, 2017 at 10:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Townsend.*



February 11, 2017 at 06:39 PM

MO

“ In Loving Memory Of My Son Michael Anthony Townsend 1-30-1985 to 2-8-2017

Don't ask me why

Don't ask me why, I'll start to cry. Just sitting here to calm my fears, no way to know how to let you go. As you ask why, I begin to cry. Don't ask me why I want to die, don't ask me why I should even try. I find me wondering through the night, searching for the final light. Don't ask me why, I'll start to cry. The clouds have cleared and the pain aside, I treasure your love and keep it inside. Your time has come, and your fears aside. Just look in my eyes and you will see you inside. For the love we share we can not hide, don't ask me why, I start to cry. Now your on your way and can not stay, I just don't know how to let you go. Your my life and I love you so. Don't ask me why I'll start to cry. Don't ask me why I think I'll cry, I look your way and you've gone away. I don't know why, I think I'll die, you took my heart, and it fell apart, I don't know why, I think I'll cry. I passed you by and start to cry, not knowing why you had to die. Don't ask me why, I'll start to cry.

I love and miss you Michael with all my heart and strength

Mom

2-11-2017

MOM - February 11, 2017 at 04:19 PM

ST

“ So sorry to hear about Michael. I totally enjoyed getting to know him as a student at WPU. He was always willing to share his experiences in class and I thought he had a great future. I enjoyed hearing about his family and how maybe we could get him playing golf again.

Steve Tucker

Instructor and golf coach at William Penn, but more importantly Mike's friend.

Stephen D Tucker - February 11, 2017 at 09:26 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Townsend.*



February 10, 2017 at 08:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Townsend.*



February 10, 2017 at 07:50 PM

CG

“ Jolene, we can't imagine the heartbreaking emotions that you and your family is enduring. Our deepest sympathy. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Kenny and Cathy Gustafson

Cathy Gustafson - February 10, 2017 at 06:07 PM

GM

Jolene, my heart is breaking you and your kids. Stay strong by keeping your faith and God will guide you. This is where he will carry you through this very difficult time. I haven't stopped thinking about you and your children. prayers for all of you. Lots of love, Gina M.

Gina McWilliams - February 10, 2017 at 09:28 PM

JS

“ I meet mikey on a hot summer day in 1999 walking down a lonely highway just north of blakesburg I offered a ride he took me up i dropped him off at a house 9 miles south of were I found him .I asked no questions. The next day I found mikey the next day walking the same road . I pulled over and asked wtf. He told me he was walking to a girl's house . I asked were he lived. 10miles north of blakesburg. That fool was walking 19miles to see a girl... I had to tag along . I gave him a ride every day we had a ton of fun and alot of trouble . I miss you brother . I hope to find him again one day.



Jeff smith - February 10, 2017 at 06:00 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Townsend.*



February 10, 2017 at 04:20 PM



“ *Try to remember all the good times you have had with Michael even though there is a big hole in your hearts. Hope you can feel the love and hugs I am sending your way. Love you!*

Aunt Marcella

Marcella Snakenberg - February 10, 2017 at 03:07 PM



“ *I remember his warm smile whenever he came over to our home. He loved steak, was fiercely loyal, and had a huge heart. I'm sorry we lost touch and didn't regain it before this. My heart breaks for all of his loved ones and family.*



Aimee Hunter - February 10, 2017 at 01:59 PM

DS

“ *My sincerest condolences to Michael's family. I was able to get to know Michael through Career Services at William Penn University, and talked to him at length on a trip to Sioux City for an Interview Day in which he participated. Michael was rightfully proud of working toward his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and of his service to his country, but most of all his love for his wife and children shone through in his conversations with me. I will truly miss Michael. Debbie Stevens*

Debbie E. Stevens - February 10, 2017 at 11:44 AM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Townsend.*



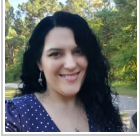
February 10, 2017 at 08:52 AM



“ *Patricia Hinkley lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*



Patricia Hinkley - February 10, 2017 at 08:43 AM



“ *With a heavy heart and sadness we are truly sorry for your loss. Mikey was our brother, maybe not by blood, but a military bond not many understand. He will be missed but his memory will live on. We are here for you and the kids so if you need anything don't hesitate to ask...*



Ashley Clark - February 10, 2017 at 06:24 AM



“ *My heart is so heavy . It doesn't seem real. I just can't believe you're gone. You weren't blood but you are our family. I am so deeply saddened, thinking of what you must have been going through. I am so sorry. Mikey, you will never ever be forgotten brother. I am so glad to have been able to share my graduation with you and the family. Thank you for opening up your home for my sister too. I will never forget your funny and goofy spirit and your loving heart. My sweet sister, Jo, my heart is breaking for you and the kids. I can't even begin to imagine what you are going through. You know that we are here for you, always...if you need anything. We Love you all, with all our hearts.*



Maria Willhelm - February 10, 2017 at 12:47 AM



“ *Thank you Michael for your service to our country. You will not be forgotten. May your family and friends be blessed with the fabulous memories you created with them. With my sincerest respect, Ginger Miller*

Ginger Miller - February 09, 2017 at 09:36 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies on the loss of your son. I hope you find comfort in the love you had for each other.*

Alison Barrett - February 09, 2017 at 09:15 PM



“ *The most precious memories I can offer you Jo is when I brought this special bundle of joy into our lives. He was always a very happy baby and could always make me smile. I will never forget his smile.*



MOM - February 09, 2017 at 08:00 PM



“ *Emily Kendall lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*




Emily Kendall - February 09, 2017 at 07:46 PM



“ *Michael was like another father to me. Even though he wasn't family by blood, he was family by heart. Michael, you will be missed. We love you. <3*

Jayden Kendall - February 09, 2017 at 07:45 PM

 Jayden Kendall

“ Jayden Kendall lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend



Jayden Kendall - February 09, 2017 at 07:43 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Townsend.



February 09, 2017 at 07:34 PM

 Chris Harry

“ I served with Townsend in Iraq. I am sorry for your loss. RIP Sapper

Chris Harry - February 09, 2017 at 07:03 PM



“ Sheila Bunker-graham lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend



Sheila Bunker-graham - February 09, 2017 at 06:19 PM

SH

“ *Scott Hartman lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*



Scott Hartman - February 09, 2017 at 05:44 PM



“ *Kellye WhiteBuffalo sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*




Kellye WhiteBuffalo - February 09, 2017 at 05:33 PM



I am so very very sorry :(

Kellye WhiteBuffalo - February 09, 2017 at 05:35 PM

 Trish Way

“ *Trish Way lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Townsend*



Trish Way - February 09, 2017 at 04:23 PM

 Trish Way

I have no words. Just want you to know I am thinking of you.

Trish Way - February 09, 2017 at 04:24 PM

SR

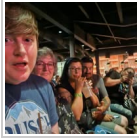
*I am So sorry Robert and Dede I am dealing with the loss of my father .
No words can express the pain I know u r going through*

Sherri Robinson - February 09, 2017 at 05:28 PM

 Meg
Townsend

“ *We will miss you...Auntie Meg and Uncle Vince*

Meg Townsend - February 09, 2017 at 03:33 PM



“ *Jean Miller lit a candle in memory of Michael
Anthony Townsend*



Jean Miller - February 09, 2017 at 03:23 PM