



Michael James Vitko

May 11, 1965 - January 20, 2024

Michael James Vitko, age 58, of Ottumwa unexpectedly passed away on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Michael was born May 11, 1965 in Albia, Iowa to James John and Ruth Ann (Hayes) Vitko.

Michael graduated from Highland High School in Hardy, Arkansas in 1983. He continued his education at Indian Hills Community College where he received an associate's degree. After college Michael worked as a medical transcriptionist at Monroe County Hospital in Albia. During his lifetime Michael served in several hospitality roles as a bartender, waiter and host at several resorts throughout the United States. Most recently Michael worked at the Snowshoe Ski Resort in West Virginia.

In his free time Michael enjoyed hiking, gardening and cooking. He was a music enthusiast and enjoyed listening to all types of music, especially Barbara Streisand. Michael enjoyed volunteering at the Food Bank of Iowa in Ottumwa and attended church at St. Mary of the Visitation.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Ann Vitko of Ottumwa, two sisters, Barbara (Jeff) Ackles of Friendswood, TX, Teresa (Juan) Barajas of Garland, TX and one brother, John (Deborah) Vitko of Ottumwa, IA. Also surviving Michael are an aunt Helen (Ronald) Allen of Syracuse, NE and many cousins, nieces, nephews and lifelong friends.

Michael is preceded in death by his father James Vitko.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Michael's family present to greet family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia. Burial will follow services at St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia.

A memorial has been established to Hospice serving Davis and Wapello Counties.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Albia, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAY 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
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Tribute Wall

JP

“ Michael was the person who wanted to offer comfort. We remember Michael as a young boy who found joy in being surrounded by family. And in recent years his memories focus on his proximate and extended family. A couple of summers ago, we were delighted to have lunch with Michael and his mother and revisit the memories we shared. Michael also like to share his travels of where his job took him. Just days before his death, he sent us photos of St Bernard Catholic Church via by Facebook messenger. He told us that he passed the church each day on his way to work. He was so happy to have had the opportunity to attend Christmas Eve services in this church. We will miss Michael’s Facebook posts! May you Rest in Peace Michael. Cousin Jim and Elaine Pasut

James and Elaine Pasut - January 31, 2024 at 11:06 PM

KE

I enjoyed working with Michael when we were still teenagers.

kelly - May 11 at 10:50 AM