



Michael Joseph Busija

FEB 16, 1947 - DEC 29, 2023



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Michael Joseph Busija left this life for his next adventure on Friday December 29, 2023. With all of his love, he said goodnight to his beloved wife of 55 years, Leona (Samaras). He celebrated a Christmas filled with joy and laughter with his daughters, Stacey Busija and Joanna Clift, and his grandchildren, Dane Leoniak, Olivia Leoniak, Evan Clift and Ryder Clift.

Mike, or Mikey Joe, as he was referred to by close friends and family, was born February 16, 1947 in Braddock, Pennsylvania to Joseph Michael Busija and Gladys (Poropatic). He was the eldest of 4 boys and had some funny stories about that. He is survived by brothers Martin (wife Cindy, niece Jennifer Posey, nephew Martin) and David (wife Nancy, nieces Sara and Anna). He is predeceased by brother Brian (wife Janet); they are surely catching up now and sharing laughs. He also spent time over the holiday with his favorite sister-in-law Bridget Millett (husband Ken, nephews Stephen and Justin, niece Ashley Basso).

Mike entered the United States Marines in 1966 and served his country proudly. He married his high school sweetheart and worked hard to care for and support his family throughout his life. (No one should be remembered for where they worked so that list is omitted.)

Mike is remembered by those who knew him as the neighbor you went to when you needed help. He was the owner and expert on every tool you might ever need for any problem and who you went for the “how-to” long before there was YouTube. He would offer his help to all. When his daughters left home, he was the first phone call for all questions home or car related. And he always had the answers.

Mike’s love language was acts of service. (Which he would say is stupid.) He would mow both his mother and his mother-in-law’s lawns on the weekends on top of his own, because that’s what he did. He had a never ending “to-do” list that he worked on every day. He loved to be busy.



Obituary

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Mike's family was always his priority and he was everything to them. While living in western PA and working in northern NJ, he would drive home every weekend to see his family. He attended every majorette parade, school activity, and ballet performance of his daughters with pride. He was the best sled-riding track-maker. Every Christmas he would lift his young daughters to put the star on the Christmas tree, according to whose turn it was. He always checked on Christmas morning to make sure Santa had come. A couple of times, it was so early in the morning that Santa had not yet come! He was the maker of weekend breakfasts and loved to "Army trumpet call" you awake when it was ready. He would stand vigilantly on the porch to make sure any of his daughters' would-be suitors opened the car door for them... only a few times did he have to send a boy scurrying to the passenger's side with a "What, my daughter isn't good enough for you to open her door?" Stacey and Joanna's friends were always welcomed and loved (and teased) like they were part of the family.

As much as he loved his wife and daughters, his grandchildren were his pride and joy, his favorite people ever. As a PopPop, he showed the same love and support to his grandchildren. He was always in the audience for games, concerts, recitals, and graduations. As recently as the day before he left us, he taught Dane and Evan a couple of things about home maintenance. He was the "World's Greatest PopPop" and had the merch to prove it.

Mike rebuilt a 1930 Model A Ford with minimal yelling at his staff, aka his family. He knew how to do it all- from cars, to construction of a life sized playhouse for his daughters, to additions on real houses. He knew everything and he could do anything.

He was a lover of old war movies and excelled in channel flicking. (Usually waiting for you to get interested in the program and then changing it.) Mike enjoyed sitting in his lawn chair in the driveway with a glass of wine and watching the day pass.

At his request there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to support veterans (Tunnels to Towers), or go buy yourself something at Home Depot. Because, honestly, he doesn't care what you do or don't do with your money.

Most importantly, he was the best Daddy ever!



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Joe Gallo posted:

My deepest condolences to the family I have fond memories including pulling an engine from the car Mike restored, and we shared many laughs together in New Windsor!! I'll miss his humor and friendship RIP Mike! Sympathy to the family! Joe Gallo 201-289-0387

January 3 at 3:18 AM



Jonathan Clift posted:

Mike (I only occasionally called you Mike) you were always Pop to me or Pop Pop to our boys. Ok I called you Pop Pop a lot too! You were such an excellent grandfather. A man of action over words. I thank you on behalf of my children for the role model you were to them and myself. I wish I could have had one more "sip sesh" with you in the driveway, I will cherish those always. You will live always in our hearts. I have a feeling if St. Peter is snacking on something at the gates, you will be asking "Hey! Whatcha got there?!" I know you are feeling much better now and enjoying paradise. ❤️ We love you Pop Pop!

December 31 at 12:21 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Busija family.



December 31 at 11:47 AM



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JP

Jackie Moses Previsty posted:

Dear Noni Stacey, Jo and special grandchildren My heart is absolutely broken for you..for all of us. Words just escape me. So much I want to say but my head just can't wrap around the fact that Mikey is gone. His family was his life..you all know the love he had for you. I will always treasure the memories I have, and believe me there are many. I love you all. I pray you will find comfort in all your memories. Some day your tears will turn into smiles as you recall a special time. ❤️ To Mikey Joe, well done my special friend. Rest in heavenly peace until we can one day celebrate our birthdays together. You were the best. ☐

December 30 at 2:52 PM

MB

Mary Lou Buoymaster January 31 at 1:02 PM

My most sincere heartfelt condolences to all of Mikey's family and friends. My precious Leona I know you are heartbroken I'll pray for all of you, daughters grandkids. When having dinner, we asked you to pass the bread. Don't wait for the bread basket to come around to you. Hold your hands up to catch the bread!! Mike always kept you on your feet. I could never talk to Leona without hearing an occasional call from him sitting in his TV chair. I'll miss that! Rest in peace until Jesus comes to wake you and you and family move into your heavenly mansion! You and Billy will have to fight over who's cooking dinner. Thank you for taking the best care of my dear friend. love you. Until we all meet again Mary Lou Buoymaster

JL

John Leoniak posted:

Mike is a man of many lessons. Some hands on teaching moments. Some very quiet examples of how to treat others especially family and friends. There was nothing Mike couldn't do. When Stacey and I were dating, my car got broken into and the steering wheel was messed up. We worked it for a couple of hours and couldn't get it right. Stacey and I had plans so he told me to go get ready. Well after I left Mike figured it out. I guess I was just in his way. Mike did so much for us, at some point he and I evened out, maybe. I helped him with the addition and pushed a lot of cement for the footer. There was a huge long and heavy beam that had to get put in place over my head. I was Mike we are going to need at least 5 more guys my size. Nope he had a plan and I was all the muscle he needed. He always treated me with respect and kindness. His love for his family was unlimited. He did so many individual act of love for all of them. He will forever be a ROCK for his family. My heart hurts for Mama, Stacey, Joanna, Dane, Olivia. Evan, Ryder and everyone who is his family and friend. We are all lucky to have him in our lives. I was very lucky to have him as a father in-law.

December 30 at 2:21 PM



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Dane Leoniak posted:

For Christmas, he and Mama got us new blankets. When I pulled mine out he said, "the great thing about that is it'll get warmer the longer you have it on." The next day my dad had grabbed it and asked, "so what's special about this? It's supposed to heat up as you use it or something fancy like that?" I said, "yes Dad, that is how blankets work." Not everyone got his sense of humor. But I will miss it very much. Dane

December 30 at 1:50 PM



Ashley January 1 at 6:03 PM

❤ Beautiful. Love you Dane. Love you Michael Mike.



John Leoniak January 1 at 12:29 PM

Your Poppop was a very funny person.



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Joe Gallo posted:

My deepest condolences to Michael's family I have so many great memories from our days in New Windsor Mike could fix anything and was great restoring old cars!! will miss his sense of humor and quick wit! May Mike Rest in Peace Praying for Mike and Family Bless all Joe Gallo 201-389-0387 Joseph.r.gallo@gmail.com

December 30 at 6:01 AM



Cindy Busija December 30 at 1:31 PM

Mike was an awesome brother and brother in law .. and again he was always there to lend a hand ! I will always remember when his little brother Martin my husband was very ill and big brother Mike was ready to take a plane and come to his side if needed ! That meant so much and always will be remembered.. we will miss him dearly .. love Cindy and Marty



Joan Mundy December 30 at 12:52 PM

Peter and I are so sorry to hear about Mike's passing. The obituary is spot on. He was the best neighbor for sure there isn't a story to be told about Butterhill that doesn't have Mike and Ona center stage I hope all your wonderful memories, and there are tons, bring you smile and laughs. I know they do for us. Sending love all of you



Carole Cullen December 30 at 12:40 PM

My deepest condolences to all of the family. I will miss "Dad" dearly and especially his warm welcomes whenever I came to visit. He always made me feel so special and like I was a part of the family. He was the first person we would call when out on an adventure and had car trouble or were just plain lost. He will live on in our memories and the stories we will share about his love for family and great sense of humor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



J December 30 at 12:26 PM

Thank you so much Joe. Your kind words mean a lot to us.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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