



Mr. Michael A Brazier

July 8, 1946 - August 19, 2015

Michael Brazier of St. Louis, MO died Aug 19, 2015. He was 69. Mr. Brazier was born July 8, 1946 in Milwaukee, WI, son of Donn and Betty (née Deppiesse) Brazier. He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (B.S.C.E.) from the University of Missouri in Columbia and his M.S. of Environmental Engineering at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis for 32 years in the Design Branch, Environmental Section and the Regulatory Branch. He married Mary Ann Narrow on April 26, 1969. He was the beloved father of Aaron and Jennifer.

In his career, he was responsible for the environmental protection of navigable waters, rivers, streams and wetlands and received numerous awards in his work, including a special recognition from President Jimmy Carter for cost reductions in wastewater designs. Another special award was the Commander's Award I received from the District Engineer, Col. Michael Morrow, for outstanding performance of duties as manager of the regulatory program and environmental design. After his retirement from the Corps, he continued in engineering consulting services for many years.

He participated in a project in which he was selected as a part of a team to design wastewater treatment systems with the Puerto Rican Sewer Authority and selected contractors. He liked Puerto Rico so much, that he returned on

an extended trip with his wife Mary.

It was evident that he loved nature, most specifically the waterways in which he worked. He spent much of his free time with his family in the outdoors hiking, biking, kayaking, and camping. He also enjoyed the ocean's natural landscape while traveling on family vacations to the Outer Banks on the East Coast many summers. He often tended to his garden in which he enlisted help from family planting tomatoes, peppers and raspberries in his yard in West County.

He was active in a running group with coworkers and participated in many local races and marathons. He enjoyed being active and adventurous. He always had a pleasant disposition and frequently wore a smile. He was kind to all he encountered and quick to make friends regardless of whom they were. He had a great sense of humor and laughed frequently, making him a pleasure to be around. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Services will be held at Hotchkiss Chapel
inside Bellefontaine Cemetery with
family only/private burial in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to:
Missouri Stream Team Program
c/o Mark Van Patten
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
mark.vanpatten@mdc.mo.gov
573-522-4115

Arrangements made by Valhalla Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hotchkiss Chapel inside Bellefontaine Cemetery
4947 West Florissant Ave
St Louis, MO 63115

Funeral Ceremony

AUG 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hotchkiss Chapel inside Bellefontaine Cemetery
4947 West Florissant Ave
St Louis, MO 63115

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Today is a day of remembrance, a mark of time that a year has past without you. I know in my heart you are happy. I see you in my mind as a smiling beam of light enjoying all of the gifts of heaven. As I sit here feeling sad about my loss of seeing you from day to day, I know that you will again make your visit as a young fawn, a carefree butterfly or perhaps a feather blowing in the gentle breeze. I am reminded that your spirit has never left my side. I can't say I won't be tearful when I am overwhelmed with your memory, but to know you are close makes me aware that death cannot truly take you away. Thanks for always finding a way of bringing me comfort. Your kind, gentle soul is certainly missed!*



Jenny - August 19, 2016 at 02:15 AM

MB

“ *Mike
I wish I could see you gardening again in our garden. It gave you such enjoyment. You were such a pleasure to everyone you were near. God must have needed you in heaven. We all miss you here.*

mary brazier - August 18, 2016 at 08:33 PM

MB

“ *Mary Brazier sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael A Brazier*



mary brazier - August 18, 2016 at 07:50 PM

JE

“ *Jenny sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael A Brazier*



Jenny - August 18, 2016 at 03:38 PM

JE

“ *Dad, after a year I miss you as much as ever! You are always in my heart. ~ Jenny*



Jenny - August 18, 2016 at 12:04 AM

JS

“ To Mary Ann and Mike's family,

We were very saddened to hear of Mike's passing. Having worked for Mike in the Sanitary section of the COE from 1975 to 1979, I remember well his gentle humor, quick smile, great work ethic, and how he was a loving father and husband. We had many great visits outside the workplace, too. I have thought of Mike and you all often over the years - they have slipped by all too quickly - and wondered how everyone was doing. I have always missed working at the COE, but I especially missed Mike! Youj kknow when you have great memories after 36 years they were truly great things to remember.

*Jim and Vickie Savinski
Oshkosh, WI*

Jim Savinski - January 01, 2016 at 02:27 PM

MB

“ Oh Mike-

I wish you didn't have to go through all that pain and struggle for all those years. We did what we could to give you some relief. We took you on side trips to Alton and to see the Christmas lights. We made sure you always had flowers for holidays and visited often, but we couldn't relieve the pain or make your time easier. I hope you know how much you are loved now and in your life with us. You always made sure we had what we needed, you were our rock, always steady never wavering. You made us laugh, often even at your expense. That's the kind of guy you were. Always concerned about others. I still have letters here from fellow employees that express their thanks for your gentle nature and wit. You will be missed so much on the holidays coming up. You have left a big hole in our hearts. I know you are guiding us from above. On these our first holidays without you, please be especially close to us, for they are going to be hard.

Love Mary and family

Mary Ann Brazier - November 08, 2015 at 06:12 PM

TB

“ *The celebration of Michael's life took place as planned on August 27th. The day turned out beautiful, sunny and cool. Mike is now lying beneath the majestic trees and manicured lawns of Bellefontaine Cemetery. I know he would be pleased with his final resting place.*

The family of Michael wish to thank the clergy and hosts of Bellefontaine Cemetery along with all of Mike's friends who joined in making the celebration of Michael's life a true celebration.

Friends and family, alike, laughed at stories of "Iron Mike's" antics and the telling of the traditional dunking of the shoes in the Mississippi River followed by their dunking in the "Meeting of the Waters" fountain in front of Union Station. The runners wore their running shoes to the funeral in Mike's honor.

We heard the story of the four ton frog and the machine that measured sexual attraction that providing a numerical result after sticking a finger in a hole. Of course, Mike reported that he had the highest score. All of it was duly noted in Mike's colorful newsletter.

I know Mike was looking down and laughing along with us.

The celebration of Mike's life will go on for me in a myriad of ways. When I recall a fond memory of Mike or when I look into the eyes of his children, Aaron and Jenny, or when I see a gently flowing river, a beautiful sunrise or sunset, a rainbow, or a bird singing, I'll think of my brother, Mike, who so loved God's creations.

I can imagine Mike floating down the rivers that he loved so much.

*Michael row your boat ashore, hallelujah!
Milk and honey on the other side, hallelujah!*

*Michael is home now.
Hallelujah!*

Mike's brother, Terry

Terry Brazier - August 31, 2015 at 12:04 PM

JB

“ *During one of our recent visits, Mike opened his eyes, looked at Brett and me, and gave us the warmest, little grin. I hope that will be a lasting memory for both of us. Mike will be missed, but there's comfort in knowing that he will be flashing that smile, again, that everyone so fondly remembers.*

I would like to believe that it wasn't a coincidence that a rainbow appeared for both Mike and his dad, on the day they passed. They were both nature loving, gentle, happy souls. God would send them rainbows.

Keeping Mike, Mary Ann, Jenny, Aaron, and all of the "Brazier Boys" in my thoughts and prayers. Time will ease the grief that you're feeling. Fill the hole in your hearts with happy thoughts and memories. Those are the gifts he left for you.

*Love,
Jane*

Jane Brazier - August 26, 2015 at 09:36 AM

BA

“ When I was young, my brother Mike took me to Busch Stadium for the first time to see a Cardinals/Pirates game. That was 50 years ago but I still remember enjoying the double header from the bleachers. It was my introduction to baseball which I still love. He was a sports collector and shared some special items with me. He was always a giving and thoughtful person.

I was around 10 when he got married. I was sad that I might be losing my brother so he gave me his black velvet ring box. I felt even better after catching the garter belt at his wedding.

Mike was a leader and a hard worker who set a good example. I had fun assisting him when he coached his son Aaron's little league team.

I am very thankful he was able to retire early, travel, and spend time with his family before all his health problems.

My thoughts are with Mary and the kids during this difficult time.

I look forward to playing catch with my brother again someday.

Barry

Barry - August 25, 2015 at 11:56 AM

JB

“ 96 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Jenny Brazier - August 25, 2015 at 12:27 AM

BB

“ My brother, Mike, and I had similar interests, and that was Civil Engineering and running. We trained together, and participated in many marathons and road races around town. While casually jogging down the street, he and I would share our thoughts of the day and agree about how much running relaxes you, clears your mind, and enables you to tackle another day. I remember one time, we were pushing our way up a hill, tired and out of stamina, and Mike saying, "I'm NOT going to make it Brett!" I hated to remind him that he had just said how relaxing it was. After that, we both had an ice cold A&W Root Beer, something he really liked after a workout.

Needless to say, Mike was an inspiration to me in my chosen career of engineering. I also worked for the Corps of Engineers, as a stay in school program, and had an opportunity to visit him in his office from time to time. As his much younger brother, I remember how impressed I was, not only of his position at the Corps, but also that he had his own office!

Mike was not only my brother, but a friend, listening and helping, and always smiling. He never had a bad thing to say about anything or anyone. When together, we always tried to save some time to talk about how the St. Louis Cardinals were doing, and what happened in a recent ballgame. Mike prided himself on getting an autographed baseball and a photo with Stan Musial, or a conversation with any number of ball players.

Mike was a very very good chess player, and no one could usually beat him in a match. His strategies were far ahead of mine, and needless to say, the match didn't last very long!

It's unfortunate that Mike's life was cut short, when he still had so much more to give. I loved him very much, and will miss him. It was a pleasure to have known him, and to have had him as my brother!!

Until we will meet again.

Brett

Brett Brazier - August 24, 2015 at 09:23 PM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



randy - August 24, 2015 at 11:28 AM

DZ

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss, my condolences go out to the family. Mike was my former boss for several years at the COE, St. Louis. He was a great boss and super person! He will be missed!*

Donna Zoeller - August 24, 2015 at 09:09 AM

KM

“ *I first met Mike when I was hired by his dad to work at the "old" Science Museum (Museum of Science and Natural History in Oak Knoll Park, Clayton, Missouri). He had a lot more hair then! Decades later I encountered him at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where ,after a few years, he became Chief of the Regulatory Branch, where I worked until 1994. He was fun in the late 1960's and a good man to work for in the 1990's. I am so sorry his life on earth was cut so short. He had a lot to give, and I loved his wonderfully infectious smile.*

Karen Schaffer Meldrum

Karen Schaffer Meldrum - August 23, 2015 at 09:40 PM

JB

“Dad, thank you for giving us comfort in the form of a beautiful rainbow on the day you passed. I believe that was your pathway to the heavens. It was bright and colourful just like you. I'm going to miss you being here with me, but you definitely deserve the paradise you are in now. When I am sad, I will go to the memories in my heart. Thank you for being the best dad in anyone could ever ask for. Love you always! -Jenny

Jenny Brazier - August 23, 2015 at 05:36 PM

“ I was Mike's roommate at Mizzou from 1966 until we graduated in January 1969. I am hoping to add a photo of him at his desk in the dorm room, where he was posing with his slide rule and t-square. (Yes, we actually used the slide rules for all homework and tests.) Then I had the pleasure of working with Mike at the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for many years.

I want to make three main points, all of which were mentioned in the previous writings. First Mike had a great smile, a ready smile, and he laughed frequently. I actually didn't know Mike that well before we were roommates. Late in my sophomore year my original roommate told me he could no longer afford to live in the dorms. I knew Mike from classes and could tell from his smile and his happy personality that he would be a great roommate. I asked Mike if he had a roommate for the next year and if he would consider rooming with me. I was very happy when Mike told me he would like to room together. He was a wonderful roommate, even though he always took credit for helping me graduate.

I think it was the summer of 1966 when Mike had a summer job at the Missouri Highway Department and he met Mary Ann. My second point is that Mike was in love with Mary Ann and from the moment he met her she was his one and only. They had a wonderful relationship starting on day one.

The third point has to do with religion. In our senior year Mike and I teamed up with my original roommate John Michaud, and it was affordable because three guys lived in a one bedroom apartment. John and I were both Catholics. One night I asked Mike about his thoughts on religion. Mike said it is pretty simple. He just tries to live by the golden rule. I had to agree, and clearly that was what Mike did.

I have often thought that Mike's health problems in recent years have been unfair. But on reflection, I also think Mike had many blessings. He had wonderful parents, I felt like I knew them pretty

well, a happy childhood, I heard a lot about this, great siblings, a wonderful wife, and of course his own family, plus a good education and a great career. Through all of this, Mike was a blessing to all of us.

Jim Zerega

Jim Zerega - August 23, 2015 at 05:35 PM

SK

“ *My prayers and sympathy are extended to Michael's family and his brothers and sister. May God grant him eternal rest and may God's light shine upon him on his final and glorious journey.*
Sister Nicolette (Shirley) Karcher

Shirley Karcher - August 23, 2015 at 05:15 PM

MP

“ *I worked with Mike from 1998 until he retired. He was a great man with a wonderful sense of humor. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his entire family during their time of bereavement. May God bless each of you and continue to keep you!*

Maoise Palmer
Secretary, Operations, Readiness and Regulatory Division
(Retired)

Maoise Palmer - August 23, 2015 at 09:46 AM

MF

“ *My condolences go out to Michael's family at this sad time. May his new journey continue until he sits in the presence of God.*

Maxine Karcher Ferris - August 22, 2015 at 06:09 PM

“ I was Mike's older brother by a couple of years. He was my oldest and dearest friend. I thank the Lord that I was so lucky to have Mike as my brother. I have so many fond memories of Mike that I know he'll be with me in my thoughts for the rest of my days.

What can I say about my brother? How can I distill the essence of Mike, 69 years of wonderful memories, in just a few paragraphs? I'll make a meager attempt.

He was a loving husband to his wife, Mary, for 46 years and adoring father to his son, Aaron, and daughter, Jenny. He had a loving and gentle heart. I know he's looking down on them now.

He was intelligent and conscientious and it earned him the title of "Chief" at the Army Corp of Engineers in St. Louis where he worked for 32 years. While he was in the Design Branch, he held the position of Chief of the Sanitary Section; Chief of the Environmental Architectural Section; and Chief of the Environmental Specification Section. The last 10 years he was the Chief of the Regulatory Branch. He protected our water and wetland areas that he loved so much. It doesn't get much better than that. After his retirement from the Corp, he continued in engineering consulting services for many years.

He treated his parents with love and respect. Mike reminisced on more than one occasion that our Mother would tell us each day as we left for school to remember the "Golden Rule", "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Mike truly embodied the philosophy of goodwill to all.

He had a wonderful sense of humor. He always wore a smile. It was contagious. He loved his garden. He loved adventure having completed his last "Bucket item" of commanding a dog sled. Although, according to Mary, it was questionable on just who was controlling who. He loved his baseball "Cardinals". He completed another bucket item when he hunted down Stan Musial and Stan played "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" on his harmonica as Mike sang along.

Growing up, the family would take a month long camping trip to Florida each summer. Dad would always explore and check things out in advance to make sure they were safe activities for the family.

When Dad passed more than 13 years ago, Mike told me that Dad went on ahead of the rest of his family in order to explore and check things out. Now with Mike at his side, he'll have some help.

And so my inadequate jottings here of a few of my memories of my brother, Mike, must come to an end. I can only add that as wonderful a place as Heaven must be, it's just that much more of a marvelous place after Mike's arrival. No angel will have a wider smile than Mike's.

My brother endured a lot in recent years. More than anyone should have had to suffer but Mike always put up a gallant battle. God has granted his mercy on my brother. I can only imagine that when Mike arrived at that pearly gate, Saint Peter announced, "Hail! Michael Allan Brazier, the Chief, has arrived", and then, upon seeing Michael, the angels all smiled.

We'll miss you dear brother, husband, and father . . . till we meet again.

Terry, you're loving brother

Terry Brazier - August 22, 2015 at 11:56 AM

BR

“ *I'll always remember sharing chocolate, watching Rocky, and talking Cardinal baseball with Mike. He was one of the good guys, the Brazier Guys, and will be deeply missed by so many. Love to Mary, Jenny and Aaron. Brenda*

Brenda - August 21, 2015 at 10:35 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery - August 20, 2015 at 02:56 PM