



Michael Michalicek

October 11, 1954 - October 22, 2021

CEDAR FALLS – Michael Edward ‘Checker’ Michalicek, 67, died at University Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, on Friday, October 22, 2021. He was born in Denison, IA on October 11, 1954, son of Steve and Doloris (Hohn) Michalicek. Visitation is 4:00 – 7:00 PM Friday November 5, 2021 at Richardson Funeral Service, Cedar Falls. The family encourages t-shirts designed by Checker be worn for the visitation. Celebration of Life service will be 11:00 AM Saturday, November 6, 2021, at St. John Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Inurnment at Alcock Cemetery, Fredricka, IA. Online condolences may be left at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com. Memorials may be directed to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank Children’s Programs.

Mike graduated from West Waterloo, class of 1972 and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in music education from UNI. He worked in the Waterloo and Cedar Falls School Districts as well as St. Patrick Catholic School as a music educator. He also served the congregations of Westminster Presbyterian and St. John Lutheran Church as a praise band director.

He married Julie Ingoldsby on July 18, 1981 in Cedar Falls. Together they raised 3 children; daughters Heather (Chae) Song of Mundelein, IL, Sofie (Chad Everly) Michalicek of Waterloo and son, Tyler Michalicek of Cedar Falls. He is also survived by grandchildren; Freddy and Julia Song; brothers Steve (Linda) Michalicek of Spring, TX, Randall (Carol) Michalicek of Plymouth, MN, Patrick Michalicek of Buffalo, MN, Arnie (Gloria) Michalicek of Maple Lake, MN; sisters; Mary (Earl) Tuttle of Phoenix, AZ, Karolyn (Larry) Skudlarek of St. Cloud, MN, Kathy Michalicek of Howard Lake, MN, and Anne (Michael) Fordyce of Hazelwood, MO; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by his parents and 2 siblings: brother, Andrew Michalicek and sister, Judie Rose, and 2 nephews.

The family requests that masks are worn for these events.

The service will be live streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohncf/>.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
richardsonfh@cfu.net
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Memorial Service

NOV 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John American Lutheran Church
715 College
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
<http://stjohncf.org>

Inurnment

NOV 6 (CT)

Alcock Cemetery
Frederika, IA

Tribute Wall

MK

“ I am so sad to hear of the passing of Mike. I grew up in the same neighborhood when Mike and I were kids. Our parents were friends as were many of us kids. As we grew up, Mike ended up teaching music and Clarinet to my daughter. Great teacher and caring person. Also enjoyed listening to his live band! A loss for family, friends and the community. Mary (Jung) Knutson



Mary Knutson - November 28, 2021 at 10:37 PM

JZ

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Jason Zeck - November 07, 2021 at 11:01 PM

JZ

“ Mr. Michalicek was my music teacher when I attended Central Intermediate. I'm forty three years old now but I have always remembered his smile, his humor and his lessons. The tenor saxophone that played at West High was purchased from him. An old Conn. He also taught me how to change the pads on it. I only learned of his passing this evening from my sister. To his family, you have my love and condolences beaming to you from Peoria.

Jason Zeck - November 07, 2021 at 10:55 PM

CW

“ The happy times of a dozen years as neighbors with Mike and Julie when our kids were little...The absolute joy of dancing in to Waterloo Schools Opening Day with the music of Checker and the band playing Moondance & Brown-eyed Girl... The laughter always. Love to you, Julie, Heather, Sofie & Tyler

Always in our hearts,
Carol, Phil, Tom & Simon Watson

Carol Watson - November 06, 2021 at 04:49 PM

SC

“ Checkers band was the sought after place to be if you're looking for a fun time . Checkers hilarious jokes and great sounding music left a wonderful lasting impression on many . Peace and praying for the Michael Michalicek family .

sam crosser - November 05, 2021 at 10:31 PM

JR

“ Was fortunate to play briefly with ‘Checker’ back in the ‘Dreams’ days.I will never forget his enthusiasm for music and laugh! Peace & Love.jr.

jr - November 05, 2021 at 08:17 AM

DH

“ Although Checker was only two years older than me, he was already a legend at West High School when I was there. He taught my stepson in band, but I never actually met him until September of this year. My co-author and I were reading from our new book at the Hearst Center and we needed a singer and pianist to perform a song at the event. He had never met me--never even heard of me as far as I know--and yet he agreed to play. I was so honored! He was an amazing musician and an even better man. Rest in peace, Checker. Your influence will live on.

Dave Hoing

Dave Hoing - November 05, 2021 at 04:19 AM

JH

“ Student of his for a couple years at Central after transferring from orchestra. Loved his smile and passion for music. A couple years ago I was back in town and made it a point to attend a Bluetones show. Went up and said hi during a break. Didn't expect him to remember me, but I will always remember him. "War, huh yeah..what is it good for? Absolutely nothing..."



Jeff Hughes - November 05, 2021 at 12:56 AM

PS

“ Hugs and prayers to Julie, Heather, Sofie, Tyler, and the extended family. My heart is sad for all you. Checker was a great guy and wonderful musician. We will all miss him and his music. Pam Steinbeck

Pam Steinbeck - November 04, 2021 at 02:14 PM

CS

“ To the family.

I am so sorry to hear of your father and husband. I am a shirt tail relation to you guys, being that your Great Uncle Mike Michalicek was married to my Dad's Sister. He was Harold Sutton. When we were in Waterloo we would always stop at Steve and Dee's to visit and hang out with them. Your father was just a bit older than me so we would be good friends during our younger days. It was always fun to come to their house when all nine of his siblings were home. May God comfort you all and remember Mike each day!

Craig Sutton(from Centennial, CO via Waverly, IA)

Craig Sutton - November 04, 2021 at 01:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Michalicek.



November 04, 2021 at 01:33 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Michael Michalicek.



November 02, 2021 at 11:14 PM

BP

“ I was lucky enough to have Mr. Michalicek as my band and jazz band teacher at Hoover. He was a wonderful person & a great teacher who helped all students find the song in their heart and the beat in their feet. I will always remember his smile and laugh. Truly sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy and prayers.

Brooke (Sergeant) Prestegard - November 02, 2021 at 10:14 AM

DH

“ I was fortunate to meet and work with Mike - "aka Checker" - during my tenure as music educator for the Waterloo Schools. What began at Central Middle in the late '80's, where Mike's sweet sax was the pied piper in the halls, during class, at start of school day and at end of school, calling students to drop in, listen, learn and make music. And ended when I retired from Kingsley elementary. Mike with his sax and his improv way of teaching music, made for many super work days at school. He was indeed a great friend and fellow music teacher professional. I am most proud of saying I had the privilege to work with him. My grandson now plays a "sweet sax" and had the privilege to play with Mike just that past summer in CF Summer Jazz at Overman Park. My sincere sympathy to Mike's family. His legend of music excellence lives on in the lives of his students. Rest in Peace dear friend." D J Heerts, retired music educator, Wtloo schools.

doris heerts - November 01, 2021 at 11:46 AM

JW

“ So sorry for your loss !! Mike was a talented man. To reach out to so many young kids. And teach them to play Music. You have our deepest sympathies. RIP Mike

James Wahner - November 01, 2021 at 12:43 AM

DG

“ I had the pleasure and honor of working with Checker way back when he had curly blond locks...and great keyboard licks. He will be missed by many and remembered by more for the good music and deeds of a life well spent. Heartfelt thoughts go out to Mike's family and bandmates.
Denyce Gallagher

Denyce Gallagher - October 31, 2021 at 05:18 PM

SW

“ I was an Aide in the nurses office at Expo and Mike was the music teacher. It was the morning of 9/11 and Mike came and told me about the plane in New York City. And so several times after that he would be playing at a dance or some event we were attending, and always remembered each other because of that fateful day. He was a joy to be around. God bless all of his family. Rest in Peace.

Sharon Weber - October 31, 2021 at 10:07 AM

PR

“ I had the great privilege of performing music with Mike in the CF Municipal Band as well as in jazz combos. What a presence he was for all of us and what a great impact he had on so many young and old lives alike. You couldn't be around him without feeling that special warmth he expressed and the positive energy that flowed whenever he was holding forth. His work with young people brought out the best in them and let them know that they were special. He cared about those who needed a boost and a helping hand and that unique voice and laughter always brought joy to those around him. Thanks, Checket, you really made a difference.

Paul Rider

Paul Rider - October 30, 2021 at 10:09 AM

AK

“ I've known Mike for many years, since Hoover Jr. High. I was thrilled to teach with him later in my life. And I loved his band. He will be missed but not forgotten.
Audrey and Dennis Kimball

Audrey Kimball - October 29, 2021 at 06:39 PM

RW

“ Checker, we will all miss you so very much. Your music talent, special gifts and sense of humor are well-documented. The Cedar Valley is a better place and many of us are better people as a result of your presence. God speed.

Roger White - October 29, 2021 at 12:32 PM

AC

“*Checker was my concert and jazz band instructor in junior high, during a critical time in my life, where ensemble music became one of the only places I felt seen and like I could fit in. Checker saw me. He was a musical mastermind, and unlike other instructors I had over the years, he rarely yelled at the students- he approached situations with humor, attention and love. And I still have the lick he wrote for me on "Valdez in the Country" forever ingrained in my mind.*

In high school I became best friends with his daughter, Sofie and we became forever bonded in our love of music, a shared sense of humor (that all of the Michaliceks have), treating people with kindness and looking out for the underdogs in life.

I hope everyone will remember Checker for all of the good things he was. I will never forget the impact he had on me.

Rest in Peace. So much love to Julie, Heather, Sofie, Tyler, and the extended family.

Andy Cook-Feltz - October 29, 2021 at 10:36 AM

SM

“*Checker was an incredible friend, bandmate, educator and just an amazing person period. He brought smiles and happiness to all those who knew him or heard him play. We were lucky to have you Brother. Peace.*

Steve and Marty Mark

Steve Mark - October 28, 2021 at 08:35 PM

PN

“*I first met Mike at the Hearst Center for the Arts when he was having 1 of his many summer band camps. He was truly fun to listen to how he interacted with the students. I would go and sit in and listen to him and so enjoyed his energy, passion for music and his joy working with the students. Through the years I've also enjoyed listening to his band. He will truly be missed.*

Peggy Novak

Peggy Novak - October 28, 2021 at 09:02 AM

JW

“*He was such a joy to get to know and his presence always elevated those he was around. His jokes always brought a smile. One of my favorite memories was when he brought in a very old "vintage" saxophone and jammed it through the halls for all to enjoy. John Whitt*

John Whitt - October 28, 2021 at 12:26 AM

DS

“ Dan Stumme lit a candle in memory of Michael Michalicek



Dan Stumme - October 27, 2021 at 09:21 PM

RN

“ My brothers and I were privileged to have Mr. Michalicek as a teacher in the mid 80's and 90's. Thank you for opening the world of music and teaching the life lesson of importance of practice. Such a talented and special person.

R Naber - October 27, 2021 at 04:07 PM

TT

“ Mr. Michalicek introduced me to music in elementary school and I am forever grateful.

Troy Thorne - October 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Michalicek.



October 27, 2021 at 08:09 AM

TA

“ Oh-My-Gosh, Mike was like the Pied Piper of the Cedar Valley on Steroids. Over the years he helped thousands of young students (including ours) love music. Ideas, enthusiasm, execution, he was wired for 220 and had the vision to complete so many dreams. I can remember clearly helping as 40 Hoover Junior High School Parents set up his Hoover Jazz Band right out on the ice at Young Arena at 11:00 PM at night, so the students could play for the Teachers Back to School meetings the next day. 800 teachers were standing up clapping along with the wonderful music. Junior High Students doing this. Mike was a wonderful, powerful, loved man, and his reach into the community, his passion for helping others to love music, will be missed more than we realize. Julie and family, he was truly one of a kind, a gentle man, who loved children and music. Tom Arthur

Tom Arthur - October 27, 2021 at 01:18 AM

MC

“ I am so sorry to read of Mike's passing. I taught with Mike at Lowell Elementary in Waterloo many years ago. Over the years since that time at Lowell, I saw Mike playing in his bands on several occasions. He was a very talented musician! But more than that, Mike was a great teacher who always had time for all of his students. My class never wanted to miss music class with Mike! Our community has lost a wonderful person, and I am deeply saddened I have lost an admired friend.

Melodie Cummings

Melodie Cummings - October 27, 2021 at 01:15 AM

JC

“ Checker will be deeply missed in our community. We were honored at 93.5 The Mix to be asked by Mike to help promote his Stone Soul Picnic which raised thousands of dollars to fight childhood hunger in the Cedar Valley. He was a true champion for our youth!

Jim Coloff - October 26, 2021 at 09:30 PM

KB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a wonderful teacher/person. Mike played The Lord's Prayer at both of our daughters weddings it was sooooo beautiful. He will truly be missed. May you rest in peace!
Kathy Barfels

Kathy Barfels - October 26, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ 25 files added to the album Dad



Heather Song - October 26, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JE

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a tremendous musician and person, and will be missed by many. I am happy that I have the memory of his band playing at my wedding in 1985. Your family have my deepest sympathy.

Jo Marie Elkema - October 26, 2021 at 12:35 PM

KC

“ We going the Red smiley truck down our street. My daycare children would make a point to wave at him. And he would smile back and wave at them. Prayers for Julie and family. If they saw him in his yard the would say smiley working.

Kim Carbiener - October 26, 2021 at 11:30 AM

SJ

“ Dear Checker,

I'll always treasure you for making Dreams come true.

Sue Johnson

Sue Johnson - October 26, 2021 at 09:39 AM

DJ

“ Mike was one of my favorite teachers. My wife and I saw Checker and the Bluetones frequently. His ability to motivate young children to love music was terrific. He wrote band music for the kids that was easy to play and popular tunes. His elementary and middle school concerts were so much fun.

Dr. Dewitt Jones

Dewitt Jones - October 26, 2021 at 08:59 AM

JH

“ Such a joy to have known Checker over the many years. He brought pleasure to countless others as we listened to him perform solos with the Cedar Falls Municipal Band, and enjoyed his own many musical groups whether organized or informal, My deep sympathy to Julie and your family.

Judith Harrington - October 26, 2021 at 08:56 AM

JJ

“ *Checker was of the funnest kids in junior high and a born leader who spent his life leading others to musical excellence - and having fun...from Expo to the Stone Soul Picnic, to Checker and the Bluetones, the Cedar Falls Municipal Band, and...? His impact on the Cedar Valley was incredible...he is missed already...truly a sad sad day...my sincere condolences.*

Jack Darland Jr - October 26, 2021 at 07:41 AM

CS

“ *Such great memories at the Hub and Spicoli's! Thank you, Checker! Julie and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. ❤️*

Carol Wandrey Squires - October 25, 2021 at 10:04 PM

DD

“ *How deeply sad. Our CF Municipal Band will not be the same without Checker. Good Times won't be as good as we hold his memory dearly in our hearts. Peace to Julie, Sophie and family.*

Dennis Downs - October 25, 2021 at 10:01 PM