



## Michael Rokes

March 24, 1950 - April 25, 2023

DIKE – Michael John Rokes, 73, passed away peacefully at Creekside Living in Grundy Center on Tuesday, April 25, while under the care of Cedar Valley Hospice.

Michael was born on March 24, 1950, in Marshalltown, the son of John “Pat” and Doris (Bossen) Rokes. Mike graduated from Garwin High School in 1968 and later from the University of Northern Iowa. He was employed at Deere and Company for over 36 years. During the summer of 1972, he met Julie while attending a residence hall conference in Wisconsin. Mike introduced himself while on the charter bus and the rest was history. Mike and Julie were married on July 26, 1975, at First Presbyterian Church in Independence, Iowa.

Mike was the best husband, father, and grandfather. He was larger than life to his grandchildren, putting together bicycles, taking them fishing, reading to them, and playing board games. Mike never missed his children’s school or church events and was really enjoying his grandchildren’s activities. He was very proud of Jenny and Matthew and their amazing spouses, Scott and Jenna. Mike was truly a man of faith, honesty, and integrity. Julie always knew she had the best guy ever.

Mike served on the Dike Library Board and several terms as deacon and elder for First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls. After retiring, Mike had time to

volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, read to Dike Elementary students and spent time fishing.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws, Carroll (Marian) Conklin.

He is survived by his wife, Julie, his daughter Jenny (Scott) Connolly and his son Matthew (Jenna) Rokes. Grandchildren include Noah, Ryder, Parker and Bennett Connolly and Camden, Emerson and Addyson Rokes. Survivors also include his sisters Glenda, Karen (Vince) Ware, Patti (Tim) Speas and LeAnn (Jim) Fleming, as well as sisters-in-law Gwen (Dean) Paulsen and Chris (Steve) Morine and brothers-in-law Kirk (Luann) Conklin and Craig (Deb) Conklin, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 29, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday at Richardson Funeral Service. Inurnment at Elmwood Cemetery in Dike at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family to be distributed to organizations that were meaningful to Mike.

# Cemetery Details

## Elmwood Cemetery

Dike, IA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **28**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Funeral Service

APR **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
902 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 277-3930  
<http://www.firstprescf.org/>

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *My most sincere sympathy to Mike's family. I worked with him at John Deere and he was a common sense go-to-guy. I always appreciated and welcomed his advice. An all around great guy and a joy to work with.*

Donna Burton - April 26, 2023 at 03:01 PM



“ *Garden Accent - "Those we love don't go away..." was purchased for the family of Michael Rokes.*



April 26, 2023 at 01:17 PM



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



April 26, 2023 at 01:14 PM

TT

“ *Mike came into Dike Elementary on many occasions to volunteer by working with kids. His visits were filled with humor and genuine care for the well being of kids. He will be missed and I send my condolences to his family and all those close to him. Rest in Peace, Mike!*

Thomas Lewis Textor - April 26, 2023 at 11:55 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Rokes.*



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April 26, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Rokes.*



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April 26, 2023 at 10:20 AM



“ *In the late 70's and then in the 80s there was a unique group of families that lived on Higby Drive. Mike and Julie were a part of that neighborhood family. We did things together, had block parties and celebrated life in many ways. Mike was a bright moment in that time. He helped others, looked out for his neighbors and in general was a good friend. We were fortunate enough to be part of that neighborhood . He will be missed*

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**Chuck & Connie Seeliger** - April 26, 2023 at 10:16 AM



“ *Julie - So sorry for your loss. Always looked forward to seeing the garage door open and Mike inside, he was quick to offer sound advise, not all of it made sense but it sure did over time! Great MAN and will be dearly missed. Dave Jordan*

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**dave** - April 26, 2023 at 10:12 AM

KW

“ Julie and Family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. My memories of Mike include learning the hard way not to shake his hand. Lessoned learned! I didn't know him well at the time and was flabbergasted at what to do when he continued to shake my hand as we talked. I hope you find comfort in stories like these.  
Kristi Watson

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**Kristi Watson** - April 26, 2023 at 09:56 AM

SS

“ Mike was always a great friend & co-worker at John Deere. Mike was always my goto person for help. Mike loved you all very much & was the first to take out recent pictures. God is with you 24-7, so ask for his strength to get through this.  
Suzie Decker-Schmitt

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**Suzan Schmitt** - April 26, 2023 at 07:17 AM

GM

“ Mike was a great guy. He kept my husband company during our class reunions. Julie, I am so sorry. My heart goes out to you.  
Gail Murphy

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**Gail Murphy** - April 25, 2023 at 11:15 PM



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



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April 25, 2023 at 10:52 PM

CS

“ Jenny, I am so very sorry. My sincere condolences to you, my friend. ❤️

*Carol Squires*

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**Carol Squires** - April 25, 2023 at 10:49 PM