



Michael K. Freeman

January 19, 1958 - February 28, 2023

Michael Kenneth Freeman was born January 19, 1958, and died on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, in Houston, Texas.

Michael was preceded in death by parents Robert and Verna Freeman, sister Mary Catherine Freeman, former wife and mother of his children, Patsy Freeman, and niece Taunia Freeman.

He is survived by his daughter Sophia Freeman, mother of grandchildren Adrienne, Lawrence, and Luis; his son Robert Charles Freeman; his long-time best friend Debbie Hilton; his siblings Joan Barry, Chris Freeman, Fran Grothaus (Bill), Paul Freeman (Joan), Susan Massey (Larry), Mimi Holt (Mark), Judy Gorham (Jim), and Claire Freeman; and by many other family and friends.

Michael was gentle, kind, and honest. He loved the people and experiences in his life. He found joy and peace in nature, sunsets, music, smooth whiskey, and hanging with friends. Whether they were traveling to favorite beaches or feeding squirrels in the back yard, he loved his friend Debbie.

Michael had great curiosity. He took apart toys, and plants, and frogs, and squirrels, and motors, and pianos – to name a few – just to see how they worked. No malice, just a deep appreciation and desire to know.

As a youth, he carefully vivisected a frog with the skill of a surgeon so he could study its beating heart, only later realizing that he couldn't put it back together. He hunted squirrels and like a true nature-lover, wasted not – cooking and eating the meat and drying the skins in the oven. He taught himself to play piano by ear. The same upright piano he fell off as a child, and later took apart, painted, and restored.

He wasn't a traditional student. He learned by experience, by trial and error. It was hard and discouraging at times to be measured by a standard that values formal education more than his gift of wonder. He overcame significant learning disabilities before learning disabilities were a "thing" to graduate from high school and went on to become a successful businessman and hard-working employee in the pawn business and later in retail sales and management. He won many honors for sales and management.

Michael raised two children that mean the world to him. While he wasn't always the most attentive to his relationships with his children, he valued them and worked to repair and improve them.

Michael didn't always feel that he fit in. At times he distanced himself from family and friends. But when it mattered most; he was there. He lived with his mother when she had Alzheimer's as one of her caregivers. Not a fussy

caregiver but patient and gentle; bringing peace and comfort to her by his quiet presence in the late evenings when he returned from work.

For many years he distanced himself from God too. But God was not distant from Michael who had long rejoined the Church and treasured his faith not as a burden of obligation but as a source of support and solace. He desired and received the sacraments of healing before his death.

Where Michael is at this moment and what he is experiencing, we cannot know. But knowing Michael, he is taking it all in with his sense of awe and wonder.

And we know that the God who created the unique person of Michael Kenneth Freeman in His own image and likeness ex nihilo will not abandon him. Love does not annihilate the beloved. Michael is beloved. His parents recognized his nature and named him “one who is like God”.

Pray for Michael and entrust him to the mercy and goodness of God. And ask him to pray for all of us.

Donations may be made in his honor to St Vincent de Paul Church with a memo note “Mike Freeman”. All donations will be directed to the St Jude Fund for the Poor.

A visitation will begin at 9:15 a.m. with a Rosary at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6800 Buffalo Speedway in Houston, Texas.

The Rite of Committal will follow at 3:00 p.m. at Forest Park Lawndale cemetery in Houston, Texas.

To leave a condolence or to read the obituary, please visit josephjearthman.com.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Mike was my best friend growing up on Vanderbilt. Kind and loyal and ready to do all of the crazy things we would dream up. So many!

That huge tree we would climb in their back yard. The zip line with stingray butterfly handle bars (no pulley). Checking out Saturn on the telescope. Extending the ramp on the sidewalk so we could jump over my brothers Tony and David along with a few other neighborhood kids on our bikes like Evil Knievel. A lot of bent pedals and busted rims.

Working my paper route together. Those poor frogs. Walking on top of fences through the neighborhood. Mini bikes and kites in the field on Holcombe. Football on the Angelos' vacant lot. Hanging out at Whitt Johnson park. Skimboarding in flooded back yards.

And that fateful afternoon when we were playing ping pong in the Freemans garage when i had skipped football practice and Pat came and grabbed me and sent me off to live with my mom and step dad.

The huge beautiful Freeman family. Y'all were my brothers and sisters too. Thank you Mike for your loyal friendship. Thank you Freemans, my heart is with you. I'm so sorry for your loss and that missed joining you to say the last goodbye.

Judy, thanks for the picture you sent to David. So many memories.

Tommy Moore - March 14, 2023 at 03:28 PM

SR

“ I’m so sorry I didn’t get to know Michael. I so enjoyed reading about his wonderful life and knowing him this way. My mother was Alma Hollier who married Travis I. Young. I’m the last of their 3 children. I really enjoyed seeing so many relatives I never got to meet in person in his memorial video...and was excited to see our sweet "Aunt Aline" in one of the pictures. That’s what I always called her though most of family called her "Sister"...as she’s the one wearing the nun’s habit in the pic with your family. My heart shares your loss of your wonderful Michael...and my prayers for God’s peace and tender mercies will comfort you all as you adjust to this life without Michael’s presence here. I look forward to meeting Michael and all of you in our life with Jesus in the Home He has gone to prepare for us who believed in and followed Him! Love to all!

Sidney Mae Young Ransom - March 12, 2023 at 02:53 PM

SS

“ I remember playing in each other’s backyard. We lived on Carnegie & they lived around the corner on Vanderbilt. The Freeman family had the most incredible backyard! Michael & I were classmates at St. Vincent de Paul. He was so kind. Many fond memories. My thoughts & prayers go out to his beautiful family! 😊

Sandra Speich - March 12, 2023 at 12:55 PM

MH

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. I did not know him personally. I know Joan.
You have such a wonderful family. Blessings and peace.

Mary Katharine Huebner

Mary Huebner - March 11, 2023 at 04:23 PM

TL

“ We are so sorry for your loss and will pray for Michael and comfort for his family.

The LeClairs - March 09, 2023 at 06:41 PM

FM

“ The services are on Thursday, March 9.

Family of Michael - March 06, 2023 at 05:12 PM

TB

“ Funny memory... Teenage Mike and Susan racing down the Vanderbilt stairs at about 10:20pm just to hear Marvin Zindler say his trademark phrase on the news.

The Baby - March 05, 2023 at 04:04 PM

SS

“ I remember Michael as a childhood friend. There were many fond memories attending class together at St. Vincent de Paul. The Freeman's lived just around the corner from us on Vanderbilt. We played in each others back yards. He was always so kind. You will be missed by so many. Love & prayers to the Freeman family. 🙏😊

Sandy Curl Speich - March 05, 2023 at 01:31 PM

CL

“ Kind and Gentle

Claire - March 05, 2023 at 08:08 AM