



Michael Joseph Kalember

July 7, 1949 - July 17, 2020

Michael Joseph Kalember, 71, of Mesa, Arizona, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Friday, July 17, 2020.

Mike was born on July 7, 1949 and was the oldest of five children; his brothers Robert, John, David and sister Karen. He spent his childhood years playing many different sports including his favorites, football and wrestling. He also was a dedicated and loyal boy scout and went on to achieve the highest rank attainable of Eagle Scout. After graduating from East High School in Phoenix, Mike joined the Navy in 1969 and served our country honorably for four years as a Communications Technician. He joined the Mesa Police Department in 1973 where he met the love of his life, Cindy. They married in 1976 and together raised four daughters. During his 27 years at the department Mike served in various roles including Investigations, K-9, Internal Affairs, SWAT, and Community Policing. Over the years, he promoted through the ranks and retired as a Commander. After two years of retirement, he returned to work and spent five years as the Director of Security for Mesa Public Schools before retiring for good in 2008.

During retirement, Mike loved traveling the world with Cindy, family and best friends. He was always excited to plan the next adventure and new places to visit. Mike was the ultimate “girl Dad” before it was a thing, and raised his daughters to be strong, independent women. He had a passion for woodworking and spent long hours in his workshop crafting everything from lathe-turned music boxes to toy chests and picnic tables for his grandchildren. He had every type of tool or gadget and knew how to fix just about anything. Mike truly enjoyed being a police officer because he simply wanted to help people. His favorite time spent as a police officer was during the good old days of working the beat with his fellow officers who became close friends. He always had a craving to go fishing and loved being outdoors, especially on his boat in the middle of Big Lake. He was a man of few words but had a calming, confident presence. Mike had seven grandchildren and loved that he had the opportunity to help raise them. He was a playful grandfather, a wonderful supporter, and his grandchildren were proud to call him Papa.

He is preceded in death by his father, Milan Kalember, mother, Shirley Osterson, and sister, Karen Vineyard. He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years Cindy, daughters; Julie Thomas (Kevin), Christina Ramsey (Kevin), Danielle Pool (Jason), Susan Kalember,

and seven grandchildren; Matthew, Zachary, McKenzie, Raegan, Hayden, Taylor and Harrison.

Mike's family would like to thank Hospice of the Valley for the wonderful care and support they provided while he was resting at home. If you would like to make a donation to Hospice of the Valley please do so in Mike's name.

Hi Everyone,

There will be a "walk-through memorial" for retired Mesa PD Commander Mike Kalember on Friday, July 31, 2020, at Meldrum Mortuary, 52 N. Macdonald St., Mesa.

In attempting to follow CDC and social distancing guidelines, there will be a limit of 45 people inside the mortuary at one time. Therefore, it is requested that if you plan to attend, please do so at the time scheduled below according to your last name:

Last Names Beginning with Letters A-H: 5:00 PM

Last Names Beginning with Letters I-P: 5:30 PM

Last Names Beginning with Letters Q-Z: 6:00 PM

A private memorial service for family members will follow at 6:30 PM.

Events

JUL **"Walk Through Memorial"** 05:00PM - 06:00PM

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Meldrum Mortuary

52 N Macdonald, Mesa, AZ, US, 85201

JUL **Private Family Services** 06:30PM

31

Meldrum Mortuary

52 N Macdonald, Mesa, AZ, US, 85201

Comments



“ RIP Commander Mike Kalember. You were my supervisor for our new Community Policing Unit. I enjoyed every minute of my time with this unit under your command. I learned so much and appreciated everything you did for the unit and all the officers assigned to this unit.

You were by far my favorite supervisor during my career with the Mesa Police Department.

Rest In Peace sir

Janice Lopez Roska and Barry Roska

Janice Lopez Roska - July 31, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ When the twins were born, our family went to visit Cindy, Mike, and Christina. Mike had made a cool gum drop machine and gave it to me. He was always a gentle and kind man. We are saddened that he is gone from our world but heaven has gained an extraordinary man!



Christina Perez MacDonald - July 31, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ Wow, do you still have it? The kids loved those.

Cindy Kalember - July 31, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ Benita and Jesse purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Michael Joseph Kalember.



Benita and Jesse - July 30, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ Julie Thomas lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Kalember



Julie Thomas - July 29, 2020 at 12:27 PM



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



July 27, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ Rest in Peace Mike. Jerry and I remember seeing you and Cindy at Christ the King and watching your girls grow up. You will be missed by all who knew you. God bless the family. Margaret and Jerry Buza.

Margaret Buza - July 27, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ Ron and Becky Kirby purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Joseph Kalember.



Ron and Becky Kirby - July 25, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ The Lynnett Mayers family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Joseph Kalember.



The Lynnett Mayers family - July 25, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ I will always remember the great times I shared with family during so many summers playing, coaching and umpiring for Mesa Girls softball. Then to my surprise Mike showed up in my office at school as the head of security. I loved being able to impress colleagues that Mike called me by name the first time he walked in the office.

Carol Rowley - July 25, 2020 at 02:55 PM



“ Such a great story. Thank you for sharing. Mike and I always thought those were the best summers we spent together playing ball.

Cindy Kalember - July 25, 2020 at 10:21 PM



“ Mindy White purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Michael Joseph Kalember.



Mindy White - July 25, 2020 at 12:24 PM



“ I loved Mike's smile. He was the sweetest man. He came to my rescue with his woodworking knowledge years ago. So glad to have such fond memories.

Leila Rico - July 25, 2020 at 12:59 AM



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



July 25, 2020 at 12:53 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Kalember.



July 24, 2020 at 05:10 PM



“ Mike was the perfect mix of officer and family man. He was rock solid in every aspect of his life. Mike and I worked together in several assignments over the years. There is no one I trusted more or counted on to always do the right thing.

Rest in peace Mike.

Linn Brown

Linn Brown - July 24, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ I'm Mikes ex sister in law Lynn and I have known Mike since 1st grade at Balsz Elementary through graduation from East Phoenix High School and one of my favorite memories of Mike was at Thanksgiving. My Mom would always ask Mike what kind of pie he wanted for dessert and he would always say What cha got? So Mom would tell him the 3 or 4 different kinds of pie we had and he would say Sounds Good so she would give him a small slice of each pie .Mike was a great guy and I know he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.To the Kalember family my thoughts and prayers are with you through this difficult time .

LYNNETT MAYERS - July 24, 2020 at 04:38 PM



“ Mike was quietly confident and humble. He instilled confidence in police and citizens as well. He is the only officer I knew that got an on-view homicide.

There was nothing Mike wouldn't do to help someone but he would never overstep. The world has lost a true gentleman and hero.

God bless you and your family Mike.

Rick Fowler - July 24, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ Brad purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Michael Joseph Kalember.



Brad - July 24, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ Mike was the BEST street Sergeant I ever knew. He had more common sense, and was more knowledgeable than any Sergeant I ever worked for---or had working for me. I watched him handle incidents with comparative ease, that almost ANY squad Sergeant would have balked at, or been baffled by. While I will not relate this incident, I saw Mike almost single handedly resolve a situation that was EXTREMELY volatile, and which with normal handling would have almost certainly led to injury or death to at least one officer who was trying to resolve the incident. His quick assessment, and decisive action resolved that incident in a matter of seconds, (without harm to anyone involved. His judgement on the street was nearly impeccable.

Cindy, and the family can be extremely proud of him and how he lived his life. I was honored to have been fortunate enough to serve with him. I will always remember his care and concern for all who were around him. I shall miss him greatly.

Lt. Richard (Catfish) Moore, Retired

Richard Moore - July 24, 2020 at 04:45 AM



“ Michael old friend you shall be missed. When I started in communications in 1976, we met any for the rest of our careers you always had a kind word whenever we ran into each other. You were the one who an answer to a problem during tense moments, and that is the true nark of a police officer.

Commander Michael Kalember

Good Day Sir.

Craig Cox

Craig Cox - July 24, 2020 at 02:40 AM



“ I was on a traffic stop one day on the 60 off ramp And i needed a phone. They were not common then except for supervisors. No one would respond but Mike heard my request and when he heard no one was coming he got off his can and came out with his phone. He truly cared for us! Great man and biss!!!

Steve Raz - July 23, 2020 at 11:49 PM



“ Meldrum Mortuary lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Kalember



Meldrum Mortuary - July 21, 2020 at 07:08 PM