



Michael James Cavanaugh

June 12, 1946 - November 26, 2024

Michael "Mike" James Cavanaugh, 78, of Minneapolis, MN, passed away peacefully on November 26, 2024, surrounded by the love of his family. Born on June 12, 1946, to James and Lorraine Cavanaugh, he carried a magnetic charisma and zest for life that shined through his twinkling blue eyes, warm laugh and comforting embrace.

Mike's zest for life was contagious, and his passions brought joy not only to himself but to those around him. A gifted golfer, Mike achieved the rare feat of four holes-in-one, a testament to his precision, patience, and competitive spirit. On the water, he found equal joy, spending countless days boating and fishing on the waters of Lake Minnewaska and Lake Sakakawea. These moments became even more special as he shared his love for the lakes with his family, especially his grandchildren, creating memories that will be cherished for generations.

Seven years ago, Mike faced one of life's greatest challenges when he became a quadriplegic due to an accident on the lake. True to his indomitable spirit, he embraced this new chapter with determination, courage, and grace. Rather than allowing his circumstances to limit him, Mike continued to live each day with purpose, inspiring all who knew him with his humor, resilience, and steadfast faith. Mike was deeply dedicated to supporting his fellow veterans and caregivers during his time as a resident at the Minnesota

Veterans Home in Minneapolis. As President of the Resident Council, he became an influential advocate for his community, ensuring that the voices of his fellow veterans were heard and respected. Whether engaging with government officials during their visits or working to improve the lives of those around him, Mike remained steadfast in his mission to do what was right. He was a true advocate.

Above all, Mike's greatest love was his family. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, he led with love, offering wisdom, laughter, and unwavering support. His warm smile, quick wit, and adventurous spirit left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Mike was not just a father or grandfather but a mentor, a fishing buddy, a golf partner, and a constant source of encouragement. He will be dearly missed but forever cherished.

Mike is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Margaret "Peg" Cavanaugh; his daughters, Courtney (Chad) Hausladen and Erin (Jon) Beck; his adoring grandchildren, Jack Hausladen, Sophia Beck, Annie Beck, Ella Beck, and Calloway Beck; his siblings, Julie (Richard) Mikolajczyk, Peg Elmquist, Pat (Kristina) Cavanaugh, and Tom (Jann Garofano) Cavanaugh; in addition to his beautiful nieces and nephews who brought him much pride and joy. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Lorraine.

The family extends its heartfelt thanks to the caregivers at the Minneapolis Veterans Home and Brighton Hospice, for their compassion and care, during Mike's final days with us.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, December 10th, at 10:30 AM, with visitation one hour prior, at Church of St. Margaret Mary, 2323 Zenith Ave N, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

Interment to follow at 2 PM at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis,

MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Margaret Mary
2301 Zenith Ave North
Golden Valley, MN 55340

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 10. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Margaret Mary
2301 Zenith Ave North
Golden Valley, MN 55340

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Jody Just A Friend lit a candle in memory of Michael James Cavanaugh*



Jody just a friend - December 02, 2024 at 08:51 PM

DS

“ *On behalf of everyone at DeLaSalle High School, we would like to send our deepest condolences to all who knew and loved Mike. May you find comfort in your family, friends and faith.*

DeLaSalle High School - December 02, 2024 at 03:42 PM

EB

Thank you! My dad was proud to have gone to school there ❤️

Erin Beck - December 02, 2024 at 09:40 PM