



## Michael Duane Hutchens

January 13, 1960 - May 26, 2024

Michael Duane Hutchens, age 64, of Eden Prairie, MN passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, on May 26th, 2024.

On January 13th, 1960, the world became a better place when Michael Duane Hutchens was born in Chicago, IL. Mike was the 2nd of 6 children born to Deborah and Duane Hutchens, and many said he was by far the spunkiest and most adventurous. He carried lifelong memories of family trips in the station wagon, as well as the many flights that the family took to far off places. He was educated in the Catholic School systems in Chicago and Minneapolis, and graduated in 1978 from Holy Angels Academy in Richfield. While in High School, Mike was Captain of the wrestling team and Student Body President. He attended St. Thomas University and received his BA in International Business, and then entered law school at Hamline University. While in law school, Mike was a baggage handler in the summers. He was appropriately nick-named Baby Hutch by his coworkers and took pride in the fact that he followed his father, Big Hutch, and older brother, Little Hutch, to Republic Airlines. In 1983 Mike married Christie Simons, and to this union, three children were born. Camille, Gwen and Maxwell were his pride and joy. Every spare second that he had was spent with them in the great outdoors, hiking, biking, camping, sledding, and exploring. They loved their trips to Cable, WI and cherish the memories of those times.

Mike joined the Meagher + Geer, P.L.L.P. law firm in 1986 and quickly became a skilled and highly sought-after trial lawyer. Over nearly 40 years, Mike dedicated his practice to the defense of clients in high-stakes civil litigation involving products liability, construction liability, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and catastrophic injuries. Mike tried more than 125 cases to juries in federal and state courts nationwide. He was renowned around the country as both a formidable opponent and an affable, easy-going friend.

Mike was a long-time firm leader, whether formally as Chair of the firm's Construction Law group and member of its Management Committee, or informally as a mentor to countless young lawyers who learned to try cases while working with him.

Mike's professional accolades were many. He is an inductee in both the International Society of Barristers and the International Association of Defense Counsel. Mike's peers selected him more than 20 times for inclusion on the Minnesota Super Lawyers® list, and Best Lawyers in America® honored him more than 15 times, including as its 2016 Defendants' Product Liability Lawyer of the Year. He was also repeatedly recognized as Leading Lawyer for Business: Construction. Mike is widely regarded as one of Minnesota's finest trial lawyers.

In 2004 Mike married Jane Hauan and they joined 5 children together to create the most amazing, crazy and loving family. Mike and Jane never referred to each other's children as step children, but simply as OUR children. Nick and Hannah were loved by Mike as his own and likewise, Camille, Gwen and Maxwell are loved by Jane. The kids' ages were such that at one point there were 5 teenagers in the house. Mike loved the busyness of the family and he was the one that everyone went to when in need because he could never say no. There were many family vacations. They ventured up North, to Mexico, to Europe and Asia. There were yearly ski trips to Vail for the boys and NYC trips for the girls. Travel was an important part of Mike's life from the

time he was a child and that passion carried on throughout his lifetime. It was important for him to give his family the gift of travel and he thought it was one of the best forms of education for them.

As a successful trial attorney, he had the gift of gab. He was the most prolific and imaginative story teller and could capture an audience everywhere he went. He was a hero to many and loved mentoring young people, whether associates at the firm or friends of his kids. He never missed an opportunity to celebrate. He was adamant that food expiration dates were only a suggestion, not a rule. His ability to weave rap lyrics into everyday conversations was unmatched. His soul was of the most generous; he never passed a person in need that he did not stop to help. He lived life to the fullest every single day. He taught us all to do the same. Our hearts are broken and we are saddened by his passing, but he taught all of us how to live life large, how to be a better person, and how to seize the day. We are proud to carry on his legacy of love. In true Mike fashion, he gave the gift of sight to two strangers. Imagine seeing the world through his eyes!

Mike is survived by his wife, Jane; children, Camille (Nik) of Seattle, WA, Gwendolyn (Eric) of West Hollywood, CA, Maxwell (Lili) of Minnetonka, MN, Nicholas Hauan (Cara) of Glenview, IL and Hannah Hauan (Taylor) of Tempe, AZ. He was the proud grandfather to Remy Deborah Dechery, Penelope Jane Hauan, and June Rose Hutchens. He was excited for the arrival of his fourth Granddaughter in August. Mike is also survived by his father, Duane Hutchens; siblings, Mark (Sue), Kevin (Julie), Phillip (Sam), Arianne (Doug), and David (Cathy); as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving mother, Deborah (Hoffman) Hutchens as well as his grandparents.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Methodist Hospital, Park Nicollet

Hospice, as well as his caregivers, Cathy, Shaya and Alfreda, for the kind and devoted care that was given to him.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 21st from 4-7 PM at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 W 50th St, Edina, MN 55436. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 22nd at 11 AM, with visitation one hour prior, at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 1600 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403. For those who are unable to attend in person, a livestream of the funeral service will be available at: <https://mary.online.church/>

Memorial donations preferred to: <https://www.theretreat.org/donate>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Visitation

JUN 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

The Basilica of Saint Mary  
1600 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 22. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

The Basilica of Saint Mary  
1600 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ Jessica D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

Jessica D. - June 21, 2024 at 10:55 AM

BS

“ Brad, Nikki, Jake, Zach & Nick Simons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

Brad, Nikki, Jake, Zach & Nick Simons - June 20, 2024 at 08:26 PM



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



June 20, 2024 at 08:26 PM



“ Sonja Monskey lit a candle in memory of Michael Duane Hutchens



Sonja Monskey - June 20, 2024 at 01:45 PM

-C

“ -Joe Riley Construction planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

-Joe Riley Construction - June 20, 2024 at 10:57 AM

-C

“ -Joe Riley Construction purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



-Joe Riley Construction - June 20, 2024 at 10:57 AM

TF

“ The Groos Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



The Groos Family - June 20, 2024 at 10:43 AM

TF

“ The Groos Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

The Groos Family - June 20, 2024 at 10:43 AM

TL

“ *The Lindemans purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.*



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**The Lindemans** - June 19, 2024 at 10:41 PM

TL

“ *The Lindemans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.*

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**The Lindemans** - June 19, 2024 at 10:41 PM

TH

“ *The Texas Hutchens purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.*



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**The Texas Hutchens** - June 19, 2024 at 09:54 PM

TH

“ *The Texas Hutchens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.*

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**The Texas Hutchens** - June 19, 2024 at 09:54 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.*



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June 19, 2024 at 05:58 PM



“ *Charlie and Cindy Becker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.*

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**Charlie and Cindy Becker** - June 19, 2024 at 05:58 PM



“ *Beyond planting a tree, I bought two new bird feeders in honor of Mike. I know he would have loved that, and they will be a constant reminder of the friend we all lost.*

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**Lenae Pederson** - June 19, 2024 at 01:04 PM



“ *Lenae P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.*

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**Lenae P.** - June 19, 2024 at 01:02 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.*



June 18, 2024 at 04:04 PM



“ *Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.*



**Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson** - June 18, 2024 at 04:02 PM



“ *Bill Bryant CPA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.*

**Bill Bryant CPA** - June 17, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.*



June 17, 2024 at 08:32 AM

KJ

“ Karl J. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

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**Karl J.** - June 13, 2024 at 08:42 AM

KY

“ Mike had been with M+G for just a few months longer than me--one of the 5 "Hs" who all started about the same time. He was a great lawyer with a keen wit and infectious, inclusive personality. He made me laugh every time we spoke and lit up a room with his presence.

*How many of you were lucky enough to enjoy his homemade pesto sauce! Mike was a man of many talents. He will be missed.*

*Our sympathies to the family.*

*Karl and Julie Yeager*

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**Karl and Julie Yeager** - June 13, 2024 at 08:36 AM

CS

“ Chuck and Jennifer Spevacek planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

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**Chuck and Jennifer Spevacek** - June 12, 2024 at 04:16 PM

CS

“ Chuck and Jennifer Spevacek purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



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**Chuck and Jennifer Spevacek** - June 12, 2024 at 04:16 PM

FI

“ Fortis Inc. purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



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**Fortis Inc.** - June 12, 2024 at 08:53 AM

LM

“ Lisa M. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

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**Lisa M.** - June 11, 2024 at 11:48 AM

FI

“ Federated Insurance planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

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**Federated Insurance** - June 06, 2024 at 02:32 PM

FI

“ Federated Insurance purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



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**Federated Insurance** - June 06, 2024 at 02:32 PM

JM

“ Mike was my first real mentor when I started lawyering years ago. He was kind, direct, no-nonsense, but fun, hard working and a great attorney. So sorry to hear of his passing. My condolences to the family.

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**John Munger** - June 04, 2024 at 06:38 PM

RL

“ My sympathies to Mike's family and colleges at Megher-Geer. The legal community, and specifically the Defense Bar, lost a skilled litigator and kind person. RIP Mike.  
Rick Lind

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**Rick Lind** - June 04, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



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June 03, 2024 at 05:25 PM

BM

“Bridget, Lauren, Meaghan, Molly, Morgan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

Bridget, Lauren, Meaghan, Molly, Morgan - June 03, 2024 at 05:25 PM

SG

“I was very sorry to hear of Mke's passing, and I extend my sincere condolences to the family. I had the honor of having two trials against him in St. Croix County WI, and he was one of the most skilled litigators I have ever encountered. There was no shame in being 0-2 to Mike Hutchens. In addition to his fine legal skills, he was a truly nice man outside the Courtroom. RIP Michael.-- Steve Goff, River Falls WI

Steve Goff - June 03, 2024 at 12:25 PM

JB

“John and Sue Brady planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

John and Sue Brady - June 03, 2024 at 11:33 AM



“Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



June 03, 2024 at 11:33 AM

M&

“ Margie &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

Margie &. - June 03, 2024 at 09:46 AM

MK

“ Camille, Gwen, Max and Jane: we were so sorry to hear about Mike's passing. He was a good, generous soul, and we appreciated getting to know him a bit as our neighbor these last 8 years. Our kids loved his stories and his gentleness. He will be missed; our prayers are with you all in this time of grief. We pray, too, that you feel God's love and comfort in the weeks and months ahead. - The Komp Family



Margie & Bill Komp - June 03, 2024 at 09:45 AM

SC

“ Stacey, Haley & Carleigh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.

Stacey, Haley & Carleigh - June 01, 2024 at 09:13 PM

SC

“ Stacey, Haley & Carleigh purchased the Memorials 44" Sonnet for the family of Michael Duane Hutchens.



Stacey, Haley & Carleigh - June 01, 2024 at 09:13 PM

DD

“ *Camille, Gwen and Max, so sorry to hear about Mikes passing. Used to love to hang out with you guys on Garfield Avenue virtually every summer evening. Reach out to Sami as she's going through your same situation. Always loved your family. My thoughts are are with you.... Don Denman.*

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**Don Denman** - June 01, 2024 at 11:14 AM

TM

“ *Tara M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Duane Hutchens.*

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**Tara M.** - June 01, 2024 at 11:11 AM