



## Michael Joel Matanich

September 15, 1953 - April 8, 2026

Michael Joel Matanich, 72, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family late in the afternoon of April 8th.

Mike was born to his parents Michael and Marcella Matanich on September 15, 1953, and grew up in Staples, Minnesota. He was preceded in death by them and his older brother John. Throughout his life he maintained the values of hard work, resilience, and an appreciation for simple joys.

He built varied careers as a teacher, machinist & supervisor before then fulfilling a lifelong dream of working on the railroad. Later, he spent many years as a Greyhound driver, primarily traveling the route between Minneapolis and Chicago. He took pride in his years of work.

Michael found joy in playing golf, had a passion for collecting sports trading cards, had a mind for numbers, and a sneaky-sly witty humor. More than anything, he valued time spent with family and friends. His positivity in his final years was contagious, and he was known for his steady, forward-marching outlook, summed up in his simple phrase: "Might as well."

He is survived by his children, Jesse Matanich (Jennifer Matanich), Paul Matanich (Jocelyn Matanich), and Andrea Wilson (Joe Wilson); his grandchildren, Lucia Matanich and Evan Matanich; and his longtime friend, Lori Matanich. Also, his siblings Marcy, Julie, Mark, and Angie. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Michael's life was marked by perseverance and quiet strength. His memory will live on in the hearts of his family and those fortunate enough to have

known him.

Memorial service 2:00 PM, Friday, May 22, with visitation one hour prior at:

[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)

Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000

1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

MAY **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Coon Rapids Chapel  
1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

## Memorial Service

MAY **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Coon Rapids Chapel  
1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Michael Joel Matanich in memory of Michael Joel Matanich



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Washburn-McReavy - May 05 at 12:38 PM



“ Janice W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joel Matanich.

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Janice W. - 6 hours ago