



Michael Benjamin Miller

February 8, 1986 - October 8, 2022

Michael Miller passed away unexpectedly on October 8, 2022, at the age of 36. Michael now rests in the comfort of his Heavenly Father, surrounded by the serene bliss and peace he searched for on earth. Michael is survived by his loving husband, Anthony; his dog, Charlie and cat, Bette; his mother, Merri; his grandparents Florence and John Hoijer and grandmother Arliss Miller; his brother Luke Miller and sister Tiffany Scherbing; and his seven nieces and nephews: Cody, Annika, Sam, Connor, Vincent, Alfie, and Luisa.

Michael was born in Waconia, Minnesota, to Merri Beth Miller (nee Hoijer) on Saturday, February 8, 1986, and entered heaven on Saturday, October 8, 2022. He graduated with a Master of Arts in English in 2011 at Syracuse University and a Masters of Business Administration in 2016 at Metropolitan State University. On April 29, 2015, at the age of 29, Michael married his soulmate, Anthony Moran, then 27, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Michael was a devoted husband and son and loved his family and friends so deeply. Michael was an avid reader of history and politics; a much-loved colleague and professor of writing at Metropolitan State University, and a highly respected and sought-after editor at various medical journals.

Michael loved his sweet tea and all the Australian sweets he could find.

Michael's favorite places were the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, Minnesota; Hobart, Australia, where he met his husband, Anthony; the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where he spent many summer vacations with cousins; and Boston, Massachusetts. Michael enjoyed antiquing in Stillwater, Minnesota, lunching and dining with Anthony, and exploring new foods and cuisines.

A funeral service is being held for Michael at 3:00 PM on Thursday, October 20 at the Washburn-McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel, located at 7625 Mitchell Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 with visitation one hour prior.

Washburn-McReavy.com

Eden Prairie 952-975-0400

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **20**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Memorial Service

OCT **20**. 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Michael Benjamin Miller in memory of Michael Benjamin Miller



Washburn-McReavy - October 17, 2022 at 01:07 PM

KR

“ To my dearest Anthony and to Michael’s family and loved ones, My deepest condolences, there are no words for a loss so great. Michael, your kind face and gentle way were so unique. The love and joy that you brought into Anthony’s life is something so special, and for this I am forever grateful. I only wish we had have had more time, to get to know each other better, to exchange stories and recipes, and to make more memories together with our favourite person.

Anthony, know we are here by your side, from across the world, no matter time nor distance, all of my deepest love.

Rest In Peace Michael x

Katie Rybak - October 20, 2022 at 09:26 AM

VM

“ We were devastated to learn of the passing of our loved son-in-law, Michael. Although we didn't get the opportunity to spend much time with him, he left us with feelings of love and so happy to be able to welcome Michael to our family. We send all our love and condolences to our son, Anthony and want him to know he is in our thoughts and prayers. Our deepest sympathy to all of Michael's family - we share your grief and sorrow. May Michael Rest In Peace - he will always be loved and sadly missed by us all.
George & Vicki Moran and family.
Family
October 13, 2022



Vicki Moran - October 20, 2022 at 07:57 AM

TM

“ Our dearest Anthony and Michael's family, We send our deepest heartfelt condolences to you, at this most difficult time. Michael will always be family, and always in our hearts. With deepest and most comforting love to you all,

Your Aussie family,
Dad, Mum, Nanna and your sisters and brothers,
<3 Love always, xoxo



Taryn Moran - October 19, 2022 at 07:02 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Michael Benjamin Miller.*



October 18, 2022 at 11:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Benjamin Miller.*



October 18, 2022 at 05:35 PM

ME

“Michael and his siblings spent 2 weeks every summer with Grandma and Grandpa Hoijer and his cousins. In 2009, he wrote a poem for Grandma Hoijer about summer days and "time". He references a "red triangle fort" that had been built for me (Merri) when I was a little girl.

TIME

For Grandma/From Michael

*Do you still stand there,
Behind the white fence watching me laugh
with my ghost friends and having
Tea with the queen,
are you still there
Beneath the sun bleached aspens
Near my red triangle fort
Across from the apple trees,
The bittersweet Fragrance
Drifting stronger as the summer aged
And little fruits
splashed
in the dirt below.
Beside the marsh vale,
Where you used to call
Out the tiny kitchen window
to come eat vegetables from the garden,
so fresh
That their hearts still had a beat and
The nectar of life flowed from their pores.
Where papa would pull up in that Rickety sedan and I would
Run to his embrace to greet him with a
Peck.
Do you still stand there
Watching your treasure
Wonder into the future,*

*Or has time moved you?
Are you still there in the decade
Of flowers
and books,
and love
and open arms
Or have you
Traveled with the hours
That carry us down to the ground.
If I walked back to the
Late summer evening and sat on the
Step
Would you be there to greet me?*

Michael Benjamin Miller 2009



Merri - October 18, 2022 at 04:39 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Benjamin Miller.*



October 17, 2022 at 08:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Benjamin Miller.*



October 16, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ To Michael’s family and friends:

I wanted to share some of my favorite memories of Michael.

I first met Michael in 2009 – we were both in the English M.A. class at Syracuse. We were in the same Literary Theory class and, through a series of gradual conversations and post-class lunches (in which I complained about the class and Michael laughingly agreed), we became friends and then roommates. Michael always said he was an introvert, but he had amazing people skills. He always made people feel at ease around him. He never wanted anyone to be uncomfortable or feel left out. And he was an amazing cook. When I moved in with him, I noticed that he had several Julia Child cookbooks. When I mentioned I had never had beef bourguignon, he made it for dinner. With a glass of sweet tea, of course. It was through Michael that I became a foodie.

One of my other favorite things about Michael was that he loved Princess Diana – we would have long conversations about her and the Royal Family – and he had several biographies on her. I told Michael he had a gentle spirit like Princess Diana.

Michael also loved classic TV shows, especially I Love Lucy, and he knew all these amazing facts about Lucille Ball. It wasn’t uncommon for us to both be writing essays on the couch with I Love Lucy playing in the background.

We stayed in touch after graduation, and I got to visit Michael in Minneapolis a few times. One of my favorite visits was when we went to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and afterwards got cheese curds. On a different trip, Michael came to visit me in Savannah and we went on an architecture tour (Michael’s choice) and then a ghost tour (my choice). Michael loved architecture and history. No matter where we were, there was always laughter, sweet tea, and good food.

More than anything, Michael loved his family. He was so proud of Merri, Luke, and Tiffany. His family was everything to him. And when he met Anthony, he was beyond happy. He texted me about this Australian man that he met, and how it was like a missing puzzle piece had been found. I only met Anthony once, but I knew right away that Michael had met his soul mate. When they were together, you could feel their quiet joy.

There are many more stories I could tell. I am so grateful that I knew Michael. He made a difference for so many people, and he lives on in our hearts and memories. Rest in peace, my friend.

Megan Poole - October 16, 2022 at 02:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Benjamin Miller.*



October 16, 2022 at 01:13 PM



“ *Bianca lit a candle in memory of Michael Benjamin Miller*



Bianca - October 16, 2022 at 07:21 AM



“ Thank you, dear cousin, for being a person I could be vulnerable with and fully trust. I cherish our talks. I will never forget you. See you on the other side.



Hannah Petraski - October 13, 2022 at 04:30 PM



“ *Written in the Stars* was purchased for the family of Michael Benjamin Miller.



October 12, 2022 at 01:01 PM



“ *Anthony Moran lit a candle in memory of Michael Benjamin Miller*



Anthony Moran - October 12, 2022 at 11:55 AM

AM

“ A collection of photos with family and friends who love and adore Michael for the incredible person he was.

I miss you so much, Mikey Bear. It is so wrong that you're not with us anymore. I still listen for your voice and look for your presence at home. I woke up this morning, half asleep, thinking I bumped your leg as I moved.

I'm so heartbroken, my love—and in the depths of great sorrow—that you are no longer here. I know you'll watch over me, my darling, my heavenly angel, just until we meet again in heaven. Teamo, Mikey Bear. I love you



Anthony Moran - October 12, 2022 at 11:53 AM

RO

“ Dearest Anthony, friends and family of Michael,

I am so very sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Anthony, you spoke with such love and respect for Michael when you told me stories of your lives together, the love you two shared will last beyond this life and the next.

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.
- Robert Frost*

All our love Rhiannon, Bailey and William

Rhiannon O'Donnell - October 11, 2022 at 07:32 PM

BE

“ *Michael, you were always loved so much by your mom, Tiffany, and Luke!!! I remember so many good memories of standing talking to you, seeing you at your mom's. You always had a smile on your face even when you were in pain internally! I never got to meet Anthony. My heart aches for your momma, and the rest of your family! your mom loved you so well as a mom! She was always there for you! You will be missed by so many people Michael! I have thought of you often the past years and prayed for you! Love ya Michael!!!*

Becky - October 11, 2022 at 12:37 PM

“ To Michael’s loved ones,

I feel a little odd writing such a note so publicly, but hopefully this means more people who are in the unspeakable throws of grief can find a moment of solace in hearing the cherished place in my heart Michael held.

We met briefly during my short-lived time at Syracuse. We were part of the same incoming master’s class, and to say it wasn’t the right fit for me was an understatement. I was not in a good place and quickly decided that I would be leaving at the end of the first semester. Michael was so incredibly supportive and did everything he could to make me feel like I had shoulders to lean on during that time. There were countless lunches and dinners and shared office hours where, through many heart to hearts, we realized how much our world views aligned. I was not sad to leave Syracuse, but I was very sad to leave Michael.

We stayed in touch after I left, messaging back and forth a couple times a year, and I was excited when at one point it looked like he might be pursuing opportunities in Boston. Hearing the path his life took instead reaffirms for me that everything happens for a reason—would he have met (to quote him from one of our conversations) “the love of his life” if he had stayed on the East Coast? Would he have gotten to spend the time he did with his family who he was head over heels in love with? Maybe? But maybe not. I am so happy he got to spend so much time around the people that gave his life meaning and love. I can think of few people who deserved that more.

He spoke to me a few times about planning a trip out to New England, and Anthony, he had hoped we would have met for dinner in Boston. He wanted to show you off. He was completely crazy about you. I am so happy that in this giant world he found you half-way across it.

*Merri, Luke, and Tiffany: His relationships with you were the driving force in everything for him. *Every* conversation we had inevitably turned to the importance of family and how the bonds you all shared were evident in everything he did. You three were the angels on his shoulder, and the inner voices of his conscience. Please know that anyone who has met Michael knows the profound impact you had on him.*

I know that nothing is going to make the loss of your beloved husband and son and brother okay. But to paraphrase the words of our President: I hope that in time, the thought of Michael brings a smile to your face before it brings a tear to your eye. I believe that eventually that day will come, even if it feels impossible right now.

Please don't ever hesitate to reach out if you'd like to speak about Michael, and please know you're in my family's thoughts.

Caitlin Mitchell - October 11, 2022 at 11:46 AM

MM

“ 6 files added to the album Michael and Family



Merri Miller - October 11, 2022 at 11:15 AM

BW

“ You were an amazing man Michael who always had the time to help out a friend whenever they needed it. That was my experience with you during the limited time I got to be in your company. I remember meeting you in Hobart when you and Anthony had just met and being blown away with just how kind and polite you were when you entered my home, and seeing just how happy you made Anthony from those very early moments. Then getting welcomed into your home when I stayed with you in 2016, having you and Anthony show me around Minneapolis and enjoying some great moments like some incredible meals and a Timberwolves game. Was amazing. And then opening your home once more during COVID when I needed help and a place to stay. You were always there willing to help out people and added to all the things Anthony shared with me about your kindness and amazing personality, you are somebody who I know not being around anymore is a sad day for the world. Added to this, the main thing for me, is just how happy you made Anthony. I've known Anthony since we were 13, and I've never seen him as happy as when he was with you. Anthony deserved that happiness, and you were the one who created that. I will forever be grateful that you were able to make one of my closest and best friends that happy. And I thank you for that. With more than words can describe. It's such a difficult time and I know my words can do nothing to heal the pain that people are feeling right now. But if they can do anything right now I hope they are able to showcase what an incredible man you were and just how much light you brought into the world, especially to an equally amazing human such as Anthony. Rest easy Michael. Thankyou for bringing your presence to us all.



Ben Waterworth - October 11, 2022 at 06:02 AM

LS

“ Michael my dear friend..I have met you as a temp employee at American Family, you are such a smart & intelligent man. When I met Anthony (American Family) and he said you are the love of his life...I could not believe that it was you...I told Anthony " I know Michael. He use to be a temp here at American Family"..What a small world.
Rest in Peace my friend until we all meet again and talk about all our American Family memories 🙏❤️

Lynn Schwartz - October 10, 2022 at 11:01 PM

TI

“ Won't ever forget our group trip to NYC. Cherished memories of a beautiful man. All our love, Anf ❤️

Tim - October 10, 2022 at 09:30 PM

KF

“ We are soo heartbroken for our dear friend Anfi and Michaels family. No words will ease your pain, we know this. We send Our deepest love and support from across the world to you Anfi. Michael was a kind soul and he was so obsessed with you. we felt good knowing that he was with you and you finally found the other half of your heart. Seeing the joy and love between the two of you was really heart warming. Two souls meant to share the journey of life. We know this next bit will absolutely suck. It will test you, but hold strong to the love you shared, and the people around you.

Dear Michael

Thank you for loving our Anfi. Thank you for lighting the spark in his heart and for filling his life with soo much joy. When you both came to visit us here in Hobart the love and affection between you was so evident.

Standing in our half built house we were at home chatting about the current world events and politics and it filled our hearts to know Anfi had found not only a love and place for his heart but one that shared is love for discussion of anything politics.

You were kind and generous with your time and you were so happy to play with our kids. A gentle touch who happily taught them new things with each conversation, true to your love of education. A true loving and loved human.

Life's journeys don't always take the happy roads but even in those difficult times you never stopped loving Anfi, showing up and trying, and we thank you for that. We hope you're now at peace.

Anfi,

My beautiful, brave, kind and loyal friend. Our heart is broken for you and we know how deeply you will feel this loss and Michaels absence in your life.

You loved him with every part of you and continued to show up for him. He was lucky to have you and you were lucky to have him. We love you and give you big hugs from afar. We wish we could be with you in person to wrap our arms around you.

We know you'll be ok but for now feel the feels and remember his

love.

We love you our friend. We're here for you whenever you need us.

Love, hugs and big thoughts,

Kylie, Casey, Tess, Austin and Matilda Farrell.

Molesworth, Tasmania

kylie farrell - October 10, 2022 at 09:04 PM

AM

“ *Oh my love, how my heart aches for your return. We created so many wonderful memories together. Our love we share spans lands and realms, on earth and in heaven. My love for you, Mikey Bear—extending even beyond the unfathomable—grows deeper still. I love you with all my heart, with every fiber in my being, always and forever. I love you, Mikey Bear. Teamo xoxo*

Anthony Moran - October 10, 2022 at 08:18 PM

CH

Michael, I'm so sorry we did not have that dinner so we could meet. I know you are a very special person because you have Anthony's heart. I could see the love he has for you when he talked about you. Rest in piece dear. We will have that dinner one day.

Charlotte Holland - October 10, 2022 at 09:10 PM

AM

Michael, you are the loveliest man I have ever met. I couldn't stop talking with you, from the moment I met you! I am so grateful to have met you, Michael. Truly. Maya Angelou and academia, just two shared passions. 'In and out of time'.

Anthony, I love you - thank you for bringing Michael into our lives. I wish that I could be there, to support you and Michael's family in person. With all my love from Australia, <3 xo always...

Amanda M - October 18, 2022 at 09:12 AM