



Michael Patrick Sullivan

December 5, 1934 - November 20, 2024

Michael Patrick Sullivan

(December 5, 1934 - November 20, 2024)

Michael P. Sullivan, age 89, of Edina, passed away Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Mike, the son of an Irish immigrant, learned from an early age that the way to succeed in this country is to earn an education and do good work. He was deeply grateful for his parents' sacrifices to ensure he had the tools and opportunities to thrive. He and Marilyn did the same for their family, which was their greatest joy and accomplishment.

His education began at Saint Anne's Catholic Grade School in North Minneapolis, followed by a short stint at Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary he went on to graduate from DeLaSalle High School in 1952. He was an NROTC graduate of Marquette University, B.S., 1956. He served as a Naval officer in the Pacific from 1956 to 1959, then earned his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1962. He practiced law for twenty-five years at Gray Plant Mooty law firm (now Lathrop GPM) ten of those years as managing officer, before he became the President and CEO of International Dairy Queen from 1987 to 2001.

Mike served on several corporate, community, and academic boards

throughout the years and earned innumerable accolades and accomplishments, yet he was most grateful for his large, and still-growing, family. As a young lawyer, he met Marilyn and they quickly fell in love, married, and started an epic partnership that would span decades and the world. Their 60-year marriage was colorful, dynamic, and meaningful. He cherished his extended family and was genuinely interested in what made them unique and his loyalty and commitment to the many non-profit organizations he supported is inspiring.

A bit gruff on the outside at times, he had a heart of gold. Mike lived a purposeful life and his impact has rippled far and wide with his simple yet profound wisdom: Be grateful for the good and the bad--each is a gift and an opportunity for growth. Faith and a deep relationship with your God are paramount. Marriage is a sacrament to be honored. It all begins and ends with family. Friends and lifelong relationships are a treasure and worth your time. Education is important and merits many sacrifices to attain. Persistent learning is essential. Traveling and seeing the world expands your thinking. A strong work ethic and discipline are necessary for real success and dignity. Be kind, we do not know what others are going through. Life is worth living. Give it your all and do everything you can to be there for the ones you love. Use your God-given talents to make a difference. Give to others with a generous heart. Ice cream is good for you.

Everything was an adventure with Mike and he wanted his family to have experiences. At their cabin (Heritage Hill) and Arizona home (Tonto Verde), he and Marilyn shared their love of nature, noticing everything with awe and deep appreciation. He taught himself, Marilyn, and his children to sail, fish, canoe, water ski, Nordic ski, and alpine ski. He educated us about the flowers, birds, trees, cacti, and other fun facts about wherever we were. In addition, the many cross-country road trips in the "Sully-van" took grit, but he was living his dream. It was not always seamless with six children but he was steadfast and

earnest in his pursuit.

Through the wonders of nature and a deep appreciation of our surroundings, we will continue to see, feel, hear, smell, and taste his wisdom. He was our rock and the memories will live in our hearts forever.

Mike is survived by his loving family: His wife of 60 years, Marilyn (Emmer); children Katherine (Daniel) Fritz of Sioux Falls, SD; Michael Jr. (Rachna) Sullivan of Edina, MN; Maureen Sullivan (Matthew Cronin) of Excelsior, MN; Bridget (David) Reddan of St. Louis Park, MN; Daniel (Sri) Sullivan of San Francisco, CA; Thomas (Kathryn) Sullivan of Minnetonka, MN. His grandchildren: Madeline (Taylor) Juhl, Molly Fritz, Killian (Cecelia) Brackey, Bennett (fiance Olivia) Brackey, Jack (partner Kelly) Reddan, Danny Fritz, Tommy Fritz, Finnegan Reddan, Carlton Cronin, Gavin Brackey, Murphy Brackey, Peter Cronin, Meara Sullivan, Tommy Reddan, Amanda Cronin, Maya Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, James Sullivan, and Maria Sullivan. His great-grandchildren Bennett, William and Sullivan Juhl, and Fiona Brackey. Siblings John Sullivan, Kathleen (David) Black, and Eileen (Carl) Hedberg. Sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Patsy Emmer, Ramona Benson, Patricia Emmer, Nan Emmer, Margaret and Gregory Gust, and Earl Emmer, Jr. Mike was preceded in death by his parents Michael and Susan (Doran) Sullivan; sisters Mary, Patricia, and Mary Sue Riley; father-in-law Earl Emmer and mother-in-law Helen Emmer; brothers-in-law Edward Riley, Thomas Emmer, John Emmer, James Emmer; sisters-in-law Susan Sullivan, Ann Emmer; niece Bridget Greene; nephew Stephen Emmer; great-grandson Michael Juhl.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will take place Friday, December 13, 2024, at 11 am at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church (5071 Eden Ave) in Edina. Visitation from 10 am until the time of Mass at the church. Private interment at

Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights.

If you are unable to attend in person, join the live stream: <https://www.olgparish.org/mass/mike-sullivan>

Please consider a memorial to a non-profit organization of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
5071 Eden Avenue
Edina, MN 55436

Church Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
5071 Eden Avenue
Edina, MN 55436

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Michael Patrick Sullivan.*



December 05, 2024 at 05:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Patrick Sullivan.

November 26, 2024 at 04:04 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Michael Patrick Sullivan.*



November 26, 2024 at 04:04 PM



“ *Sincere sympathy to Marilyn and family on the sad passing of Mike. Fond memories of your trips to Ireland always so enjoyable . From Cyril O Sullivan Frure Lissycasey Ennis Clare Ireland*

cyril o sullivan - November 25, 2024 at 03:50 PM

CF

*Cyril, you are a prince. Thank you for your lovely comments regarding Mike. Mike & Marilyn. Loved their visits to Ireland, as did all of us. Especially the tour of the original house & the one of a kind bedroom. Thank you, Cyril.
Eileen, Carl & family 🧡👍*

Carl, Eileen Sullivan & family - December 05, 2024 at 09:48 AM

CF

Please let your family know.

Carl, Eileen Sullivan & family - December 05, 2024 at 09:52 AM

JH

“ Marilyn, I was saddened to read this today. You and Mike and Sharon and I go back a long way together. It means a lot to me that I got to see you two just recently at the Lockhart Dinner. My thoughts are with you. Jim Hale

Jim Hale - November 25, 2024 at 02:39 PM

PF

“ Peace, Roger and Dory Reddan family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Michael Patrick Sullivan.



Peace, Roger and Dory Reddan family - November 24, 2024 at 01:53 PM

CA

“ ‘One of a kind’ and ‘Some man for one man’

The people who came up with the sayings had Mike in mind: Inspirational, family first, generous to a fault, kind, loving...

My thoughts and prayers are with Marilyn, Katie, Mickey, Maureen, Bridget, Danny, Tommy, and the wider Sullivan clan.

It has been a blessing to know Mike my entire life. There are so many great memories. Mike and the wider Sullivan family are one of my life's most significant chapters.

I will have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul here in Dunblane today. 🙏

Cathal - November 24, 2024 at 05:04 AM

CA

*Dear Marilyn, I just heard today, January 3, 2025, of the passing of Mike and I cannot describe how very sad I am as I write this. I have so many happy memories of the Sullivan days...I am especially happy we got to see each other at the restaurant, it mean't a lot to me May Mike Rest in Peace & you have my sincere sympathy.
Connie Andrzejek*

Constance Andrzejek - January 02, 2025 at 11:46 PM

TF

“ *The Luther Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Michael Patrick Sullivan.*



The Luther Family - November 22, 2024 at 11:50 PM

KS

“ It didn't happen often enough but we always enjoyed it when our paths crossed with Michael. Hugs and prayers to Marilyn, Katie and Dan, and all of the rest of the family. Hugs and prayers.

Kristy & Jon Sogn - November 22, 2024 at 01:47 PM

AM

Bridget, Marilyn, and Family, although I did not know your dad. Well, I feel like I am him through you, Bridget. A wonderful man, who loved his family sending you all prayers for peace and comfort at this very difficult time. ❤️

Andrea Morsch - November 23, 2024 at 08:58 AM

AM

Editing the above... although I did not know your dad well, I feel like I knew him through you Bridget.

Andrea Morsch - November 23, 2024 at 09:02 AM

FR

Marilyn and family, Tony and I send our condolences and remember so well the many happy memories we shared with you and Mike in Owensboro Kentucky and Chicago and as far back as our college days at Barat. Our love and prayers are enclosed in this expression of sympathy. With much affection, Fran and Tony Romweber

Frances Romweber - November 23, 2024 at 05:09 PM

SM

My condolences and sympathies to all the family. I came to know Mike well in the late '70s and early '80s. I was the Executive Director & Chief Counsel of Legal Aid and MMLA (then CMLS). Reagan had threatened to cut off all federal Legal Services Corp.(LSC) and wholesale restrictions were put on our legal services. I remember many meeting with Mike, Roger Stageberg, Clint Schroeder and Warren Maul--where we brainstormed the issues which ultimately lead to us coming up with alternatives private sector funding via the Fund for Legal Aid, other state funding mechanisms and funding, and creating a new entity for all the non-LSC funds (MMLA) and isolating all LSC funds in CMLS, allowing MMLA to represent its clients free of those restrictions. I reached out to Mike frequently for advice and reactions. He was always fully engaged and available. We had chatted in the years after about those days. Mike believed in public service. He was a ardthear (Gaelic), a mensch (Yiddish) and really good man. RIP Mike.
Seymour Mansfield

Seymour Mansfield - November 25, 2024 at 09:07 PM