



Michael J. Zapp

November 10, 1950 - November 19, 2016

Michael (Mike) J. Zapp, 66 of Kearney died Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 at CHI Good Samaritan. Though he lost his battle with multiple myeloma, Mike fought it to the end. Funeral services will be 10 AM, Wednesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Pastor Tim Glendening will officiate. Interment will be 3pm at the Culbertson Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-7pm, Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. On-line condolences and memories can be shared at osrfh.com

He was born Nov. 10, 1950 in McCook, NE to Walter H. and Enid V. (Boyer) Zapp. He grew up in Culbertson and graduated from high school there in 1969. He received his B.S degree from Kearney State College in 1973. Mike was a state champion track and field athlete, basketball and football player for the Culbertson Bears and received a track scholarship to Kearney State College.

He was married to his high school sweetheart Judy Schilz on August 21, 1971 in Herndon, KS. After which the couple lived in various communities including, Stratton, Culbertson, Crete, NE and Columbia, MO before settling in Kearney in 1985. He worked for various seed companies in seed sales and as a brick salesman in central-western Nebraska.

Mike enjoyed his morning coffee group, Nebraska High School sports and Husker football. He was an avid car enthusiast and loved to drive around in his convertible.

Survivors include his wife, Judy of Kearney, son, Bret (Brandy) Zapp and their children, Mason Michael and Mallorie Jean of LaVista, NE, daughter, Bobbi (Leif) Ullman and their children, Liam Micah, Grace Ann and Eve Elaine of Colorado Springs, CO, brothers, Tom (Mary) Zapp of Higginsville, MO, Jerry (B'Anne) Zapp of Kearney and Ted (Velora) Zapp of Culbertson, NE, sisters, Pat (Ty) Wagner of Culbertson, and Jane (Lee) Gilliam of Oberlin, KS and sister-in-law, Janice (Rex) Hanna of Cambridge, NE. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and family friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents and in-laws, Bernard "Rusty" and Elaine Schilz.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Service

NOV **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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4115 Ave N
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Tribute Wall



“ *Michael J. Zapp*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *As Mike and Judy's "across the street" neighbors at their previous home on 13th Avenue, we can honestly say, they were the best and sweetest neighbors we have ever known. Mike's kindness never ran out. He always was ready to visit or lend a hand. Your friendship is dearly missed. Love and prayers for Judy and family. All our love, Eric & Shelley Rozean and Kids*

Eric Rozean - November 26, 2016 at 12:08 AM



Thank you so much for the kind words..Mike and I so enjoyed living across the street from your family and watching your children grow up, visiting in the driveway and keeping tabs on each other!!! What a blessing your friendship has been to us. Love Judy and family

Judy Zapp - December 01, 2016 at 03:37 PM



“ *Sarah Z. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



Sarah Z. - November 23, 2016 at 01:16 PM



“ *Sending our love. Sarah, Mark, Crew and Sibley.*

Sarah Zapp - November 23, 2016 at 12:19 PM

JZ

Thank - you so much Sarah!!

Judy Zapp - December 05, 2016 at 06:18 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



November 22, 2016 at 03:03 PM

SZ

“ *Sheri Z. purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



Sheri Z. - November 22, 2016 at 11:32 AM

JW

“ Mike was always the consummate gentleman who also spoke his mind. Being Bobbi's mom in law, I have had the wonderful pleasure to know both Mike and Judy for over 10 yrs!

We all went out to look at properties in Vegas one time when Mike & Judy were thinking about retiring there..it was a fun experience seeing this side of Mike. They did not choose to do so,as Mike's mom, Enid was still alive and in NE. He was always thinking about his family, young & old.

It has been hard to watch Mike's progressive battle with cancer, however at Leif and Bobbi's home for Christmas or at Birthday Parties for the Grandkids, Mike made a valiant effort to be part of the action with a smile on his face! Those grand kids sure did give him a kick! He was a vital part of every visit to their home.

My most favorite memory is when Mike was walking his only daughter, Bobbi, down the aisle for Leif and Bobbi's wedding. I was in the rows near the front & I turned around to see them come down the pathway.

Mike was standing tall while holding his beautiful daughter's arm..walking stoically. I could see the slight bit of tears in his eyes as he walked. His emotions were right there at this most important time. It has always stayed in my mind and heart.

Mike was a great "talker" about things in life over coffee during our family gatherings,very practical being from the plains, yet was such a soft -hearted & kind man.

It will not be the same without him at our gatherings, however I for one would love to hear more stories with the grand kids there, about this man who loved and lived so well for others! Rest now, and save us a spot Mike. We know you will keep a good watch over your loves, especially your beloved Judy. In the meantime, we all will too. I promise!

Love, Joy Willett

Joy Willett - November 21, 2016 at 11:23 PM

BU

Thank you Joy, what a lovely tribute. Bobbi

Bobbi Ullman - November 28, 2016 at 09:02 AM

JZ

Joy - So wonderful to read your memories and story about all the fun times we spent together with you and your family!! How thoughtful and kind of you to share!! Love, Judy and family

Judy Zapp - December 01, 2016 at 03:43 PM

TS

“ *The Showman's,Haiar's,Hillyer's,Carpenter's purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



The Showman's,Haiar's,Hillyer's,Carpenter's - November 21, 2016 at 08:05 PM

KS

“ *Mike and Judy were "thee" couple in HS and Mike was a great athlete.
Always enjoyed my time with them and just wish that we had kept more in touch.
I have an appt. Weds morning, so will not be able to attend the funeral, but my thoughts will be with Judy and the rest of the family.
GOD BLESS ALL!!*

KYLE SITZMAN - November 21, 2016 at 11:45 AM

JZ

*Kyle - so many wonderful memories growing up together in Culbertson, NE. Thank you so much for remembering Mike with your kind words.
Love, Judy and family*

Judy Zapp - December 01, 2016 at 03:46 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



November 21, 2016 at 10:54 AM



“ *Al Heskett Children purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



Al Heskett Children - November 20, 2016 at 10:25 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michael J. Zapp.*



November 20, 2016 at 09:48 PM



“ *So sorry, Judy, for you and your Family! Please accept our sympathy and prayers. May Mike be in peace, no pain, and in his Savior's presence. Love to you all! Jerry and Vivian Brown*

Vivian Brown - November 20, 2016 at 08:31 PM

JZ

Thank you Vivian! Nice to see and visit with you and Jerry at Mike's visitation. Love, Judy and family

Judy Zapp - December 01, 2016 at 03:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Michael J. Zapp.



November 20, 2016 at 05:46 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray* was purchased for the family of Michael J. Zapp.



November 20, 2016 at 04:55 PM



“ *Garden Accent Stone* - "*Wherever a Beautiful Soul...*" was purchased for the family of Michael J. Zapp.



November 20, 2016 at 04:49 PM



“ I remember Mike and being at a party with my husband and Robert , two men , both ex- husbands of the same women. And he said hmm I can't imagine what that must feel like.

He was really open minded and so candid at the same time. I really appreciated his honesty. He loved Bobbi and Leif' s wedding ! He was so proud of his kids and so sweet to the grand kids an included Noah too.

He will be dearly missed. We are sending our condolences and prayers to your family.

Love, Kathy Bill and Noah

Kathleen Day - November 20, 2016 at 04:08 PM

BU

Thank you, Kathy. What a lovely comment, I do appreciate it. Bobbi

Bobbi Ullman - November 28, 2016 at 09:04 AM

JZ

Kathy - Thank you so much for sharing your memories of Mike at family gatherings we all attended. How kind and thoughtful of you! Love, Judy and family

Judy Zapp - December 01, 2016 at 03:51 PM

JP

“ Joe, Theresa and Preston purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael J. Zapp.



Joe, Theresa and Preston - November 20, 2016 at 03:59 PM

TZ

“ Mike may have learned that he had to fight his own fights long ago. He fought the big C for four years and put up a colossal struggle at the end. As I said, he may have learned one of these fighting lessons when he was only five or six years old on the tough streets of Lexington, Nebraska. We were visiting grandpa and grandma Zapp in Lexington when young Mike got into a disagreement with a neighbor kid and arranged to settle the issue with a child's street fight. Just as things were about to get started, Mike yelled to brother Jerry and me to come and help him with the fight. We went over and stopped the action before it got started and a disappointed Mike found out that he was on his own if he wanted to fight. As it turned out, he did quite well with his own fights later in life and carried that on to the last.

Tom Zapp - November 20, 2016 at 08:46 AM

AG

So sorry for your loss..my thoughts and prayers are with you all....Ann Germany

Ann Germany - November 20, 2016 at 08:30 PM

JS

As a kid, I remember Mike scoring 40 points as a Culbertson Bear on Bartley or Stratton...and he dated my cousin, wow! From that day on I wanted to play basketball. I never reached that level but still love the game and have 3 sons who coach it. BTW, he was pretty good at track as well. RIP and God Bless your family. Jason

Jason Showman - November 21, 2016 at 12:28 PM

JZ

Tom - Thank you for sharing how strong and courageous Mike could be if he believed in the fight!! Yes, he did fight the cancer until the end. No more pain and suffering! Thanks for all the support you gave Mike and me during his entire illness!! Love, Judy and family Jason - Thank you for remembering and sharing stories about Mike and his love of playing H.S. sports.. The memories took me back to all the great "cousin" times we had growing up together!! Love, Judy and family

Judy Zapp - December 01, 2016 at 04:01 PM