



## Michael Joseph Vesel

May 27, 1947 - April 24, 2023

Michael Joseph Vesel, 75, passed away on April 24, with his wife Shirley and dogs, Tilly and Tiggs, by his side.

Mike was born to Joseph and Irma Vesel in Kansas City, Kansas on May 27, 1947.

He graduated from Parks College, University of St. Louis, with a degree in aeronautical engineering and later earned an MBA from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

After a brief period of time working as an engineer for United Technologies in Hartford, Michael joined the Air Force for four years where he served as a test engineer for F15 and F16 fighter jets. It was a natural transition for Mike to return to United Technologies where he spent most of his career in field service, providing support for F15 and F16 jet engines. Eventually Mike was in charge of the field service division, managing one-hundred and forty employees throughout the United States and the World.

Mike met his wife, Shirley, through mutual friends and they were married in July of 1977. Their marriage of 45 years was adventurous and fun.

Michael loved traveling. He and Shirley lived in Belgium for four years and

enjoyed attending the air shows in Paris and Farnborough. Shirley and their toddler son, Joe, would sometimes accompany Mike on business trips. One of the most unusual trips was to Corsica, the birthplace of Napoleon. They wore out the Eurail Pass, traveling extensively throughout Europe while they lived there. Mike's love of travel continued throughout his life, so he and Shirley travelled several times to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Egypt, Petra, and Vienna were three of Mike's favorite destinations.

Flying was one of Mike's most avid past times. He earned a private pilot's license, a commercial license, an instrument rating, and an instructor's license. During their marriage, Mike and Shirley owned three different airplanes, the most recent one being a twin-engine Beechcraft Baron. They enjoyed flying it throughout the States, Canada, and the Bahamas.

What was always most important to Mike, though, was his family. He was warm, and loving, and witty. One of Mike's favorite expressions was, "There is no price too high to pay for domestic tranquility". More than anything, Mike will be remembered for the wonderfully devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather that he was.

Mike leaves behind his wife, Shirley; his son, Joseph and daughter-in-law, Hillary and their two sons, Wyatt and Hunter who reside in La Grange, Illinois.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, May 3, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Beyers Funeral Home in Leesburg, Florida. A funeral service will be held the following day Thursday, May 4, 10:00 AM at St. Paul Catholic Church in Leesburg, Florida with interment to follow at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida at 1:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Leesburg Humane Society.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory  
1123 W Main St  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
(352) 787-4343

## Funeral Service

MAY 4. 10:00 AM.

St. Paul Catholic Church

## Interment

MAY 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ Mike and I were roommates for two years at Parks College. I enjoyed his sense of humor and irreverence. We had a lot of good times. He was by far the best roommate I had in my years of college. We lost contact for a long time after graduation, but reconnected a couple of years ago. I enjoyed talking to him again on the phone. I was shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. Shirley I'm sorry that we never got to meet. Having been married for 53 years I can understand how he was half of you. You have my sincere condolences. I will miss Mike.

*Dave Findley*

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**David A Findley** - May 17, 2023 at 08:37 PM

GC

“ So sorry for your loss Shirley. Although I didn't have a chance to get to know you two further, I enjoyed your quit wit at Michaels expense when you came to mahjong class at Everglades pre- Covid. Be well  
Gina Christman

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**Gina Christman** - May 04, 2023 at 06:58 PM

DS

“ Shirley and Joe, I am so sorry for your loss. Mike was a man of integrity. He made the work place enjoyable. He was a mentor by nature. It was clear his family combined with time away from work was a priority. He was a gentleman. He was quick witted. We worked together in WPB, and then again in EH, CT after the "P&W/ME great migration back to the mothership" in 1999-2000. I'll tell you how polite Mike was. Remember I had Mike and Joey over for Thanksgiving dinner in the 80's (Shirley you were out of town). I made gravy, so smooth, not a lump. Everyone at the table tasted it before I did. When I took a bite, ack!!! It was horrible! I had to leave the table. The drippings had started to burn and I unknowingly put that in the mix. No one said anything to me! My poor guests! I was so concerned with lumps I didn't even taste the gravy before I hoisted it on the unsuspecting! Mike did come back to work on Monday and provided me with "someone's" tip to help make gravy -- Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup." :-)  
May your lifetime of wonderful memories with your husband and father give you comfort now and in the years to come.  
Praying for peace and comfort for you and your loved ones.  
In Christ,  
Donna Gregory Stolle  
P&W Retired  
Garner, NC

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Donna Stolle - May 02, 2023 at 08:26 AM

MM

“ Shirl,  
Bob and I are sending our condolences and sympathy to you and your family.  
We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.  
Love,  
Marie and Bob

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Marie and Bob Mooney - May 01, 2023 at 04:45 PM

TH

*Shirley, our deepest condolences to you and your family. We are so sorry that we can't be with you to celebrate. May you find comfort in the memories y'all shared together. Love Traci and Grant Hickman*

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**Traci Hickman** - May 03, 2023 at 10:15 PM

SP

“*Shirley, Gerry and I want to give our deepest condolences to you and your family. We love you dear friend and we are heart broken that we can't be with you to remember and celebrate the life of a wonderful man. May god hold you in his arms and comfort you now and in the months to come. Love Gerry and Sandy Pierce*

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**Sandra Pierce** - May 01, 2023 at 01:45 PM