



## Michael J. DeFranks

January 4, 1938 - October 23, 2016

Michael John DeFranks, 78, departed this life on October 23, 2016, after several strokes and seizures left his brain irreversibly damaged.

That one sentence shares more about Mike than he likely would have preferred; he was a private man outside the family. So while there are many stories to share, they are best shared one-on-one vs. publicly. Here you will find a few milestones of a life well-lived and about a man who was well-loved.

You could not have known Mike without also knowing his “bride” Beverly. Their love story began in the neighborhood (Buffalo, NY), and they married on August 3, 1957. They had six children – John, Marie, Anne, Teresa, Joseph and Michael.

Together, they taught their children right from wrong. He wanted them all to succeed and never doubted that they would. He let them think for themselves, set off on careers of their choosing and was ready to help them through life’s tough times. He was strong and wise. He was a provider, protector, prodder. Mike could also be light-hearted and had a great sense of humor. He could turn a phrase like few others, and he was a mad whistler.

A graduate of Canisius College, Mike spent his entire career at one company (Western Electric/ Lucent Technologies/AT&T), beginning in payroll and then payroll technology systems. When Western Electric closed its Buffalo, NY, plant in 1976, Mike moved his family to Marietta, GA. The move to Georgia brought many new experiences and friendships.

Retired in 1996 and living in Kennesaw, GA, Mike started volunteering at Kennestone Hospital. During his tenure, he was treasurer and then president of the volunteer group. Mike also took up the craft of chair caning, gifting several of his children and grandchildren with hand-crafted chairs or rockers. He was a patron of the Marietta theater scene, devoted member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, and life-long Notre Dame fan.

Mike had 10 grandchildren of whom he was immensely proud: Sara, Amanda, Samantha, Jeffrey, Brian, Meagan, Matthew, Morgan, Joshua and Michael Loran.

In addition to his wife, children and grandchildren, Mike is survived by son-in-law Calvin, daughters-in-law Ragnild, Melisa and Tish, siblings Anthony, Paul, John and Lucille, and sisters-in-law Josie Ann and Elaine — all of whom cherish his memory. He is preceded in death by his parents Samuel and Margaret, sister-in-law Cindy, son Joseph and daughter

Anne.

If you wish to honor Mike's memory, the family requests that donations are made to the American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org/donate](http://www.cancer.org/donate)).

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**St. Joseph Cremation Gardens**

Marietta, GA,

**OCT  
25**

**Visitation**

05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Mayes Ward-Dobbins Historic Marietta Chapel  
180 Church Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

**OCT  
26**

**Memorial Service**

10:30AM

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St. Joseph Catholic Church  
87 Lacy Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home** - October 25, 2016 at 01:59 PM

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“ Dear DeFranks Family / I knew Mike 40 years ago when I worked at Western Electric. We both were sent to Atlanta in 76'. We invited Mike over for Dinner one evening and I never saw my children laugh so hard when he told them stories. His passing will be felt for many years to come. He was the greatest. Our prayers to you and Mike.

Anthony & Christine Tobiasz



**Anthony & Christine Tobiasz** - November 15, 2016 at 09:23 AM

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“ We were all created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). We were created with the desire to live forever. The death of God's son, Jesus, gave all of us hope of resurrection to everlasting life (John 3:16). May this thought from God's Word provide peace during this difficult time.

**ns** - November 08, 2016 at 06:53 AM

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“ We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Uncle Mike, and we wish to pass on our condolences to the family. When growing up Massachusetts and West in Buffalo, our families were very close. I remember some of the practical jokes my dad and Uncle Mike pulled on each other, including the time dad fell asleep on our front porch, and Uncle Mike waking him up with water from the garden hose. Uncle Mike was my confirmation sponsor, and I took his name as my confirmation name. I remember how sick he was the day of the ceremony, but he pushed himself to make sure he got

to the church. For a while, I was the babysitter for the kids on certain weekend nights, and got to see how important family was to Mike and Bev. Our prayers are with you.

Bob & Anna Vaccaro

**Bob Vaccaro** - October 26, 2016 at 07:45 AM

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“ Lucille DeFranks is following this tribute.

**Lucille DeFranks** - October 26, 2016 at 07:02 AM

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“ Mike will always be one of my top four brothers!

Lucille DeFranks

**Lucille DeFranks** - October 26, 2016 at 06:56 AM

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“ The photo tribute brought back so many memories of "Uncle Mike" and our days on the West side. Seeing the many faces of the DeFranks family, those we grew up with and those we never met, is bittersweet. So sad we lost touch. Uncle Mike has left a wonderful legacy in his children, grandchildren and those he helped through his volunteer work. God bless all of you. With deepest sympathies, Barbara and Lou Puleri (Vaccaro)

**Barbara Puleri** - October 25, 2016 at 05:32 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. Though I didn't know Mr. DeFranks well, I DO know that he was a great Dad and Grandfather to many! I know he will be missed. You all have my deepest sympathy. I send my prayers for your strength and comfort, and I hope you are sustained by your faith and the love and support of your awesome family and friends.

Much Love,  
Beth Witkowski

**Beth Witkowski** - October 25, 2016 at 04:05 PM

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“ 143 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - October 25, 2016 at 01:42 PM

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



October 25, 2016 at 11:15 AM

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“ Love, Vickie, Kearney, Kelly, Phillip, Adrienne, Martha purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Michael J. DeFranks.



Love, Vickie, Kearney, Kelly, Phillip, Adrienne, Martha - October 25, 2016 at 10:33 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael J. DeFranks.



October 25, 2016 at 09:13 AM

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



October 24, 2016 at 05:51 PM

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“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Michael J. DeFranks.



October 24, 2016 at 04:35 PM