



Michael Paul Nunke

February 1, 1955 - January 4, 2026

Michael Paul Nunke, a gentle man, son, husband, father and friend, passed away on January 4, 2026. Mike was born in Chicago, Illinois, to Lydia and Ronald Nunke. He was raised primarily in Seattle, Washington, and was a graduate of Seattle's Nathan Hale High School. Mike earned an undergraduate degree from Claremont Men's (now McKenna) College in 1977 and a master's degree in applied mathematics from George Washington University.

Mike was lover of music, sci-fi, nature, and a nice beer outside on a pleasant afternoon. A brilliant mind, he served as the family's encyclopedia on topics ranging from weather to economics. Nothing brought him greater joy than his children, and he cherished a recent family trip to Glacier National Park, planned by them in honor of his 70th birthday.

Mike built his career as a project manager, combining his gift of patience, his technical expertise, and his understanding of real-world needs. His work took him on international trips and included several years working and living in Reston, Virginia.

Health issues plagued Mike all his life. He faced the pain, limitations, and disappointments these created with quiet courage and without complaint. Although his health concerns dominated his body, he never let them define his

life.

Mike leaves behind to mourn him his mother, Lydia Nunke, his brother, John Nunke, his wife, Leslie Friedlander, and his beloved children Skye (spouse, Sam) and Kate (partner, Aaron Lindeke-Myers) Nunke, as well as other family, friends, and former colleagues. He was preceded in death by his father, Ronald Nunke, and his sister, Sarah Nunke.

If you are interested and able to make a charitable gift in Mike's memory, the family suggests the Immune Deficiency Foundation, Project Smile, the Facial Pain Research Foundation, or Hospice Austin.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

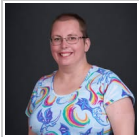
Congregation Beth Israel
3901 Shoal Creek Blvd
Austin, TX 78756

Tribute Wall

SK

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mike's passing. I was fortunate to meet Mike several years back through an Immune Deficiency Foundation support group. He shared memories of the painful gammaglobulin shots he received as a child for his immune deficiency. His willingness to share helped greatly with my trauma memories of those shots. That, combined with his sense of humor, was a gift to our group.

Susan Kotara - February 06 at 08:04 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Mike's family and friends. My life was improved by our interactions through the Immune Deficiency Foundation and I am thankful for the jokes, joy, and perspective he brought to our time together. He is greatly missed! ❤️❤️❤️

Amanda Martin - February 01 at 05:24 PM

PB

“ My heart goes out to Mike's family and friends. Mike joined us in our Primary Immune Support Group in Austin Texas several years ago. We all loved Mike's humor, wisdom and knowledge. He made our group better and stronger. We will all miss his wonderful spirit!

Patti Bradfield

Patti Bradfield - February 01 at 03:02 PM

JE

“ Oh Leslie, so very many years since I'd seen Mike and what I remember most is a sweet sense of humor in a mensch. Sky and Kate, my love to you and to Mike's mother. May his memory be ever for a blessing. Love, Joanie

Joan Eisenstodt - January 18 at 10:01 PM

DH

“ Kate and Sky were good friends on high school. That's how I met Mike. He was always warm and friendly.



Dixie Houston - January 07 at 02:27 PM

A(

“ I met Mike back in 2005 when we worked together at CH2M HILL — I don't just remember a colleague — I remember a true friend. Somewhere along the way that professional relationship turned into a genuine friendship.

Outside of work, we shared many after work happy hours filled with laughter, great conversations, and a lot of great stories. We went to live music events and enjoyed a few dinners that felt more like family gatherings than social plans. I even had the privilege of taking care of his cat — a small but meaningful reminder of the trust and bond we shared.

He was someone who showed up — for his work, for his family, and for his friends. His laughter, his generosity, and his ability to make others feel comfortable and valued will stay with me always. I am deeply grateful for the memories and for the friendship that enriched my life in ways I will never forget. He will be missed more than words can express but his memory will always bring a smile, a laugh, and deep gratitude for having known him.

Anna Jackson (Walker) - January 06 at 08:26 PM