



Michael L. Gurchiek

May 8, 2020

Michael L. Gurchiek, 82, died peacefully in his sleep on Friday, May 8, at his home on Longboat Key, Fla. He was born in 1938 in Farmersburg, Ind. to Michael V. Gurchiek and Betty Rose Beauchamp Gurchiek.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his oldest son, Michael J. Gurchiek.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Barbara Gurchiek, son Brian Gurchiek, (Sarasota, Fla.), granddaughter Emma Gurchiek, daughter Julie Gurchiek Hasiewicz, (Glen Ellyn, Ill.), son-in-law Joseph Hasiewicz, granddaughters Madelyn Hasiewicz, Samantha Hasiewicz, Alexandra Hasiewicz, and youngest son Chris Gurchiek (Waxhaw N.C.), daughter-in-law Connie Gurchiek, granddaughter Jessica Gurchiek and grandson Michael C. Gurchiek.

He is also survived by his sister Judy Mullican (Terre Haute, Ind.), sister Kathy Gurchiek and brother-in-law Jim Halley (Woodbridge, Va.) and brother Richard Gurchiek (Monroe, Ohio) and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces and cousins.

Michael L. Gurchiek graduated from Indiana State University in 1960 with a BS degree in Biological Science. He started his career as a high school science teacher, Director of Athletics, Head Varsity Football, Basketball and Baseball coach. After a few short years, Michael transitioned into the pharmaceutical industry where he spent the last 50 years of his career. He started as a sales representative for Ayerst Laboratories in Indianapolis, Ind. and then soon moved to the Chicago area to work for Bristol Myers where he held positions as Physicians Representative, Hospital Representative, District Manager and Regional Manager. Michael was then selected to be the National Director of Sales for Apothecon, the generic division of Bristol Myers. He was soon recruited to become the Vice President of Sales at Goldline, an Ivax company. Later, he became the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for an injectable pharmaceutical company called SoloPak. He then took the position of Sr. Vice President of Sales and Marketing with a

generic pharmaceutical manufacturer, URL/Mutual. He retired from URL in 2006. After only a few months, he came out of retirement to start Pinellas Pharmaceuticals as an equal partner with his son, Chris. He continued as the President of Pinellas until his death.

Michael L. Gurchiek was the consummate husband, dad, brother and friend. He leaves behind a long legacy and a zest for life. He will be missed greatly by many for years to come.

Comments



“ Dear Barbara, I was so very sorry to recently learn of Mike's passing. Bruce had great respect for Mike during the many years they worked together at BMY. You and Mike shared a wonderful life together and I'm sure the memories will sustain you during the years ahead.
Love to you and your family, Sue Ross

Susan Ross - July 20, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ Dear Barb and Gurchiek Family,

I just learned of Mike's passing and wish you all the best during this difficult time. I first met him back in 1980 at a Bristol Laboratories Sales Manager's meeting. He was such a friendly welcoming guy to this new kid who joined the marketing team. Over the years we jogged together and shared a joke at receptions at these meetings. Year's later, we got reconnected with the SoloPak team and he was such a great guy - full of life, laughter, hard work, results and fun. He was truly a great man and role model and will be missed by all who knew him.

God Bless you all!

Mark Soufleris

Mark Soufleris - May 26, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ I am saddened to hear of Mike's passing. I knew Mike through our industry, he was a terrific person and I always enjoyed his company and his numerous stories. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mike's family.
He will truly be missed.

Ken Einhorn - May 17, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Sam Hasiewicz - May 17, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ Love you Grampy



Sam Hasiewicz - May 17, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ I was saddened to read of Michael's death. Richard and I always enjoyed his company. Please accept my condolence. I know how difficult it must be for all of you, but how comforting it must be to have the family together.

May the good times you spent as a family, be the thoughts, that now and in the future, stay in your memory

My heartfelt sympathy

Gail Levin

gail levin - May 17, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ Always eagerly accepted invitations to lunch and dinner at Mike and Barb’s home. The two of them were the most gracious of hosts And Mike always remembered everyone’s favorite beverage and made certain to replenish your glass often. I will always remember his gentle good humour and thoughtfulness.

He will be missed,

Jinny Johnson

jinny johnson - May 16, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Julie - May 16, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie - May 16, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Frank and I will miss Mike's ever present smile and his zest for life. We are happy to have been able to share some time with this gentle and loving man. Our thoughts are with his family, especially Barbara. Please take comfort in knowing that he did not die alone as so many are during this challenging time.

Fondly,

Frank and Janice Cook

Janice Cook - May 16, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Dear Barb and Family,
I remember meeting Mike for the first time at Town Hall during the aftermath of the hurricane. The three of us had such a wonderful conversation getting to know one another. We had a lot of laughs. He impressed me as such a nice person, very social and personable. He even remembered me at a later Garden Club event. It was so evident he idolized you. My heart breaks for you and your lovely Family. Sending much love to you at this most difficult of times.

Kathy Garcia - May 16, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ We are so very sorry to learn of the passing of Mike. He was such a gentle soul and a true "gentle"man. Mike always had a constant smile on his face and was so kind to everyone that passed his way. A true wonderful husband to Barb and a wonderful father,grandfather and friend to all.
Mike will be missed by many.
Love Des & Gail Wyer

Gail & Des Wyer - May 16, 2020 at 10:46 AM



“ To Chris and The Gurchiek Family,
I am so very sorry for your loss, as you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers... I had the pleasure of meeting Mike through working with Chris 25 years ago...I still recall when I first met Mike and he was always there to share guidance, a laugh, and a smile...I respected his knowledge and expertise in the industry...but, most of all, his relationships with everyone in the industry and his love of his family!! Chris, Thanks for sharing your Dad over the many years as I continue to remember all of you through this difficult time...

Mark Boudreau

Mark Boudreau - May 15, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Nancy Pepe - May 15, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ So sad to hear about Mike. I took this picture of Mike with his granddaughters. A big smile so happy to have his grand daughters and family visiting on longboat key. He was always a fierce competitor playing volleyball & badminton at our family reunions.

Nancy Pepe - May 15, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ Deb and I were shocked and saddened to hear the news about Mike, and send our heartfelt condolences to the family.

It's almost inconceivable that it has been over 30 yrs. since meeting Mike at BMS/Apothecon as the companies “merged” and he and Barb moved to Pennsylvania.

Mike was always approachable and indeed became a trusted friend and mentor in short order. His always present contagious smile, laugh and disarming demeanor made him a truly special individual. When you worked for Mike, he lead by example and was the “ultimate coach”, with a keen knack of getting the best out of people. Moreover, you always wanted to put forth only the best effort, because you knew that he genuinely appreciated it and, it always elicited a wide smile!

There are so many great memories over the years that we will never forget Mike for how he made people feel and how blessed those around him were.

To Barb, Chris and family, thoughts of deep and sincere sympathy are with you at this time.

John & Deb Segura

John Segura - May 14, 2020 at 06:51 PM



“ Oh Barbara and Family, I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He and Don were such great friends and cohorts and Missy and I said that he was thrilled to see Mike coming through the door. There will be pranks and laughter galore! May God bless each and everyone of you. May your hearts be filled with sweet and fun memories!
Pat Franklin Thompson
972.567.1433



Pat Thompson - May 14, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ Mike was one of the great guys I have known. I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. Even when I would be ranting about Brian Kelly (football coach at Notre Dame)
he never would say a bad thing about him. Maybe in Heaven Mike will convince God to give Kelly a brain transplant. Rest in peace Mike.

Jerry Dowell - May 14, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ So sorry to hear of you loss. I went to school with your Dad. To me he was always a great person. Many great school years with Michael.

Donna Garry Von Kannon

Donna VonKannon - May 14, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear about Mike. I first met Mike when I started at R&S He was one of the first people I got to know in the industry. He was always so kind to me. He never would shun speaking to you and always very real. Mike will be missed by me but also everyone that was blessed to know him. My heart prayers go out to all the family.



Stephen Rutledge - May 14, 2020 at 08:11 AM



“ A bright light is gone from the world. So many fun and wonderful memories in Indy, Glen Ellyn, Florida, Evansville, and anywhere we were with you guys. The "ladies" especially loved it when he would take us out to dinner and visit with us afterwards when we had our ladies trips. We cannot imagine a world without Mike Gurchiek. There are no words to tell you how much we will miss him. We love you guys so much.

Margie and Mike

margie Raters - May 13, 2020 at 03:49 PM



“ Jay Alli purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Michael L. Gurchiek.



Jay Alli - May 12, 2020 at 10:02 PM



“ It is a shock to me to know that Mike is no more with us. He was great person with humility and simplicity. I am sending my hear felt condolences to Chris and Mike’s families during these difficult times. May GOD bless Chris and Mikes’ families.

Dhananjaya Alli - May 12, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ Mike was an absolute gentleman and had a gift of making everyone feel special. He was always 100% in the moment and I can't ever recall seeing him without a smile on his face. The industry has lost truly one of the best; my condolences to his family in this difficult time. If Websters chose to put pictures in a dictionary, you could put a picture of Mike Gurchiek next to the term " first class "

Bill Hill

William Hill - May 12, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ Dear Chris & Gurchiek Family:

I was deeply saddened to hear about Mike’s passing. Through my friendship with Chris, I was also fortunate to befriend Mike and always looked forward to seeing him at industry meetings. Mike represented everything good about our industry and was a true gentleman. He always greeted you with that big warm smile and always made time to chat and truly connect. I am grateful for our interactions as I always learned something from him. Mike will be missed by many but never forgotten.

Joe Ruhmel

Joe Ruhmel - May 12, 2020 at 07:44 PM



“ Mike was always there to greet you with a smile and a kind word. I got to know Mike while I was a buyer for Walgreens and continued to see him over the years at various meetings. My deepest sympathies to the family, the world lost a great one with Mike's passing but I hope that his light still shines on a little bit in everyone that he knew. God bless. Jill Nailor

Jill Nailor - May 12, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ Barb and family,
We were very sad to hear the news about Mike. Mike was an incredible guy and a good friend. We had great fun with you guys so many times. From Indiana gatherings to visits in Chicago, fireworks in Pennsylvania, golf in Naples and Longboat, there are many, many fond memories. He made our times together special with his great attitude, friendly smile and contagious laugh. He had one of the best renditions of "We are the Champions " (from the Naples golf outing) I have ever heard. Barb and family, you are in our prayers, as Mike will always be in our memories. One other note, Barb: we appreciated knowing your door was always open to us.
Connie and Duffy

The Hagists - May 12, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ When God created Mike, he threw out the mold. A one of a kind person who was kind, considerate and thoughtful of everyone. A true gentleman who will be missed sorely. May he rest in peace.

Sid Geller - May 12, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ Lana and my deepest condolences to Barb and the family. I worked with Mike at Bristol/Apothecon and were neighbors in Evansville. I remember his great laugh, smile and charming competitiveness: he and Bernie Greenburg would argue over who was the best salesman: it would end with each thinking they won. A great friendly rivalry. we are very sorry for the loss.

Jeff Marsh

Jeffrey Marsh - May 12, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ Dear Barb, Brian, Julie and Chris, my heart aches for you all because I know how close of family you all are. Mike was one of the good guys and was Bernie's only choice to lead Apothecon when he retired. Mike was definitely the second best salesman ever! Everyone that knew him loved him.

With much love to you all, Nikki Greenberg.

Nikki Greenberg - May 13, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ Dear Barb and family my heart breaks for you all. My heart breaks for you all. I know you are such a close family and Barb you were an exemplary couple. I always remember Mikes ready smile. We enjoyed visiting you in your lovely home in Long Boat.

Prayers and peace for you all.

Sharon Buckley

Sharon Reeves Buckley - May 14, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He use to sell products to me back in the day when I worked at Walgreens. He always came in with a smile and we would talk about how are families crossed paths in late 1950s in Glen Ellyn IL. He definitely left an imprint of happiness on the world. RIP Mike. Sincerely, Shannon Rivero

shannon - May 12, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ It is easy to identify why Mike Gurchiek was loved by so many. In the few years that I have known him, it was plain to see that Mike was one of those rare people that had the ability to make anyone's day brighter and had been doing so for many years. He was a great man that has inspired me, and I'm sure many others, to live life to the fullest. I am honored to have been the "Frick" to his "Frack" a few times, and will miss him greatly. My deepest condolences to the entire Gurchiek family.

Navya Jaikumar - May 12, 2020 at 08:29 AM



“ Gail and I were saddened when we heard that Mike passed away. Mike was a great man that always had a smile on his face. I always looked forward to seeing Mike either at a URL/Mutual sales meeting or a trade show. Mike always had a funny story to share and loved to share a good laugh. I loved our running joke of him always introducing me to Frank LaSusa every time we saw each other at a show. Mike was a good person and a gentleman.

Brown Massey - May 12, 2020 at 07:10 AM



“ It's hard for Deb and I to put into words what Mike has meant to us. There are so many memories. Mike started my career when he hired me 40 years ago. He immediately became my mentor and friend. During the many years we worked together we spoke about business, sports and family. We spoke almost everyday. The one thing that I will miss most is having a drink and laughing together. Mike always found the good in people. He was always there for me in my personal life. I could write a book about the many sales calls, meetings and the fun we had throughout the years. There was one incident that always stands out which we always laughed about. Barb, Mike and I were at dinner one night and Mike kept asking me for a "sales number". I kept avoiding giving him an answer. Barb finally said "just give him a number and lets go home". Barb and Mike have opened their home to me and made me feel part of their family. He was a large part of my life. I am really going to miss him. Our thoughts and prayers to the family. Love Frank and Deb LaSusa

Frank and Deb LaSusa - May 11, 2020 at 10:40 PM



“ Oh Barbara, Chris, Julie, Brian and all the grandkiddos, my heart is heavy after learning of Mike's passing. I've never met a more perfect couple than you two. Mike and Don had so many wonderful, crazy, fun times. I'll bet they're whooping it up together again. Barbara, I'd love to talk with you sometime when you have a few minutes. I'm so glad your kids are there for you. I know you're all so terribly grieved. I'm thinking of you all and I send my love and prayers for you. Pat Franklin Thompson

Pat Thompson - May 11, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ I am so sad to hear of Mike’s passing. I met him many years ago when I started planning the Harvard golf outings and he was one of the nicest people I ever met. Every time I saw him he always gave me the biggest and best hug! I loved going to trade shows and seeing him-just made my day. My deepest condolences to the entire Gurchiek family. Mike will be missed by many.

Michele Bacon - May 11, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Kelly McCullough - May 11, 2020 at 09:17 PM



“ Jay and I were Devastated to here of Mike’s passing this weekend. I first met Michael and Barbara close to 20 years ago at all of the Pharmaceutical Conventions. We soon became good friends along with the Hayers and socialized outside of Business. Barbara and Mike came to Detroit for our Daughters Bat Mitvah’s and when they first built their Beautiful Home in Long Boat Key we went with the Hayers to stay at their house. Since Jays retirement we didn’t see as much of each other but tried to stay in touch when we could. Two years ago we got together in Ft. Lauderdale for dinner and last year Jay and I went to their side of the State and we all had Brunch together. Mike has such an outgoing personality and was the Happiest person I ever met. I can hear him saying his Funny expression right now, “Holly Schmutt!” We are sure going to miss Mike and we want to extend our deepest condolences to Barbara, Chris and Connie and all of Mike snd Barbara’s Family. We hope his Beautiful Memories offer you comfort during this Difficult time. All our Love , Becky and Jay Levine

rebecca - May 11, 2020 at 08:39 PM



“ I am so saddened to learn of Mike’s passing . He and Barbara were a spectacular couple and together they exemplified extreme love and kindness and humor to all who crossed their paths. He was a wonderful man and he will be missed . Surely he is on his way to heaven.
With much sympathy

Karen Hanson

Karen Hanson - May 11, 2020 at 07:37 PM