



# Michael Joseph Holsinger

October 17, 2016

Michael Joseph Holsinger passed away October 17, 2016 at the age of 79.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Mike was a 20 year career officer in the US Air Force and decorated Vietnam Veteran having earned The Bronze Star. After retiring from the military, Mike returned to the University of Missouri to earn a Master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture.

In 1986 Mike and his devoted bride Sharon moved to Sarasota to begin his 20 year career with Sarasota County and the University of Florida as Director for County Extension Department.

Mike's crowning achievement was his pivotal role in vision, design, and successful establishment of "The Florida House" in Sarasota as a model for sustainable and environmentally responsible construction. Mike was an accomplished writer with published articles during his tour in Vietnam, as well the Sarasota Herald Tribune with articles on horticulture, ornamental/non toxic landscaping and beautification.

His two passions in life were fishing and gardening and these loves are carried on by his wife and children.

Mike was an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church with Sharon. He served as a lay member of the Bishop's Archdiocese Planning and Development Council and was a former member of Sarasota Fruit and Nut Society. Mike worked in retirement as a horticultural consultant to numerous individuals and associations.

Mike is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sharon, children Jeffrey (Beth), Jamie (John) Barron, and Joseph (Sarah) in addition to 4 grandchildren.

Services will be held at 10:00 am on November 18 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Sarasota on Siesta Key, followed by a military burial at Sarasota National Cemetery at

1:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers donations in Mikes name may be made to Tidewell Hospice, or the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research.

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ Joe/Jamie/Jeff: I'm sorry for the loss of your dad. My dad past away on the 9th of Oct (Joe may remember dad on the sidelines as the doc for all our football games). I'm just now seeing this, so, sorry for the delay. Anyway, please receive my condolences, know that I am thinking of you and your families, and, have a Happy (and blessed) New Year. Sam Barbee

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**Sam Barbee** - January 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Mike, we miss you. You always gave without expecting anything in return. You always tried to do the right thing. You were looked up to by so many. Your greatest gift to me was the love and friendship that you gave to my sweet Jamie. You'll be with us always. John

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**John Barron** - November 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I miss him every day but he is in heaven. He was the greatest father a daughter could have

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**Jamie Barron** - October 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM