



## William "Billy" J. Michael

August 6, 1952 - January 23, 2021

William "Billy" J. Michael, 68, of South Chicago Heights, passed away Jan. 23, 2021. He is survived by his loving family, children: Hanna Michael of Chicago, William "Andy" Anderson Michael of Park Forest; brothers: George (Sandra Regnier) Michael III of Chicago Heights, Richard (Patricia) Michael of Oak Forest; sister: Jo Ann (late Frank) Costello of Olympia Fields; former wife: Peggy Michael of Park Forest. Uncle and dear friend of many. He was preceded in death also by his sister-in-law Laura Michael. Born Aug. 6, 1952 to the late George Michael Jr. and late Dorothy (nee Anderson) Michael, he was raised in Chicago Heights and graduated from Bloom HS. Billy had a huge heart and shared his gifts of song, humor and carpentry with many. He enjoyed his children, was a great cook, lover of Jeopardy and big Cubs and Chicago Sports Fan. He worked for many years for Roseland Stairworks and for several years at Country Squire Foods in Chicago Heights. A Celebration of Life will be planned for later in the year. Donations are requested to help people who struggle with addiction and many be directed to The South Suburban Council, 1909 Cheker Square, Hazel Crest, IL 60429. For info or to sign guestbook visit [heartlandmemorial.com](http://heartlandmemorial.com) or call 708-444-2266.

# Tribute Wall

PE

“ It has been six months since you died and I have your ashes. I still think of you everyday. I talk to you too. But if you answer, I will be scared. I don't know why your death affected me so much, but I believe it was because you were such a big presence and took up so much of my life. When you died, I felt a some of me went with you. Your son is starting college September 7 and he is going downtown. I hope it expands him and he becomes more capable and assured. Hanna is living the life in Chicago with her friends. She got a new apartment and she is doing well with her college studies. She is such a brilliant painter. I wish you were here for these milestones. You were a pain in the butt, but I loved you being around. I am glad I made my peace with you the year prior to your death. I am glad I accepted you as you were. I am glad you called me the last couple weeks of your life and I spoke with you. The anger was gone. I knew I was powerless over you as you were over alcohol. I wish I could have changed your thinking, but I could not. You had to do that. Nevertheless, I miss you every day and I will love you forever. I have a ring with your fingerprint and I never take it off. Let this note go into the ether and let your spirit catch it.



Peggy

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**Peggy** - July 22, 2021 at 02:08 PM

CK

That's beautiful. I know it's 4 years removed but I knew billy way back in the day. For no real reason I just goggled his name and came across this memorial. For me this is like it just happened. So sorry to learn of this. Love and prayers to billy.. your friend. Chuck Keyte

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**Charles Keyte** - July 21, 2025 at 02:16 AM

CK

*Please contact me at [clkeyte@gmail.com](mailto:clkeyte@gmail.com)*

**Charles Keyte** - July 22, 2025 at 03:18 AM

JJ

“ *I met Billy in 1972 when I hired him to deliver pizza. He was a great guy and was loved by all who worked with him as well as the customers and we became good friends. I lost track of Billy after closing my restaurant but I never forgot him. I finally tracked him down a couple years ago and it was great to be able to talk to him again. It breaks my heart to hear he has passed. My deepest condolences to his family.*

**Jimmie "Jay Bilotti" Jenkins** - February 02, 2021 at 07:45 PM

PM

“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



**Peggy Michael** - February 02, 2021 at 03:56 PM

PM

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Peggy Michael** - February 02, 2021 at 03:55 PM

PM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Peggy Michael** - February 02, 2021 at 03:45 PM

MA

“ *The world is not so good with Bill gone.*

*In 1993, Billy, Peggy and their new baby, Hanna, along with Irene, picked up me and Ben outside Evanston for a drive in Irene's Caravan to Wheaton for Thanksgiving with the Cherringtons. Somewhere at about 30 minutes into the drive the Caravan quit and Billy pulled it over to the side of the highway. It was negative-numbers-cold outside and there was NO phone to be seen anywhere nearby where the car sat motionless. Right away Billy wanted to know where we were so when he hiked to a phone to call Tom there'd be no doubt where we sat freezing and waiting to be rescued. Billy stuck his hand in the door's map pouch then opened the glove box. Not finding what he was looking for, he turned to Irene and asked where she kept her maps. With her typical "what are you talking about" look on her face, Irene answered Bill, "At home on the shelf in the dining room." Bill didn't skip a beat before looking her straight in the eyes and exclaimed, "Oh, in case the house needs to go somewhere?" I loved Bill from that moment on. I knew he was a keeper. Rest in peace, "God's gentle man", rest for eternity.*

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mark - February 02, 2021 at 01:07 PM

“ I just wrote a whole story about Bill and I lost it. I loved Bill and always will love him. He was the biggest part of my life besides my children. He was a rollercoaster ride that I am glad I took. I remember how he talked all through any movie we were watching. He and Andy would watch movies in the basement and the sound would be blasting. If we were in public, he would yell something stupid so it would draw attention and he could embarrass us. He was fun. Our last family outing was to the zoo last summer and it was hot. Sadly, I cannot find the picture I took of him.

I am also glad I made peace with him and was able to have conversations with him toward the end of his life, however short. Bill was not his disease. Bill was bright and witty and funny and really nice. His disease took him and there was nothing any of us could have done to change the course of things. It is a great loss because he was so talented in so many ways. Days before his passing, he told us he loved us and he was very proud of Andy for getting in to Columbia College. He loved Hanna and he gave her the moon. Every time I see a full moon, it is Hanna's moon.

I see a lot of messages from First Christian Church. Bill and I would sit in the back and laugh at things like the little wafers. We imagined that when the wafer was passed, it came in a Jesus Pez Head. Sorry, we did that. I loved laughing with him.

Anyway, Bill and I were married Saturday, January 21, 1993 and he died Saturday, January 21, 2021. I don't believe in coincidences and this is Bill telling us that we were his life.

I will remember your voice and keep you close to my heart, Bill. I loved you in your madness and I loved you in your health. I will always love. Rest in peace now. Fly with the angels. I am sure God is in stitches. You were a joy and a tragedy.

Peggy

**Peggy Michael** - February 02, 2021 at 12:28 PM

PM

*I put on the wrong date. We were married on Saturday January 23 1993 and he died Saturday January 23, 2021.*

**Peggy Michael** - February 03, 2021 at 12:35 PM

PM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Peggy Michael** - February 02, 2021 at 12:11 PM

PM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Peggy Michael** - February 02, 2021 at 12:10 PM

TP

“ Billy and I met in 7th grade and although we've traveled different paths, we've always had a phone call every so often to "touch base" with one another. The last time we spoke he was in line at a restaurant, waiting for some pot stickers. After he got and paid for his food, I said something like, "Enjoy your meal! I love you, Billy!" He said, "I love you too, Tob." THAT is a memory that will stay in my heart forever, just as he will. Rest In Peace, Billy - You More Than Deserve It. Deepest sympathy to his family and friends.  
- - Toby Gershon Padgett, Metro Portland, Oregon, BTHS Class of 1970 --

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**Toby Gershon Padgett** - January 30, 2021 at 07:54 PM

TA

“ Billy had a beautiful voice and I loved singing with him in the First Christian Church choir. Toni Arnold

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**Toni Arnold** - January 27, 2021 at 08:41 PM

BE

“ So sorry for your loss. Billy is my cousin and I will always remember his great sense of humor and smile! Sending prayers and love and hugs to you all 🙏💕

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**Beth** - January 27, 2021 at 06:45 PM

DI

“ When I first met Bill he said to me you don't know what you're getting yourself into do you? In a very serious tone., shaking his head as if distraught. I was concerned and asked what tell me. He said -a circus with a bag of tricks!!! He laughed and laughed as he had gotten under my skin. I later realized it he love to joke. Such a funny guy, with a big heart. Dána

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**dianaruiz@wgli.org** - January 27, 2021 at 06:36 PM

CS

“ Billy always asked “do you want to have s catch” goes back to when he was so young and we played catch. So sad such a fun guy. Rest In Peace Billy

Cheryl Sullivan - January 27, 2021 at 05:51 PM

GS

“ Billy was a wonderful guy and as his obit said he loved music. He joined the First Christian Church choir and we were so thankful he did. He had a beautiful singing voice and he brought much laughter and friendship to an aging choir. We loved him and the joy he brought with him. RIP Billy.  
Georgeann Skowronski

Georgeann Skowronski - January 27, 2021 at 04:34 PM

JM

“ Bill was a difficult (maybe impossible) person to forget. I liked Bill a great deal. My Mom, Betty McGee, who sang with Bill in the choir of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Chicago Heights, adored him. (I think he was a tenor). My deepest condolences to the family.



Judith McGee - January 27, 2021 at 03:11 PM

PM

Thank you Judith.

Peggy Michael - February 03, 2021 at 12:32 PM