



Michael Rayburn Billingsley

September 9, 1952 - January 9, 2018

A celebration of the life of Michael Billingsley, 65, of Lubbock, Texas will be on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Sanders Funeral Home with Senior Pastor Steve McMeans officiating.

Michael passed away January 9, 2018 after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Michael was born September 9, 1952 in Lubbock, TX to Rayburn and Bernice Wylie Billingsley. He went to elementary school in Hale Center and graduated from Monterey High School in Lubbock. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and began working in the title and escrow business. His career spanned 40 years. His passions were anything that went fast: cars, motorcycles, and horses.

He is survived by loved ones including his wife of 34 years, Kerry Drane Billingsley; mother Bernice Billingsley and an extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by father, Rayburn Billingsley; grandparents, I.M. and Nita Billingsley and W.R. and Valree Wylie; and sister, Patsy Ruth. He leaves behind many long-term friends from his youth, from the horse community, and from his work.

Memorials are suggested to Texas Tech Rodeo Team.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

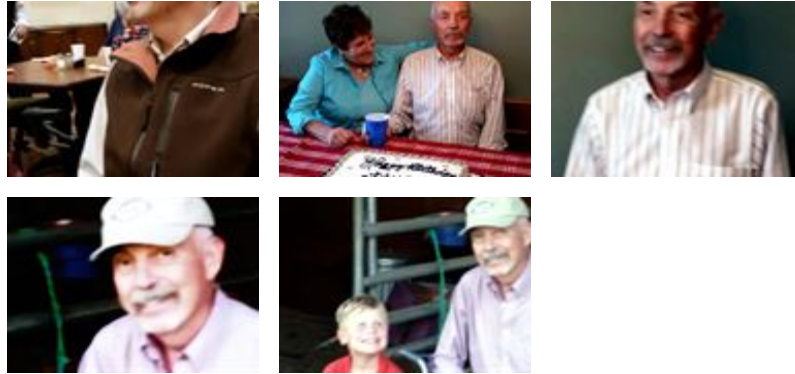
JAN 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sanders Funeral Home
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 763-6433
director@sandersfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 68 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Sanders Funeral Home - January 12, 2018 at 09:52 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Michael Rayburn Billingsley.



January 11, 2018 at 02:43 PM



“ *The Pratas Families* purchased the *Fiery Lily and Rose* for the family of Michael Rayburn Billingsley.



The Pratas Families - January 11, 2018 at 11:41 AM

VM

“ Growing up I was always so excited to visit Aunt Kerry and Uncle Mike. I remember just following him around and listening to his stories. From cars to horses and everything in between. Things didn't change much as I grew up still excited every chance I got to see him and being able to watch him teach my little girl how to swing a rope made me so happy!



vicky mcswain - January 11, 2018 at 11:15 AM

PH

“ I have know Mike for about 25 years. I'm a real estate broker and always looked forward to working with Mike with his very sincere smile and too clean desk. I have worked with all of the closers at all of the title companies over the years and none were more efficient or professional than Mike. I am proud to call Mike "friend". The last time I saw him was at Stewart Title a few months back. Mike spotted me and followed me to my car. He showed interest in my Corvette and explained that he also had a late model Corvette. We visited about cars and shared stories about our common interests. I am thankful that I got to spend that time with him. I will miss him.

Paul Harmon

Paul Harmon - January 11, 2018 at 10:53 AM

CK

“ Mike and I go back to high school days, and along with Kelly Pratas, I was privileged to have (a) served as a groomsman in his wedding, (b) spent incalculable (and mindless) hours driving up and down 50th street, and (c) assisted him in admiring his nicely stacked collection of Road and Track.

Mike was a true classic -- a quiet, conscientious gentlemen with a level head, traits you don't see much anymore. It is a pleasure to call him a friend, and he will be missed by those of who were lucky enough to have known him for a very long time.

--Cecil Kuhne

Cecil Kuhne - January 11, 2018 at 10:39 AM

KP

“ I met Mike when we were juniors at Monterey High School and quickly discovered how acquaintances can become friends, and friends can become close friends. I have no idea how many miles we drove cruising the streets of Lubbock. Some of us knew Mike as "Meticulous Mike" because of his extreme attention to detail. Back when motor oil was packaged in cans, "Meticulous Mike" would always open the cans from the bottom so that the paint flakes from the printing on the top of the cans wouldn't get in the engine! He would also measure out the precise amount of ketchup for his fries so that the last bit of ketchup would be absorbed by the last fry. This precision struck me as extreme at the time but I suspect it served him well in his profession.

In his book Comanche Moon, Larry McMurtry writes: He had known several men who had lost limbs in battle; the men all claimed that they still felt things in the place where the limb had been. It was natural enough, then, that with Bill suddenly gone he and Gus would continue to have some of the feelings that went with friendship, even though the friend was gone.

I will feel this loss for a long time.

Kelly Pratas



Kelly Pratas - January 11, 2018 at 09:59 AM

RP

“ Mike and I go way back to our boyhood days at Church, where we met. We both attended Monterey. I have always cherished our friendship and many outings that we shared. He was the real deal, and true friend. We had many mutual interests...and he was very good at all of them.

One thing is for sure.....he will have the cleanest pickup and desk in Heaven!

I will miss you until I get to see you again my friend.....and so will anyone that has ever known you!

Rick Potts

Rick Potts - January 10, 2018 at 11:47 PM

PS

“ In the early - mid 1980s I was an active real estate agent & Mike was often the closer. In 1982, I had 194 closings & on one closing occasion at Western Title Company where Mike was working at that time, Mike said to me, “ ..everyone wants to know how you do so much business by yourself without a large group of agents. You do more volume then some companies with 10 agents. ” The answer I gave him in 1982 reflects what I felt about him throughout his career. “Mike,” I replied, “I just list ém and sell ém, you do all the important work!” If you ever saw Mike lean backwards on his trim frame & laugh with that big smiie, you know that is what I saw that day ~ and I’m seeing that wonderful smiie today even as I read the sad post about his passing.

I will see him again - maybe on our horses as we both talked about my 16.5 hand proud-cut stallion, “Ace”, whenever we had a spare moment! He knew I couldn’t handle Ace & used to muse that if I had an older mare Morgan quarterhorse, I’d get more time in the saddle instead of in the dirt ! I am sure he was right!

Philip Schoewe - January 10, 2018 at 08:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Michael Rayburn Billingsley.



January 10, 2018 at 07:10 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Michael Rayburn Billingsley.



January 10, 2018 at 06:43 PM



“ *Bob, Rosamond and everyone at Western Title* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Michael Rayburn Billingsley.



Bob, Rosamond and everyone at Western Title - January 10, 2018 at 05:43 PM



“ *3 files added to the album New Album Name*



David Pritchett - January 10, 2018 at 04:15 PM

TW

“ To my make believe (adopted brother) who was always there for me. I will cherish our friendship forever. 35+ years of friendship was along time, but I am selfish and it wasn't long enough. I love you and will miss you. To Kerry, you are one of a kind as well. I am a phone call away and will do anything to help you.

tammy webb - January 10, 2018 at 02:46 PM

VD

“ Thinking of you today, my God comfort you in your hour of need, and your road ahead of you, my prayers are with you Kerry, you have great family to support you, and a very large circle of friends to be here for you, your not alone please remember we love you, and will miss Mike.

Vickie Davidson - January 10, 2018 at 01:35 PM

BB

Mike and I lived 6 blocks apart and knew of each other but we didn't officially meet until a mutual friend introduced us while Mike was driving by my house in a brand new 72 Camaro SS. After that we were almost inseparable and did many activities together, most of which involved either cars, guns, boats or motorcycles. He and I worked together for many years and during that time had many great times together with the above mentioned "toys". After Mike left Western Title I still saw him on occasion and I kept up with him through mutual friends. Sadly I wasn't aware of his illness until very recently but at least I had the opportunity to see him last week. He was the cleanest "mechanic" I ever knew and I'll never forget the white shop coat that he wore when working on cars. After seeing him I know he's in a better place but he will be missed by many.....especially me.

Bob Brandt

Bob Brandt - January 11, 2018 at 03:22 PM