



Michael "Mike" La Vern Benslay

July 13, 1949 - January 5, 2023

Michael "Mike" La Vern Benslay, age 73 of Mattoon, IL left his earthly home to be with his Heavenly father at 4:30 AM, January 5, 2023.

There will be no formal services. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is in charge of arrangements.

Michael was born on July 13, 1949, in Mattoon, IL to the late Vernon W. and Mary J. (Brown) Benslay. He married Debra L. (Nohren) Williams on September 1, 1990. He is survived by his wife Debra L. Benslay of Mattoon, IL; four children, Vernon Benslay and wife Angela of Bethany, IL, Jennifer Greuel and husband Matthew of Windsor, IL, Jennifer Keefe and husband Kenneth of Mahomet, IL, Nicholas Williams and wife Lindsay of Mattoon, IL; two sisters, Jayne Gibson and husband Roger of California, Debbie Morgan of Bradenton, FL; and was blessed with eleven grandchildren.

Michael was a member of the Broadway Christian Church in Mattoon, IL. A graduate of Mattoon High School in Mattoon, IL, he was a member of the rifle team and ROTC. For many years he was the owner of J & T Rental Mart in Mattoon, IL. After selling his business, Michael drove a school bus for Mattoon Community Unit School District 2 in Mattoon, IL for nineteen years.

Having an appreciation of nature and wildlife, Michael loved being outdoors and feeding the "critters". He was a beekeeper for several years and took pride in the honey he collected. Michael was an avid car and gun enthusiast and was a member of the National Rifle Association of America. He was a talented handyman and utilized his skills to do home renovations and updates.

A great man of integrity, Michael had strong values, positive energy and was well liked by everyone. He relished time spent with his family and friends and will be truly missed by those whose lives he touched.

In honor of Michael's life, please make donations to a charity that is close to your heart.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael "Mike" La Vern Benslay*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *I was so saddened to hear of Mike's passing. A flood of great memories and good times that we shared together at Jefferson Junior High and Mattoon High School just would not stop! The antics and competition that we did to each other on the Mattoon Rifle Team and the leadership and discipline that we learned together in the Mattoon High School ROTC program are just a few. (MHS 1967 Riddle page 80) The times of fishing, hunting and swimming together at the Lake property all bring back great memories!*

He will truly be missed by his friends and family but the funny memories and his smile will always be present in our minds.

Rest in Peace, Fella Buddy!

Rog Claxon

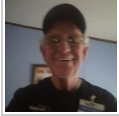
roger claxon - January 12, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ *My Deepest Sympathy Deb an Family*



Chris Turner - January 09, 2023 at 07:47 PM



Sending sympathy to Debbie and her family at this sad time.

Wanda Baker - January 11, 2023 at 03:16 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" La Vern Benslay.*



January 09, 2023 at 05:27 PM



“ *Kathi Sewell Cobble lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" La Vern Benslay*



kathi sewell cobble - January 08, 2023 at 08:29 AM



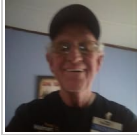
“ *Very sorry for your loss. 🙏 Mike was such an amazing man and brought so many smiles to the children on his bus and around him!! I always looked forward to chatting with him as he was waiting for pickup time! Christi Diepholz ❤️*

Christi Diepholz - January 08, 2023 at 03:55 AM



“ *A truly wonderful man. I was honored to know him and be thought of as a friend. My condolences to Debbie and the children. Well done, good and faithful servant.*

Christopher Hunt - January 06, 2023 at 11:26 PM



“ *I graduated with Mike. He was always a very friendly guy. My sympathy to his wife and family.*

Wanda Baker - January 06, 2023 at 09:18 PM



“ *So sad he was such a great guy have known him for atleast 40 years..hung out with him, Charlie Elliott, Kathy can't remember the rest out at the lake..prayers for all of you*

Cathy Curl - January 06, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" La Vern Benslay.*



January 06, 2023 at 04:56 PM



“ *Joe and I were friends with Mike for many years. Such a great man and such a huge loss.*
Patty Butler

Patty Butler - January 06, 2023 at 03:57 PM



“ *He was one of the best people I ever worked for. Prayers and sympathy to Debra and the rest of his family. James M.*

James McKenzie - January 06, 2023 at 02:12 PM

JK

I worked with Mike and Debbie at their rental place downtown and The Party's Here. Mike was always upbeat, friendly, and easy to work for. I worked for Debbie at her shop. RIP Mike. Debbie, sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you and your family..

Judy A Karpus - January 07, 2023 at 03:03 PM