



Michael L Harter

August 26, 1954 - September 16, 2017

Michael "Mike" Lynn Harter, 63, of Bluffton passed away on Saturday afternoon (Sept. 16, 2017) at his residence in Bluffton.

Mike was born on August 26, 1954 in Bluffton to Carl C. & Maxine D. (Garton) Harter. He graduated from Heritage High School in 1972.

Mike was a lifelong horseman. He lived to promote the Appaloosa Breed and did so at a young age by competing in and finishing the 1976 Bicentennial Grand Horse Race, riding from New York to Sacramento. Over the years, Mike encouraged many young riders through either the Wells County 4-H Horse & Pony program and the Appaloosa Horse Club.

Survivors include his children Casey (Jared) Linn of Greenwood, Laura Harter of Sydney, Australia, Mark Harter of Woodstock, IL., along with two grandchildren Rebekah & Isaac Linn. He is also survived by his siblings: Robert "Bob" Harter of Bluffton, Betty Dellinger of Fort Wayne and twin sister Pat (Jim) Mertz of Fort Wayne, along with many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and three siblings Bill Harter, Janice King and Jack Harter.

A service to celebrate Mike's life will be held at 3 P.M. Saturday (Sept. 23, 2017) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Pastor Lane Sanders will officiate. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery. Calling Hours will be held from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Saturday, prior to the service. Memorials may be made to the Wells County 4-H Horse & Pony Club.

Mike's arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich,

Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 23. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Service

SEP 23. 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael L Harter*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - September 23, 2017 at 06:20 PM



“ *Michael L Harter*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

HC

“ Once upon a time we were children. We met, we swam, we played and we even played on the 7th grade football team. All through Jr. and Senior High we still shared laughs, got mad at each other but we ALWAYS came back together and laughed some more. We graduated from Heritage High School and went on our separate ways, BUT I never forgot you. I often thought of you and the good times we had like the fishing trips, going around at night ringing the neighbors doorbells and running , laughing and stumbling to the next house only to do some more devilment . You worked with my twin brother and i'd always hear of your adventures, the fun and the sadness when leaving K Mart and especially at the tragic loss of Jr. (too long ago to remember his name) who was tragically killed in an auto accident to which I saw how compassionate a human being you were. I'd finally get to see you thirty years later (2002) and you still even remembered our dog's name and everything else about our house. We spoke via telephone occasionally and then you became ill. God called you home on last Saturday and an emptiness flooded me. After realizing that WE all have to go this way, I won't say goodbye but I'll just say, "see you later". We love you but rest assured, GOD LOVED YOU MORE. Now rest.

Harold E. Cartwright - September 23, 2017 at 02:29 AM

DW

What a wonderful tribute to the memory of your lifetime friend. You two must have had lots of fun together in your childhood! Mike was blessed to have you as one of his friends Harold! God bless and comfort your heart. Sincerely, Deb Doctor Wenzel

Debra Doctor Wenzel - September 23, 2017 at 10:46 PM



“ 119 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - September 22, 2017 at 04:10 PM

FM

“ *Thinking of Mikes family during this time our family has many memories through out the years. We all loved to run into Mike & visit with him. The Frank Moser Family.*

Frank & Norma Moser - September 22, 2017 at 08:43 AM

FM

“ *As a family we have so many fun memories with Mike throughout the years. We all enjoyed running into him & visiting with him. Thinking of the family at this time. The Frank Moser Family.*

Frank & Norma Moser - September 21, 2017 at 09:56 PM

LH

“ *My condolences to Mike's precious family and prayers for healing.*

Linda Haag - September 21, 2017 at 01:40 PM

BF

“ Braaten Family purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Michael L Harter.



Braaten Family - September 21, 2017 at 09:48 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael L Harter.



September 21, 2017 at 09:23 AM

PC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I remember him as a nice polite young man and had looked forward to seeing him and his sister Patty at the recent class reunion. Once again, my condolences to all of his family, may he rest in peace.

Pamela Burtnett Curnock

Pamela Burtnett Curnock - September 21, 2017 at 09:02 AM

JN

“ My deepest sympathy to the harter family. Mike was A good man, may he rest in peace. I'm sorry I can't be there. Love to you all.

Judi niblick - September 20, 2017 at 05:27 PM

JG

“ Bob, sorry to learn of the loss of your brother, Mike.... God bless you and family.

joan garrison - September 20, 2017 at 05:02 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Michael L Harter.



September 20, 2017 at 04:19 PM

LS

“ Linda S. purchased the Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Michael L Harter.



Linda S. - September 20, 2017 at 01:54 PM

BK

“ My condolences to his children, and brother and sisters. Mike had a gift of gab. He talked to everyone he met. The first time I met Mike, he talked about his ride across the country. He was so proud of his accomplishment, he talked with so much joy in his voice. Gonna miss you my friend, I know you can hug your mom, dad, and siblings up in heaven. God bless you!



Barbara King

Barbara King - September 20, 2017 at 01:32 PM

HC

“ *Harold and Jennifer and Harry Cartwright purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Michael L Harter.*



Harold and Jennifer and Harry Cartwright - September 19, 2017 at 11:06 PM



“ *Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael L Harter.*



September 19, 2017 at 10:56 PM

AZ

“ *Allen Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Michael L Harter*



Allen Zimmerman - September 19, 2017 at 09:29 PM

JJ

“ *So sorry to learn of Mike's passing - his sister, Janice, was a very good friend of mine and through her, I came to know Mike & Pat, "the twins". Keeping all of his family in prayer for healing and peace. Blessings to all, Jackie & Lloyd Johnson*

Jackie Johnson - September 19, 2017 at 07:56 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Michael L Harter.*



September 19, 2017 at 04:17 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of your loss, I've known Mike for a long time.*

David Shepherd - September 19, 2017 at 04:16 PM



“ *Was a great twin to his loving sister always a sense humor we will be laughing in Heaven*

Suzanne DePrey Brown - September 19, 2017 at 03:59 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Mike's death! He was a good friend of mine, as well as my patient. I had many funny moments together with him, as well as serious and sad ones. He had a heart of gold. I have missed him many days since leaving Bluffton in 2012, and will continue to miss him now. My condolences to his children. Gwen & I will be praying for each of you in these days and weeks ahead. Dr. John Wilson*

John Wilson - September 17, 2017 at 07:43 PM