



Michael F Murphy

December 1, 1947 - May 11, 2015

Michael Murphy, 67, passed away on May 11, 2015, in Roswell. He was born on December 1, 1947, the only child of Frances Edward Murphy and Ada E. Nicols, in Seattle, WA. At the age of eight, he was stricken by polio, but true to his tenacious spirit, Michael overcame this adversary.

As a burn victim being treated at Latrobe (PA) Hospital, he met his soul mate. On July 26, 1980, Michael married MaryAnn Uncapher. They celebrated 34 years of marriage together.

Michael was drafted into the Army in 1967, and again his tenacious spirit helped him to not only survive boot camp, but to ultimately serve in the 5th Special Forces group known as, the Green Berets. After three years, eight months and thirteen days of service, he was quick to say, "but who's counting?", achieving the rank of Sargent First Class while in Vietnam. Much of what he did remains classified to this day. For his activities in Vietnam, Michael was awarded the Silver Star with Valor, Bronze Star with Valor x2, Purple Heart x3 and numerous other medals and citations. He also earned his CIB and master jump wings, having completed over 1100 jumps. Michael is featured in "The Good Soldiers" by Rev. William B. Moody.

After returning to the States, Michael attended GMI where he attained a Bachelor of Science in Automotive Engineering and developed the big block Chevy. He was proud of the work he did at Stewart and Stevenson in Sealy, TX, where he designed, built and tested the FMTV, which is the Army vehicle currently being used in active service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Michael moved

to Roswell in 1998, to work as an R&D Engineer for NovaBus, until it closed, Michael ran his own business, Blood Sweat and Gears, as a motorcycle mechanic.

As the Senior Ride Captain for the Patriot Guard Riders of New Mexico, he took great pride in honoring all of his fallen brothers in arms. Michael also belonged to the Knights of Columbus, 4th degree, and the Elks. His hobbies included: playing golf, telling great stories and collecting guns.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents.

Surviving him are his wife, MaryAnn of the home; one son, Robert Murphy and one grandson, Declan Seamus Murphy, both of Frederick, MD; sister-in-law, Margaret Uncapher, of Blairsville, PA; brothers-in-law: Paul Uncapher and wife Barbara, of Vintondale, PA; Marvin Uncapher and wife Lucinda; and Michael Lee Uncapher and Dawn Ann, all of Blairsville, PA. Also surviving Michael are six nieces, three nephews, ten great-nieces and nephews; and his best friend who went everywhere with him, Dom Khai Mook.

A viewing will be held on Friday, May 15, 2015, from 2:00 to 8:00 PM at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home Chapel. A Funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015, 1:00 PM at the American Legion, Post 28. Dale Jones, J.D. Akins, and David Buckingham will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Jack Fox, Ralph Hutchens, Jimmy Montoya, Max Romero, Sonny Schaeffer and Craig Walker.

Honorary pallbearers will be all members of the Patriot Guard Riders, all Legion Riders, and all his friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Patriot Guard Riders - Roswell chapter; Chaves County Humane Society, Chaves County Cancer Fund, Wounded Warrior Project or the charity of your choice.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and memories with Michael's family in the online register at andersonbethany.com.

Services are under the direction of Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael F Murphy*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Mr. Murphy always had a smile on his face and time to visit. His patriotism always showed. I'm proud to have known him through the Elks. You will be missed my friend. You were a great assets to the community. My condolences to all your family members you always spoke greatly of them along with your dogs!*

Nick Millard - May 27, 2015 at 11:48 PM



“ *Anne and I were stranded in Cloudcroft several years ago. She was on her trike and I was on my 2003 Heritage Softail. Same make and model as Murf"s. We don't know a soul in Cloudcroft and my bike is down. Can't figure out what's keeping it from starting. Tried parts store replacement advice. Nothings working. Ding.....Call Murf!!! He drops whatever he's doing and heads to our rescue with trailer. Anne drives back to Roswell with her trike,(yes I'm in back riding.....!!) That was Murf for you.....there for you. Thanks for all the memories Murf & Mary Ann. We love you. Chris & Anne*

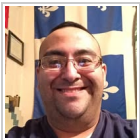
Chris & Anne Hicks - May 26, 2015 at 07:13 PM

LE

“ Mr Murphy you were a special client to us you always came in with such high spirits always talking to me about your dog and your wife motorcycles and our last conversation two weeks ago about health issues you overcame you sure knew how to brighten our day. You will truly missed by so many people you were one of a kind and will never be forgotten.. <3



Leslie - May 18, 2015 at 05:47 PM



“ MaryAnn we were so sad to hear of Mike's passing. He was such a wonderful man, and we were so lucky to know you both not just professionally, but as friends as well. We send your deepest sympathy and heartfelt prayers to you and your family during this difficult time. We love you very much and are here for you if you need anything... Love always Paula Montoya, David Montoya & family

David Montoya - May 17, 2015 at 10:03 PM

RH

“ Well laddie you made it to the other side before me. I know the Irish winds are blowing in your face right now at the rainbow bridge. I celebrate this. We agreed that who ever left first it would not be a sad day but a joyous one. Had a good turnout yesterday and you would have liked the food. It would have been to your liking. I am going to miss you my brother. Until we meet again.. God Bless Ralph

Ralph Hutchens - May 17, 2015 at 02:41 PM

MM

You, and a select few others, ARE his brothers and I will be forever grateful for the love you gave him.

MaryAnn Murphy - May 18, 2015 at 06:11 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Michelle & Anthony Armendarez - May 16, 2015 at 07:41 PM

MA

To my sweet Anthony, "MichaelMurphy" (and yes, he always said his name altogether) hung the moon! Anthony received a pair of much-to-large rollerblades a couple of years ago and he continues to wear them year after year! Love this kid... and we will miss you greatly Michael Murphy!

Michelle & Anthony Armendarez - May 16, 2015 at 07:44 PM

MM

And he loved Anthony, our "adopted" grandson. We love you both. Wish you could have been here for his last mission.

MaryAnn Murphy - May 18, 2015 at 06:13 PM

JA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jessica Acevedo - May 15, 2015 at 05:26 PM

JA

Mr. Murphy brought great stories and friendly smiles while bringing his best buddy for check up...I thought it was the coolest thing to see that they road together....Great memory...

Jessica Acevedo - May 15, 2015 at 05:28 PM

LW

What a legacy he left for everyone. A true American hero.

lynda whalen - May 16, 2015 at 11:09 AM

JF

“ *Jock with fam! purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of Michael F Murphy.*



Jock with fam! - May 15, 2015 at 01:34 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael F Murphy.*



May 15, 2015 at 08:38 AM

RL

“ *Murf was a good man, he and I worked together at Stewart & Stevenson in Sealy, TX on FMTV. Murf could always be counted on for the difficult missions. One particular memory of Murf is when we road to Dallas and back on our bikes from Sealy. Unfortunately, we had a 20 mph wind from the West, didn't bother Murf, but I was on a Ninja. He had to keep stopping to wait for me. Will miss you Murf. Mary Ann, let me know if you need anything. Regis*

Regis Luther - May 14, 2015 at 09:44 PM

MM

Regis, I remember your visit from that trip and other visits you made. Michael really liked you and Taylor and Mark and he loved the job - just not the time away from family! And he was so appreciative of your generosity when Robert was diagnosed with Hodgkin's. If you're ever in Roswell you must stop.

MaryAnn Murphy - May 15, 2015 at 06:55 AM

MA

“Mike Murphy was one of the most important people in my life, particularly in 1996. He taught me a lot about engineering, testing, war, and myself.

The first time we went out together for "a few col'bers", he proceeded to take out his handgun and pull out his handgun. He removed the clip, checked the chamber, and said, "my baby," he said, "a .41 Randall..." I held it like it was a booger. For a moment. After I quickly gave it back to him, he boasted, "Yore a big boy, bubba, and show it to ya before you die." We were instant friends.

Murf always kept me and the rest of the guys in our group laughing. Got a lot of stories, but one properly, but one of the stories I got the biggest kick out of was the one about the illegal substances, and headed down the road in his tractor trailer. Spent some time looking out the window and sees a man walking up along the side of his truck - "I thought I was safe," he realized that he was stopped in the middle of the road - he had run into a wall.

I was 26 years old when I met Mike. He took me under his wing and showed me the ropes of engineering. He took time to explain things to me - with his soapstone and a sharp knife when we chained a 2.5 ton Army truck to a crane and tilted it this way and that. I was in awe of his intelligence. When he was doing testing in Alaska, he showed me the information for a report I was writing for the Government. I told him I'd read it. Our conversation, that saying turned into "I'm waiting with worms on my hands." We said to each other and laughed about it.

Murf had every reason to be a bitter old man, but instead, he had one of the best. He invited me and the rest of the guys in our group to be part of his family. He was my dad, too. And I always, always, ALWAYS knew that he would have my back.

For all the things that Murf did for me, I was thrilled to be able to share them with Mike and I saw Pink Floyd at Rice Stadium in Houston. I dragged him to the game. I was hooked! Later, we went to see them at Cowboys Stadium. Murf was there. He told everyone who had the misfortune of sitting nearby how we saw Pink Floyd. It was the greatest show he ever saw and how great the band was and how much he loved them.

MaryAnn and Robert, I hope you both know how much he loved you. So much. I feel for someone, but you were his world - although it sounds like Deckard Cain.

My heart cracked and my breath was taken from me when I saw that N touch beyond yearly Christmas cards, it was comforting to know that M those of you who know him, "out there" describes him on many levels!

I will miss the hope of seeing him again some day, but I am forever gra gut-bursting laughs and stories that we shared. I am a smarter and bet you dearly.

Matt - May 14, 2015 at 08:50 PM

MM

Matt, such a wonderful tribute. Thank you. Thank you. It was great talking with you yesterday. His years at Stewart and Stevenson were some of his best and we had so many "kids" as a result. Stay in touch. Come visit. You know where we live. Love you.

MaryAnn Murphy - May 15, 2015 at 07:06 AM

KA

“ *I am so sorry to hear of his passing.*

Kat - May 14, 2015 at 05:30 AM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Michael F Murphy.*



May 13, 2015 at 10:48 PM

PF

“ *Murph a good friend ,leader and GREAT PATRIOT. Glad to have been able to ride with him and Mary Ann on the PGR missions to honor the VETS. My sincere condolences to Mary Ann and the family*

Phil Fields - May 13, 2015 at 10:02 PM

MM

Thank you, Easy. I hope you will keep riding and give Jack the support you gave Michael. And, whenever possible, the "boss lady" will be there too.

MaryAnn Murphy - May 18, 2015 at 06:19 PM

GB

“ *We first met Michael when Maryann was our Avon Lady, many many years ago. Michael was really into the motorcycle business and when Judy's Son peter came here for a visit,that was the first place that he wanted to go to the Harley Shop. I would often see him in the halls of ENMMC to meet the Love of his Life, Maryann for lunch. He always had a smile and never missed saying hello. our thoughts and prayers are with you Maryann during this difficult time in your life.*

Gary and Judy Borst

Gary and Judy Borst - May 13, 2015 at 08:51 PM

DC

“ I truly enjoyed being Murf's next door neighbour for the past 12 years. He was always working on the most interesting projects! I was always amazed by the accolades in his life. I will miss the conversations in the front yard where we solved many of the worlds problems. I knew that if I had to leave town, he would take care of things and keep my girls safe. I will miss the unmistakable rumble of his motorcycle! I will think of you every time I glance over and see your flag you flew so proudly! God Bless!

Derrick Chavez

Derrick Chavez - May 13, 2015 at 05:47 PM

BM

“ Murph, so glad we became friends. Your love for your animals was contagious and I always looked forward to loving on those babies. I know you are the new caretaker of the rainbow bridge! You will be sorely missed by those who knew you. Any Maryann, you were the spark of his life and we all know how much he was loved by you. My sincere condolences and do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything.

Godspeed Murph!!

Brenda Morrow - May 13, 2015 at 02:37 PM

RG

Murph, very sad to hear of his passing. Thinking of the times that I spent with him and Maryann. Murph never met a stranger, a friend to everyone he came across. If there's not a Motorcycle in heaven, Murph will build one, probably already started that project. I, and my son, will miss Michael Francis Murphy. Maryann you have a new angel looking over you, God bless!

Robert Giles - May 14, 2015 at 07:47 AM

VL

“ My friend Murf...truly one of a kind! So much will be missed about this guy. He always had a great big hug & smile for me, a funny joke, a story to tell & you never knew what voice it would be in. He loved to make people laugh! He had such devotion & love for his wife, his best friend or 'the boss' as he called her, his pets (or babies), his family & friends, his work, his country & his flag! It has been such an honor to call you my friend (& my boyfriend) & to ride with you on many occasions. You may be gone but you'll never be forgotten! My thoughts & prayers are with all of those who loved this bigger than life man but especially with you Maryann, Robert & Declan!



Vickie Logan - May 13, 2015 at 11:45 AM

BO

“ "Murf" will certainly be missed by everyone who knew him! He was truly a GREAT PATRIOT and a wonderful friend to many. I feel so honored to have the privilege to have known him and to have ridden with him on several of our Alien City Rides. Our prayers are with you MaryAnn and your family!
Sincerely,
Bill Owen

Bill Owen - May 13, 2015 at 09:41 AM

RC

“ MaryAnn,

Just heard about Murf, what a loss to all of us that were blessed to be touched by his friendship and a loss to the community. Murf was so full of life, he always lit up a room anywhere he went and brought a smile to our faces with his stories. I was honored to enjoy his company on one of our Alien City bike rides. Funny how we don't always see each other, but every time I drove down West 2nd I always looked over to your house and got a smile on my face thinking about the two of you. Murf was such a colorful and humorous character, and of course a creative bike builder. He was very proud of you and always spoke of you as "The Boss Lady" with a gleam of love in his eyes. His dogs (kids) were very special to him too. We will miss seeing his picture in the Roswell paper participating in any patriotic event he could attend. God bless you and rest assured the Lord has a spot reserved for Michael.

Robert Castillo - May 13, 2015 at 09:30 AM

AG

“ MarryAnn, I am absolutely heart-broken for you and your family. You and Murph did so much for my husband. It was a great honor spending the day with you and Murph. Please, if we can do anything for you, please let me know. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Alex & Luciana Gonzales

Alex & Luciana Gonzales - May 13, 2015 at 09:19 AM

DW

“ MaryAnn and family, I was honored to know and work with Michael over the years. He was sharp-minded, joyful and never exposed a temper. His steps in life clearly marked his desire to serve others. We have all lost a great friend, brother and servant to the needy and for that, I am truly sorry.

David W. West - May 13, 2015 at 05:35 AM

LS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Murf's passing. I know he and Smitty are up in heaven swapping stories. He will be so missed. I am praying for you and your family during this difficult time.

Lisa Smith - May 13, 2015 at 01:57 AM

LS

“ I am and will always be honored to know Murf, not only as a friend, but as a fellow Vietnam Vet. Stand down brave and Brother Trooper, I will see you again in Valhalla. "From this day to the ending of the world, but we in it shall be remembered- We few; We happy few; We band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me...shall be my Brother"

Larry Spillman - May 12, 2015 at 05:32 PM