Mike Kauskey

December 23, 1948 - March 8, 2025

Michael Lewis “Mike” Kauskey of Broken Arrow passed away Saturday afternoon, March 8, 2025 in Broken Arrow at the age of 76. He was born in Hamilton, Ohio in December 1948 to Lewis and Kathryn (Cox) Kauskey. He was preceded in death by both parents.

Mike retired from the Air Force at the rank of Major. He honorably served his country during the Vietnam conflict. After retirement, Mike worked for the City of San Antonio, Texas in Urban Planning. He later served as First Deputy Clerk with the Wagoner County Clerk’s office. Mike then served as Office Administrator for Wagoner County District 1.

Mike volunteered with Leadership BA, Wagoner County GOP, and enjoyed his time with the Oil Capitol Gun Club.

In recent years, Mike rededicated his life to Christ and was very thankful for Jesus’ forgiving love. He was always willing to help anyone in need, was proud of the Kauskey name, and the legacy he left behind.

A service honoring his life will be held at 10AM, Friday, March 14 at Hayhurst Funeral Chapel with burial following at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

Mike is survived by:

Brother: David Kauskey of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Aunt: Janet Porter

Cousins: Kay Johnson and Greg Porter

Longtime friends: Nancy and Bob Knutson

Memorials may be made to:
Broken Arrow Military Museum
112 North Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012
or
okmhc.org/donate

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2334

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR **14**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Mike Kauskey

Hayhurst Funeral Home - March 09, 2025 at 05:06 PM

1 file added to the album Pictorial Video Tribute

Hayhurst Funeral Home - March 14, 2025 at 02:55 PM

MC

To The Family of Mike Kauskey
8674 Wright Ave,
Broken Arrow, OK 74014.

I offer my sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to you and your family at the news of Mike's passing. I hope that the outpouring of sympathy, the kind acts of friends and the comfort in knowing that your loss is felt throughout the community helps you through this difficult time.

By all accounts Mike was a dedicated servant to his city, community, and country. I personally worked with Mike in the Wagoner County GOP, and always found him to be witty, yet thoughtful and serious. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his hard work and commitment. We especially thank and honor him for his service in the United States Air Force.

I know that nothing can take away the pain of your loss, but ask for God's blessing to you and your family. May you find the courage, strength and peace to move forward.
It is an honor to serve you and people like Mike Kauskey.

Respectfully,

Rep. Mark Chapman
Oklahoma House District 12-Wagoner County
2300 N Lincoln BLVD. Room 300 Oklahoma City 73105
Office (405)557-7388
Email: mark.chapman@okhouse.gov

Mark Chapman - March 13, 2025 at 01:29 PM

It is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to my dear friend, Michael Lewis "Mike" Kauskey, who passed away on March 8, 2025. I already miss our weekly phone calls, during which I would check in on him and enjoy our engaging conversations.

My wife and I were privileged to have known Michael for nearly a decade. We first met him through our involvement in the Wagoner County Republican Party, where we served together on the Executive Committee. It was there that I witnessed firsthand his unwavering dedication to educating voters about the candidates they were choosing. Michael's commitment, along with that of a few other devoted patriots, was instrumental in establishing the Candidate Information Committee—a unique initiative that I believe is unrivaled across the nation. As Chair of the Committee for several election cycles, I was fortunate to have Michael by my side, contributing his wisdom and wit. I will deeply miss his humor and the emails he sent, often containing words so erudite that I found myself reaching for a dictionary.

Michael was a man of exceptional intellect, a quality that undoubtedly served him well during his distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired with the rank of Major. He was a proud veteran, fiercely patriotic, and always ready to serve his country. In many ways, he reminded me of my father, another military man who shared Michael's appreciation for structure, order, and integrity. When Michael gave his word, he followed through without fail—integrity was, indeed, his hallmark.

Beyond his service and political involvement, Michael was a creative soul. He ingeniously designed specialized weights for the tent canopy we used at festivals, ensuring it remained steadfast against Oklahoma's fierce winds. He even crafted a device to transport those weights in the Party's trailer, showcasing his practical ingenuity.

In one of our recent conversations, Michael shared with me his

deep faith, recounting his journey to accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He spoke with readiness for Heaven and with affection for the friends he cherished—his comrades in the County GOP, his Gun Club companions with whom he met weekly, and his brothers and sisters in Christ at his home church.

There were moments when Michael humbly wondered if he had truly made a difference. I assured him that he had profoundly impacted my life, and I know countless others would echo that sentiment. Michael Kauskey was a man who left an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to know him.

I often recite "The Dash" by Linda Ellis at graveside services where I have the honor of speaking. I won't transcribe the full poem here, but I encourage you to seek it out. Its essence lies in "the dash" between the dates of birth and death — a symbol of a life lived. For Michael, that dash reads:

Michael Lewis "Mike" Kauskey, Born December 23, 1948 – Died March 8, 2025

And oh, how that dash encapsulates a life richly and purposefully lived.

Michael, my friend, you have lived well. Your influence on my life will endure, and I will miss you dearly. Rest in peace.

With heartfelt gratitude and remembrance,
Matthew Vermillion

Matthew Vermillion - March 12, 2025 at 11:20 PM

BA

So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I worked with him for 4 years in the County Clerks office. He was great to work with.

Brenda ashbrener - March 12, 2025 at 09:27 PM

JB

I haven't known Mike long, only from the GOP meetings in Wagoner County, but there was no hiding his passion for process and what that looks like when you are an upstanding citizen. I hardly ever understood what he was saying because I am such a literal thinker and his sarcasm always made me wonder what the heck he was trying to say and if he meant it or was messing around. Lol. He was deep thinker and knew so many words! I looked for him at the last County Convention towards the end to see if he got to hear the pledge recited from the new Board. He worked diligently on that and was very passionate about being a good Republican. He will be missed and I am very sorry for your loss.

Julie Ballew - March 12, 2025 at 01:44 PM

CC

Michael was a dear friend, and I already miss him deeply. He was my friend for 15 years and for most of that time I jokingly referred to him as the quintessential "grumpy old man'". I think that was primarily because he did not easily tolerate fools; and he said the world was full of them. But for those of us who called him friend, he was much more. He preferred to be called Michael, but most just called him Mike.

Michael was a proud veteran and patriot. He served in the US Air Force, twice, and retired with the rank of Major. Love of country was deeply engrained in Michael and during his time in the service he lived and traveled throughout the world. He loved tradition, structure and order; things I'm sure he learned through his many years in the military.

The Michael I came to know was so many things, and there are not enough positive adjectives to fully describe him. He was a man of integrity and expected the same of others. He was also a student of history. He loved the written word and frequently shared his thoughts in narratives on his computer. Most were never shared with others, but I was fortunate enough to have seen a few. He was a very deep thinker; articulate and well written.

I came to know Michael through the Wagoner County Republican Party and our shared conservative values. We worked together in that organization for these past 15 years. He was generous with his time and resources with that organization and with his many friends. Proverbs 27:17 tells us "as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."
As we worked on many joint projects together over the years, Michael certainly was the iron that sharpened me. He challenged and brought out the best in me.

Michael was a hard worker, master tinkerer, and part-time inventor. He was often irreverent and had a sharp wit, keen sense of humor and was a master of sarcasm. He was unabashed at speaking his

mind and letting the chips fall where they may. Michael had a self-depreciating sense of humor and never took himself too seriously.

Michael loved guns and spoke very fondly of his "Gun Club Breakfast Buddies." He had breakfast once each week with this group of men and considered them all dear friends. Michael had an encyclopedic knowledge of guns. The Michael I knew loved 'guns and puns'.

Over the past few months of his life, Michael often lamented that he was not sure he had "made a difference" in his life. Each time he said that I told him nothing could be further from the truth. My dear friend Michael, you made a big difference in my life and in the lives of your many friends.

Rest in peace my dear friend,
Chris

Chris Corcoran - March 11, 2025 at 01:06 PM

DK

That was the most beauty full tribute to the man i had the honor ans priviledge to call brother my life will never be the same without him he had the best friends when he needed. them they were there for him thank you again for that perfect account that i could not have said better
his loving brother David Kauskey

David Kauskey - March 11, 2025 at 05:09 PM

WT

He was a great neighbor and friend. He loved helping his neighbors. A great friend. I know we will all miss him. There is no fought he is in heaven.

wayne thayer - March 13, 2025 at 09:25 PM

CK

Cecil and Carolyn Kusler purchased the Basket F ull of Wishes for the family of Mike Kauskey.

Cecil and Carolyn Kusler - March 11, 2025 at 08:39 AM

HH

It is our honor and privilege to serve the Kauskey family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Mike.

Hayhurst Funeral Home Hayhurst - March 10, 2025 at 10:47 AM