



Michael R. Struzyk

May 31, 1974 - August 23, 2024

August 23, 2024, Age 50, Unexpectedly, of Walworth, NY formerly of Buffalo, NY. Beloved husband of 28 years to Danielle (nee Kaiser) Struzyk; loving father of Ariel and Audrey; dear son of Gerald and Nancy Struzyk; devoted brother of Laura (Jeff) Grant; son-in-law of Robert and Patricia Schaffhouser; brother-in-law of Kimberly (Michael) Austin and Richard Kaiser; also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends. Mike was the senior accountant at the Finger Lakes Gaming and Racing. The family will be present to receive relatives and friends on Thursday August 29th from 3-7PM at the DANIEL R. SMOLAREK FUNERAL HOME, 2510 Union Rd., Cheektowaga (2 blocks south of William St.). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday at 9:30AM in St. Bernard's R.C. Church, 1988 Clinton St. (Corner of S. Ogden), Buffalo. Please assemble at Church. Interment in St Adalberts Cemetery, Lancaster. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made in Michael's name to the American Heart Association. Please leave condolences online at www.SmolarekCares.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Adalbert Cemetery - Lancaster

6200 Broadway
Lancaster, NY 14086

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **29**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (est)

Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home - Cheektowaga
2510 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **30** (ET)

St. Bernards RC Church
1990 Clinton St
Buffalo, NY 14206

Time TBA / Please Assemble at Church

Tribute Wall

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear the news of Mikey’s passing. My sister Sue and I used to babysit for Mikey and Laura when they were young. I remember Mikey as a very caring, loving and helpful young child, who was always willing to help us out and remind us of the important things. He always made sure to say his night prayers with us, just as he would if his parents were home. I still remember the prayer, it was written on a wall hanging.
“Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. If I should live for other days, I pray the Lord to guide my ways. Amen.”
God bless you Mikey and may the Good Lord keep your soul and watch over your family. My condolences to Gerry, Nancy, Laura, Danielle, Ariel, and Audrey.
Lynn (Samol) Brzykcy

Lynn Brzykcy - November 11, 2024 at 07:17 PM

BL

“ I worked with Mike at Finger Lakes many years ago. He had boundless energy and such a positive attitude. At that time, I was new to New York state. Mike was very welcoming and he wanted to help in any way possible. Mike would make a point of checking on me many times to make sure my transition to Finger Lakes was a good one. He even allowed me to join his Sabres hockey ticket group. One of my fondest memories of Mike was when we bought those fuzzy hats (think Fred Flintstone water buffalo style) to wear to a game. We were jumping around like kids at the game and the camera caught his antics, with that silly hat, and put us up on the jumbo-tron. He saw that and became even more animated, which the crowd loved, and the place went crazy. After that he ran around giving everyone near us high fives. He grinned ear to ear and his smile was contagious. Mike’s energy lit up the entire stadium that night. Prayers going out to his beautiful family. So saddened to hear of his passing. - Brad Lewis

Brad Lewis - August 29, 2024 at 04:39 PM

CK

“ I knew Mike through his 25 years at FingerLakes RT. We spent most of this 25 years on the phone resolving computer and other issues that he was experiencing as I worked in Buffalo. He was amazing and a very smart man, always with happiness in his voice. It makes me so sad to learn of his passing. My sympathy and prayers go out to his family.



Carla Kline

Carla Kline - August 29, 2024 at 11:43 AM

DB

“ I worked with Mike for almost 19 years. He was almost always enthusiastic with a "Good Morning! Anything happening? Same Stuff? That's not necessarily a bad thing!" I'm going to miss him. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends'

Diana Bump
(Receptionist)

Diana Bump - August 29, 2024 at 09:38 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael R. Struzyk.



August 29, 2024 at 08:33 AM

BM

“ Working with Mike you knew he would never let you down. No matter what the task Mike was the first to sign up and help out, with a level of enthusiasm like no other. I worked with Mike for 10 years and then returned to the company after a 9 year gap. The minute I walked into the main office Mike ran up to me and welcomed me back with the biggest hug. It was like no time had passed. I'm so happy I was able to spend the last 8 months getting to know him again. His Finger Lakes family misses him greatly. Thank you for the countless laughs over the years, it won't be the same without you.

Brian Moore - August 28, 2024 at 09:39 PM

SM

“ I don't know where to begin to express my sadness. Mike interviewed me when I applied at Finger Lakes and was so excited to have me go through the hiring process. He was one of the very best people I had the pleasure of working with. No matter how busy he was, he always made time to answer questions or to give a helping hand. He always made sure to tell you what a great job you did and give you a big high five! His energy and positive attitude made him so much fun to work with. I loved hearing about his family - he was so proud of his beautiful wife and daughters. I know he will be greatly missed by his family, friends and co-workers. He was one of the good guys inside and out. My deepest sympathy to the Struzyk family. Rest easy Mike.
Sharon Marvel

Sharon Marvel - August 28, 2024 at 02:05 PM

DD

“ To Jerry & Nancy, So sorry for your lose. Your former co-worker
Dave Dutton

Dave Dutton - August 28, 2024 at 01:56 PM

JN

Thank you for the kind words. Hope you are doing well

Jerry Nancy - August 29, 2024 at 01:18 PM

SC

Hi Nancy and Jerry. I live so close to you, yet we still don't see each other that often. Lynn just called me to let me know Mikey is in Heaven. Not having a local News Paper delivered makes it difficult to see who has passed. The internet has removed this convenience from us. Mikey was so young. And obviously loved by very many people. It was a pleasure to have been one of his babysitters. May our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, continue to come upon you both, Laura, and the rest of those who mourn Mikey's loss from this earth. They say only the good die young. I know from the loving statements that were made on the Smolarek webpage, that Mikey is happy in Heaven with our Great Creator 🕊️🙏🌟🙏

Susan Chavis - November 11, 2024 at 06:58 PM



“ I worked with Mike for 12 years. I will always remember the energy and positive vibes he brought every day. His encouragement and confidence in his staff (co-workers (he never liked thinking of himself as boss)) was amazing and second to none. You will be missed for sure. Prayers to Danielle and the girls who he was always proud of and the rest of the Struzyk family.



John Fedkew - August 27, 2024 at 08:09 PM

ML

“ I worked with Mike for almost 13 years, he was one of most positive and supporting individuals I've ever met. I'll never forget the energy and positive vibes he always carried. I'm very grateful to have crossed paths with Mike, he was one of a kind! My deepest condolences to family and friends.

Michael J. Lee - August 27, 2024 at 06:19 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael R. Struzyk.*



August 27, 2024 at 08:19 AM



“ *I worked with Mike for the 25 years he was at Finger Lakes - he was always right there to help (especially excel), whenever anyone needed something he was right there ready to assist no matter what it was. His impact on Finger Lakes was a very positive one and we had very intense conversations and theories while trying to figure out the TV show Lost. He was very proud of his girls - said that if they did well in school then he knew he and Danielle had done their jobs as parents. His love for Danielle showed every time he spoke of her, Fly high Mike. Kim DeLong*

Kim DeLong - August 26, 2024 at 11:02 PM



“ *I met Mike and Danielle while going to school at St. Bonaventure. Mike is just the nicest and most down to earth person that you could ever meet. He was always so upbeat, positive, and energetic. A few years ago, my family had the opportunity to share a meal with Mike, Danielle, Ariel, and Audrey. I am so thankful for that opportunity. I'm so shocked and saddened to hear of Mike's passing.*

Todd Buzard - August 26, 2024 at 08:23 PM

TF

“ The Schaffhouser Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Michael R. Strzyk.



The Schaffhouser Family - August 26, 2024 at 03:26 PM

TF

“ The Schaffhouser Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael R. Strzyk.

The Schaffhouser Family - August 26, 2024 at 03:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael R. Strzyk.



August 26, 2024 at 03:09 PM

FL

“ Finger L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael R. Strzyk.

Finger L. - August 26, 2024 at 03:09 PM

JD

“ So sad seeing this....was great friends with Mike and Laura and his parents growing up. So many awesome times swimming in their pool, shooting our bows in the yard with Mr Jerry and playing with all the other kids on Polish place...kindergarten though high school we had so much fun....Fly high Mike xoxo

John Domanski - August 26, 2024 at 10:09 AM

FA

“ I was a coworker of Mike's at Finger Lakes for 16 years. He was genuine, respectful, kind and truly a great person. Any promotion we needed extra help with, he would volunteer and say put me in when most needed. His fun outgoing positive attitude was every day. He was so knowledgeable and helpful and wonderful to work with. He loved his family, so proud when he talked about them. Blessed to have our paths cross. Love to all his family.
Francie Andolino

Francie Andolino - August 25, 2024 at 11:24 PM

SV

“ I grew up on Polish Place with the Struzyk's. So many great childhood memories. Prayers of peace and comfort to his family.

Sara Vallone - August 25, 2024 at 08:57 PM

LG

“ I want to thank everyone for all their posts about my brother. As I read them with tears in my eyes it helps to know that he touched so many lives. My brother was one of a kind for sure. I will miss him so much and I know that I will see him again one day. Love you brother

LAURA A GRANT - August 25, 2024 at 07:49 PM

DE

you two were the best cousins a girl could ask for

Denise

Denise - August 26, 2024 at 11:44 AM

JG

“ *Jeff Grant lit a candle in memory of Michael R. Struzyk*



Jeff Grant - August 25, 2024 at 07:41 PM

LJ

“ *I grew up on Polish Place, wanted to send my condolences to the Struzyk family. I will always remember Mike having his wrestlers lined up along his bedroom wall, three flies in and other countless memories from our childhood.*

Lisa Jajkowski - August 25, 2024 at 06:20 PM

JL

“ *For over 15 years Mike was the first person other than my family that I talked to each day. Every day at 730 we crossed paths as we were both getting to work. I am going to miss our brief conversation we had so often. My condolences go out to his wife and family. I know he will be greatly missed.*

Jeff LaRue - August 25, 2024 at 05:35 PM

JG

“ I went to high school and college with Mike (Stru to all of us) and am so sorry to hear of his passing. Stru was a passionate person and I am happy to have known him. While we lost touch over the years, I was able to see his family grow through Danielle’s Facebook posts. I have no doubt in my mind that he was extremely proud of his 2 girls and loved his family with all of his heart. I pray that God helps heal the pain of your loss.

Jason Gryglewicz - August 25, 2024 at 03:28 PM

SM

“ Mike was one of a kind - and in the best way. He was one of the first couple of people I met when I started at Finger Lakes and in the 23+ years I was there, he never changed. He was always positive, always helpful and always ready to greet you with a smile. He would bring energy to the most mundane task and make the day just that much easier to get through.

His help when we were looking for an house in 2001, led us to be neighbors. We shared a ton of laughs over the years. Some of my favorite memories were our Sabres games - especially when they used to go to the playoffs! He had as much energy as the rest of the 19000+ people there.

Just a tremendous person at the core who I will miss seeing and talking with. All of us who had the privilege to know him and call him a friend are better people for it.

Steve Martin - August 25, 2024 at 02:27 PM

GS

“ We have fond memories of going on neighborhood walks and bumping into Danielle and Mike. Those impromptu meetups sometimes last longer than our walk where we would talk about the kids often times. This year we received wonderful advice about getting ready for the kids to go off to college. We also learned how they went on a family trip for a graduation present for the kids once so that is what we did this year instead of having a big graduation party! Mike would borrow our bridge over the drainage swale so he could mow the other side from time to time and like his little neighbor Cam we would wave if we were mowing at the same time and made eye contact! We always walked away commenting how we had a wonderful conversation about all types of topics.

Glenn Smits - August 25, 2024 at 12:25 PM

AR

“ We truly hit the jackpot in terms of neighbors when moving in next to Mike and Danielle 5 years ago. We will always remember them being the first of the neighborhood to come over and welcome us and to graciously extend their phone number should we need anything at all. They not only tolerated our children crossing over and playing in their yard but welcomed them with open arms. Over the years our boys have developed a special bond with who they lovingly call “Mr. Mike.” Camden particularly looked forward to Saturdays when he could go mow the grass with him. It started as riding on Mike’s lap and then graduated to Cam getting a matching John Deer tractor power wheel that they rode side by side giving each other high fives whenever they crossed paths. Cam was always eager to run next door and show Mike a new toy, his first baseball jersey or a golf swing. This was because of Mike’s enthusiastic and infectious positive personality which made our boy feel so special. Their bond will be a memory we will always treasure and feel so lucky to have witnessed. Mike will be sorely missed by our whole family.

With love,
Abbie, Kenny, Camden and Callan Ruffel

Abbie Ruffel - August 25, 2024 at 11:39 AM

JB

“ Over 20 years of amazing memories with Mike in and outside of the workplace. From birthday cupcakes to holiday lottery games to sharing our love of Disney movies (never agreeing on UP) It's not the work but who you work with that motivates you to do your best and Mike brought out the best in all of us. Mike and Danielle were always there in times of need for me and my family, I am hoping I can do the same for his family. Love always - Jen

Jen Burger - August 25, 2024 at 11:18 AM

BT

“ We could not have had nicer neighbors than Mike and Danielle. Mike always was there with a helping hand and couldn't do enough for others. I still remember returning from out of town during one of our winter storms only to find our driveway and walkway had been shoveled clean by Mike and Danielle. That's who Mike was...a kind and caring man. The whole world lost with his passing. Thinking of you all.

Brenda Turner - August 25, 2024 at 10:57 AM

PB

“ Erin and I always enjoyed our conversations with Mike and Danielle as it always seemed we were on the same schedule walking the dogs around the neighborhood! We'll always have fond memories of those.

*With sympathy,
Erin and Paul Buckley*

Paul Buckley - August 25, 2024 at 09:52 AM

PS

“ We first met Michael when we accompanied our daughter Danielle back to St. Bonaventure August "move in" day. In the over 30 years we knew him he gave us love and caring, more than a son-in-law, a friend. He loved his life, his family, his dog and his home. He quietly went through time doing the work. I told him how proud I was of him. I'm glad he knew.

Patricia Schaffhouser - August 24, 2024 at 08:14 PM