

MICHAEL LEWIS DIFFENDERFER, JR.

January 24, 1966 - November 11, 2023



Michael Lewis Diffenderfer, Jr., age 57, of Cranberry Township, formerly of Brookline, reunited with his father, the late Michael, Sr., on November 11, 2023. Known to the countless who adored him as Mike, Mike D, Mikey, and Diffy, he passed away suddenly surrounded by his loved ones.

Mike was known for his child-like innocence and infectious laughter that could be heard from across the room. Toward the end of his life, he became a permanent resident of Farma Family Campground - his childhood playground. At Farma, he was almost as recognizable as the president. Every weekend he would make his rounds, greeting and checking in on his friends, who referred to him as the "mayor" of Farma. He spent many of his weekdays there playing horseshoes and cornhole, often culminating in Farma's weekend DJ and dance, which was his favorite event. Surrounded by people at the place he loved, Mike was at his happiest. This speaks to his personality that truly valued human beings and human connection. He genuinely cared for and loved others; he saw the good in everyone.

Besides Farma, another one of his loves was football, especially the Pittsburgh Steelers. During his youth, Mike helped coach high school football teams. Mike could often be spotted wearing Steelers merchandise, which filled his entire closet. His room was Steelers-themed, and those who knew him understood that rooting for other teams in front of him was a big no-no. Most recently, he enjoyed attending Mars and West Allegheny football and basketball games.

Above all, Mike cherished his family. He leaves behind his nurturing mother, Donna J. (Nath); beloved siblings, Steve Diffenderfer (Vicki) and Stacy Petruzzelli (John); treasured nieces, Kaylei, Kenzie, and Fayth; and dear nephew, Johnpaul. He also adored Mackenzie, Lindsay, Jackson and all the little kiddos at Miss Vicki's. Although Mike dealt with developmental issues, he never viewed himself differently from others. His parents, siblings, and friends never treated or loved him differently, which shaped his outgoing and people-loving personality. Additionally, a large reason for Mike's character was the Sloan Family (Paul and Diane). He often spent time with them, and they became his second set of parents. Now, Mike is spending time with his earthly father and Heavenly Father, with all his abilities restored.

Friends and family shall be received Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 4-8 p.m. at **BALL FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC.**, 600 Dunster St., Pittsburgh, PA 15226. Where a service shall be held on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. 412-343-1506 or www.ballfc.com.

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