



Michael "Mike" Hammontree

July 5, 1944 - September 4, 2025

Michael (Mike) J. Hammontree, 81, of Columbus, Ohio, died peacefully on September 4, 2025, following a short illness. Born July 5, 1944, in Salina, Kansas, to Ernest "Ham" Hammontree and Cecilia Chase, Mike attended Sacred Heart High School and often told stories of his athletic prowess on the pitcher's mound and as the football quarterback. (Several old classmates mentioned Mike's athleticism in their condolence messages following his death, which would make Mike eternally proud.) An only child, his bedroom growing up was in the converted porch of his parents' rented home, which was barely insulated and meant enduring the miserable heat of Kansas summers and the cold and wind in the winter. From this upbringing came his greatest life-long enemy, humidity, and many years of just a little too much air conditioning for everyone close to him.

Mike attended Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, but left school after two years. He ascribed his early departure from college to poor grades caused by his majoring in "beer drinking and bull sh*tting." He joined the Lee Company, a hardware distributor, in Salina as a traveling salesman, eventually moving a short distance west to Hays, Kansas, to cover a territory of local hardware stores in western Kansas. The Lee Company gave Mike the "Top Salesman" award several years running, and to the end Mike could tell you the part number for a particular screw, tool, or appliance that you might need.

A long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks Club, and the

United Commercial Travelers of America (UCT), Mike moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 1987 to become the Fraternal Director for UCT and later Senior Vice-President. The family joined him there in 1988. Mike traveled extensively throughout the United States to drum up business for UCT and was proud to be a United “million miler” flying only domestic flights.

After he retired, Mike passed the time reading, traveling, and serving as unpaid help for his wife, Martha, in her job.

Speaking of Martha, Mike would recount that he first met her when he was seven years old joining his Dad, Ham, for a delivery to the Easterday house. Noting to himself that the young girl who answered the door was “pretty cute,” they would later marry at ages 20 and 19, respectively, in 1965, and remain together for 60 years. Ascribing their marital longevity to their ability to “bicker,” he remained devoted to her to the end. He is also survived by his beloved children, Kirsten, Michael, Amy (John Pack), and Jason (Andrea Fears), and his six grandchildren. Lamenting his only child status, Mike also considered the extended Easterday clan his own.

To his family, Mike could be a demanding figure, encouraging excellence and never handing out false praise or shying away from giving his honest opinion. But he was also the person to call for candid advice, and when he offered his approval, it meant everything. To friends and colleagues, Mike was known for his sly smile and his witty—though often inappropriate—remarks meant to get a laugh.

We love and greatly miss you, Mike—our Husband, Dad, Gramps, and Friend.

A visitation will be held on Friday, September 12, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home, 515 High Street, Worthington, Ohio. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. at St.

Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 5750 N High St, also in Worthington.
The burial will take place at a later date in Salina, Kansas

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **12.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Funeral Mass

SEP **13.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael the Archangel
N High Street
5750
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall



“ Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael "Mike" Hammontree



Rutherford Funeral Homes - September 11, 2025 at 05:06 PM

TD

“ We are so sorry for your loss. The family is in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. Mike was a great guy and will be truly missed. The neighborhood will not be the same without him.

*Love & Hugs,
Terry and Judy Darst*

Terry and Judy Darst - September 13, 2025 at 04:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



September 11, 2025 at 04:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.

September 11, 2025 at 04:58 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



September 11, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ What an interesting guy. Like so many, the stories I could tell. I last saw Mike on the Notre Dame campus with my wife and Martha. Laughter dominated. My deepest sympathy to Kirsten, young Mike, Amy, Jason, and Martha. Celebrate the life and relive the joys. Love to all.

Roger Ruder - September 10, 2025 at 07:30 PM



“ U. S. Embassy Malta purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



U. S. Embassy Malta - September 10, 2025 at 04:29 AM

UM

“ U. S. Embassy Malta planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.

U. S. Embassy Malta - September 10, 2025 at 04:29 AM

MR

“ Much love, The Saint Mary's Romans purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



Much love, The Saint Mary's Romans - September 08, 2025 at 05:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.

September 08, 2025 at 11:41 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



September 08, 2025 at 11:41 AM

TA

“ Tasha Kuhn Aubey purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



Tasha Kuhn Aubey - September 07, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



September 07, 2025 at 10:29 AM

KK

“ Kerri, Kevin, Kyli, Kobi and Kasey purchased the *Sweet Tranquility Basket* for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.



Kerri, Kevin, Kyli, Kobi and Kasey - September 07, 2025 at 09:50 AM

LF

“ Love John and Vivian Fears purchased the *Sweet Sunrise Bouquet* for the family of Michael "Mike" Hammontree.

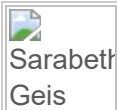


Love John and Vivian Fears - September 06, 2025 at 07:39 PM

CF

“ Mike's mother, and my mother in law (Anne Finan) were sisters. Their families were very close and spent many Holidays and Birthdays together. Chuck and I followed Mike's sports. I remember one bitter cold rainy football game...the field lights were even breaking. R.I.P. Mike, all the Hammontrees and Finans are together again.

Carole Finan - September 06, 2025 at 05:26 PM



Sarabeth Geis

Mike was our neighbor on Johnstown and I will forever remember hm as a sweet little boy in short pants. He and my brother Ed were best friends. They were 4 years old and looked like twins with they light blond hair and big innocent eyes. They were the babies of the neighborhood and the older boys let them tag along most of the time. I do however think that Mike broke his arm jumping off the garage roof wearing a dish towel as a cape!
Since both of our dads worked at Lee Hardware, Mike and Ed would tell tales of spending summers as "Mouse hounds" which I sure their children heard about! They were life-long friends and kept in touch with each other so Mike Hammontree was a part of Geis family stories. I'm sure that you miss Mike and will have lots of stories to share.
Sarabeth Geis

Sarabeth Geis - September 08, 2025 at 07:02 PM

SH

Prayers for the family.I remember Mike from work at Uct.Susan Haines

Susan Haines - September 09, 2025 at 03:40 PM

RM

My sympathies to the Hammontree family. I worked with Mike for a time and at conventions and on the road doing seminars for UCT. Mike had a great personality and never met a stranger. RON MORLEY

Ron Morley - September 09, 2025 at 06:29 PM

GR

My condolences to the Hammontree family. Mike and I would cross paths calling on the lumber dealers in Kansas. Mike, of course working for Lee and myself for National Gypsum Company. Nice family.

George Rifford - October 09, 2025 at 01:04 PM