



Michael W. Harden

October 13, 2010

No obituary found for this tribute.

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael W. Harden*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I have indeed lost a friend and a mentor. I'm deeply saddened to know his eloquent and articulate voice will no longer speak to us from across the page. Mike was a great teacher, not only of writing, but by his example how we can all be better people. He saw the world with genuine compassion and an innate sense of poetry. He saw beyond the facades of life and into the subtleties of the cosmos and humanity; the artistry of his words expertly capturing and retelling our essence in all of its rich hues and contrasts. To Mike, you will long be missed and ne're forgotten. And, a kind word to Rilke and Wilder, please. To Mike's family, may you all feel the peace and comfort of God's presence and his love.*

Dee Dee - October 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike gave all of us a chance to see the workd in a new way, usually humorous, but often with a veiled, seriouys message. I love his books and being able to read his thoughts again and again. My world wiol not be as beautiful, ghoughtful, comical without Mikes thoughts. He had the ability t9 write a sentence or a paragraph that was pure bliss to read. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this time Dr TEd Herwig*

Dr Ted Herwig - October 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ He touched so many people because he went through life with his hand always out stretched. He left behind a beautiful legacy of family, stories and a genuine and profound love of mankind which will live forever. Bless your heart, Mike Harden, and God bless your family.

A reader - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I did not know Mike personally, but I so loved to read his columns in the Dispatch. Many times I would be busy and just "skim" the paper...but I always took the time to read Mike's columns. The world has lost a generous, witty, and wise soul. I am so sorry for your loss- having lost my own father this summer, my heart goes out to you and the pain I know you are enduring.

Sally Rader - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ We are deeply sadden by your loss and we send our heart felt condolence. We will miss him too.

Thomas and Mary Sindledecker - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ Debra so sorry about you and your famleys loss.

Harold Pack - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Annie: We are so sorry about your dad , but truly believe he will forever be with you. We always enjoyed his company as he watched you in all your high school events and activities. He was so proud of you. Hang on to those many good memories...they will get you through the toughest times. We are always here for you. Lots of love from Mom and Dad Bischoff (Heidi's parents)

Terri Bischoff - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My condolences to all the family. I had only met Mike a couple times long ago. But i grew up with his younger brothers. Im so sorry for your loss, he will be missed. He was a funny, clever, caring and very talented man.

Tim Smith - October 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Annie and family, So sorry to hear about your dad Annie. Thinking of you. I will never forget meeting your dad at J'S. He was a kind man. I told him how my dad loved his articles and he gave me an autographed book to give to him. He touched the hearts of many people. Sandy

Sandy Szabo - October 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Dear Harden Family, I am very sorry for your loss. My husband and I both enjoyed Mike's column. We may not always have agreed with him, but Mike provoked lively discussions between us, which we also enjoyed. God bless you in these difficult times ahead. Mike will not be forgotten. In Sympathy - Dorrit Dulan (widow)

Dorrit Dulan - October 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *My sincerest sympathies to all of Mike's family on this great loss. I knew Mike from just a couple of brief encounters, although when we first met, I was immediately struck by his combination of genius and genuineness - his humility and love for the common man was a bright, shining star. It was obvious that he cared about people and wanted to help if he could. A couple of years ago, during a weekend women's writing retreat at Camp Akita in the Hocking Hills, Mike seemed delighted to share his writing expertise and offer inspiration and hope to the budding writers in attendance. What a gift this man offered. Thank you, Mike...so many lives have been touched in a positive way by your grace...beautiful.*

Patsy Benincasa - October 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *Dear Harden family, you do not know me and I didn't know Mike personally, but I enjoyed his column in the Dispatch for years. He will be greatly missed by all who have read any of his work. When I read his column last week from OSU hospital, I hadn't realized that he was even ill!! I hope his passing was comfortable and he didn't suffer a great deal. I am an oncology nurse at Riverside Methodist Hospital and I lost my mom to head and neck cancer 4 years ago. I can empathize with your grief and loss! I felt compelled to write in the guest book because of my love for Mike's column. I will especially miss the "Methane" stories with Aunt Gracie and the town!! Peace and serenity be with you all!! My condolences, Linda Anthony*

linda anthony - October 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mike's family. I was fortunate enough to know him through both of his wives. I was working at Blue Cross of Central Ohio at the time. Both of his wives also worked there, at different times. One day, Mike's first wife Suzanne came in and said Mike wanted to do a story about me. I guess being a dwarf with achondroplasia is of interest to other people, although I didn't get it at the time. Mike made my life at the time sound very interesting. Mike was the first person to write about me. It was awesome! Since then, although I have always kept my day job, I also became a clown part-time and then sometimes other people would want to write about me

Jean (Jeanie the Little Clown) Schwinnne - October 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ In the early 1970s, Mike Harden and I were in OSU's School of Journalism together. It was a large class, but we became drawn to each other, mostly because I looked up to the older Harden who came to college after time in Vietnam. A married guy, he seemed so worldly but yet open to the thoughts, ideas and writing of a younger soon-to-be professional colleague. The highlight of my unpaid but working experience at OSU was when at 2 a.m. in the morning Professor Diana Tillinghast (I think the name is spelled right) called me and said I would be traveling with Mike and a photographer to cover the return of the first POWs, coming into Wright Patterson Air Force Base. We would be at Wright Patt -- possibly for days and with no overnight lodging -- filing stories for the OSU Lantern. While painful at times -- being with waiting family members (and probably more painful for Mike since he could have been one of those captured soldiers) -- those were gloriously exciting times of survival in a cement-floored room with machines of sodas and junk food, typewriters, phones and other "real" journalists, filing their stories before the age of cell phones and other technology. We were there for nearly three days. On the final day and enroute back to Columbus together in the middle of the night, we three unshowered college kids were still hard at work on this one last story. I wrote in the dark and then retyped the scribbles at the Lantern office. Sharing those bylines with Mike was an important part of my life story. I was impressed as I continued to run into Mike over the years and he actually remembered me, sharing updates on his life, including his love of the daughter adopted from war-torn Vietnam. I can still remember one teary-eyed conversation we had during a break in which I was judging the Dispatch spelling bee. The last time I saw Mike was when he was with his wife, Deborah, at a AAA travel show at Veterans Memorial earlier this year. My husband and I were looking to book a cruise that we had saved for. I didn't know of Mike's illness and now wonder if he and his family were there to make that last earthly memory together. I guess God needed a good writer up there. Blessings....

Pat Huston - October 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mike. He was an amazing writer and great humanitarian. I grew up reading his columns and I can't begin to express how much his writings meant to me. I had the privilege of meeting him several times and he was always gracious. The world has lost a very special person. My sincere condolences to the family.

Kate Foulke - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ The Columbus Dispatch and the central Ohio community have lost a "gem". I hope you know how much everyone appreciated Mike's wit and wisdom all these years and I for one will have a difficult time breaking my habit of looking for him in the pages of the newspaper.
Judy Knox

Judy Knox - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Mike Harden found the common man, the forgotten man, the story that would never make the normal parts of the newspaper, the folks struggling, the good and decent folks that populate Ohio, those that needed a helping hand to recover. He also celebrated good things, good people and good news. To his family and his "Aunt Gracie" in Methane, our deepest sympathies. Truly an uncommon voice has been stilled.

A fan - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ To Mike's Family. You were truly blessed to have this one of a kind man with you and we thank you for sharing him with the community through his stories. He id so much good with his skill and caring as a writer. He made it possible to get highway memorials up for officers killed in the line of duty. We were able to give him 4 Nutcracker tickets for a mother dying of cancer that we would never known about had Mike nor done the story. We are all blessed to have known Mike Harden and we will all miss him everday.

Terry & Barbara Dountz - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ My deepest heartfelt condolences to Mike's Family. You all will be in my Prayers. Thank you for sharing Mike with us. He was one of the most honorable and distinguished gentleman that i ever had the privilege to personally know. God Bless You All. Ron Lanthron

Ron Lanthron - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ I am so sorry at the passing of Mr M Harden. I loved his column and was a faithful follower. It took me a while to folllow his sense of humor and pun on words in his "AuntGracie" to "NephewMike" style writing, loved it.I will sorely miss him in his writings. Condolences and prayers to his family. Catherine Powers.Gahanna reader of many many years.

Catherine Powers - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ It was with great sadness that I heard of Mike's death. In my behalf and that of The MacGahan American Bulgarian Foundation of New Lexington we extend our prayers and sympathy. He was very generous to us with an occasional column over the years, as keynote luncheon speaker for the MacGahan Festival one year and our chef for the festival the next year. Sadly he was unable to be with us this year. He will be fondly remembered by our local members as well as our annual out of town festival visitors.

Carma Jean Rausch - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ i feel as if i have lost a longtime friend reading the dispatch will never be the same goodbye mike & aunt gracie bless you

dixie klinger - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ So sorry to hear about Mike. He was a wonderful friend, father, husband, grandfather and writer. He captured my heart with his writings. I so enjoyed our get togethers for food and music. There is now a great story teller with the Lord.

Susan Willis - October 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM