



Michael D. Soroka DO

August 1, 1949 - November 24, 2021

Michael D. Soroka, DO passed away in the early hours of November 24, 2021 at the age of 72 in Athens, OH, after a lengthy battle with colon cancer. He was surrounded by his wife of 46 years, Ellen, along with his two children, Michael and Sarah, and his five grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Ellen, of Athens, his daughter Sarah (Michael) Maloney, of Colorado Springs, CO; son Michael John (Barbara) Soroka of Athens; and grandchildren Nathan, Luke, Ileana, Theodore, and Adam. He is also survived by his brother, Mark Soroka of Cleveland, and sister Maria (Daniel) Sak of Worcester, MA.

An Osteopathic physician practicing for many years in Cleveland, and for the past 12 years in Athens, he was beloved by generations of patients, who recognized in him a deep well of compassion and kindness for those entrusted to his care. His dedication to the healing arts of medicine was an extension of his love and devotion to his family and his Orthodox Christian faith. He will be sorely missed.

Michael was born August 1, 1949 in Cleveland to Helen (Fedor) and Michael Soroka, Jr. He graduated from Maple Heights High School in 1967 where he showed an aptitude for science. As the oldest child of an immigrant family, he was the first one to attend college. He received a scholarship to Case Western Reserve University, graduating in 1971 with a BS in physics, later earning an MS in physiology. While conducting research at Harvard Biological Labs and

living in Cambridge, MA, his life took a fateful turn when he noticed a 'roommate wanted' ad at the school looking for an extra flatmate. Being in need of housing himself, he called the number. Shortly after, he met Ellen Kane of Lovell, ME, the sister of one of his flatmates. And the rest, as they say, is history. The two were married at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church on Union Ave. in Cleveland in 1975.

Following graduate work at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1977, he realized that his true vocation lay not in research, but in medicine and the care of others. In 1978 he was admitted to Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCU-COM) where he graduated as a Doctor of Osteopathy in 1982. After graduation, he returned to Cleveland with his young family where he completed his residency in Family Medicine, practicing in the Cleveland area for the next 25 years. Michael's love for integrating Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) into his practice eventually led him to join the faculty at Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens where he taught medical students and treated patients with OMM full-time.

Michael found his greatest joy in his family, and was happiest surrounded by his children and grandchildren, finding that he became like a child himself in those moments of play. He loved his chosen profession passionately. His desire to help those in pain was deeply rooted in his soul, and he would often offer to treat friends and acquaintances at the drop of a hat. He had a keen interest in the martial arts, which he studied in Cleveland for over ten years, eventually earning a black belt in Shaolin Kung Fu and tai chi. Michael was a man of strong convictions, possessing an open and inquisitive mind, who enjoyed discourse on every subject one could imagine.

Michael remained steadfast in his Orthodox Christian faith throughout his life, and it served as the firm foundation upon which all his knowledge and

philosophy of care rested. He and Ellen

were faithful members of the local Orthodox Church wherever they lived, contributing to the life of the parish in many ways, but especially by singing in the church choir.

Earning his rest from this world, we pray that our Lord may greet him with these words:

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord.”

The funeral arrangements will be as follows: Visiting hours will be on Thursday, December 2 from 5-7 pm at Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home in Worthington, OH, concluding with a memorial service (panikhida) at 6:30 pm. There will be additional visitation from 10-11 am on the morning of December 3 at St. Stevan Serbian Orthodox Church in Columbus, with the funeral service beginning there at 11 am. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center, followed by a memorial meal for family and friends.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the family kindly requests that everyone attending any events wear a facial covering.

Friends may, if they wish, make a donation to the scholarship fund for students at St Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church, PO Box 14932, Columbus, OH 43214. In the memo area, please write “Scholarship Fund.” Donations may also be made to the Salvation Army at www.salvationarmyusa.org in Dr. Soroka's memory.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

9571 North High Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-4006
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

DEC 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Stevan of Dechani Serbian Orthodox Church
1840 Cassady Ave
Columbus, OH 43219

Funeral Service

DEC 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Stevan of Dechani Serbian Orthodox Church
1840 Cassady Ave
Columbus, OH 43219

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael D. Soroka DO*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dr. Soroka was not only my doctor but he became a dear friend to me. He taught me a lot over the past 9 years. He helped me more than any doctor ever did. He taught me that I have to be my own advocate. I enjoyed our conversations on various topics. We always asked about how our families were doing. I loved to hear his stories about his grandkids and just the look on his face while telling me. I was blessed to have him in my life and I will never forget Dr Soroka. I'm glad that he is no longer in pain and suffering. He will be deeply missed!*

Talitha Dearth

Talitha Dearth - December 17, 2021 at 11:22 PM



“ *Sitting together around a campfire on a July night, singing rounds and sharing some'mores and stories is a recent memory of "Doctor Mike" in our family. But there are many others that we will also treasure.*

Memory Eternal, Michael.

Fr. Michael, Mka. Valerie and Peter Zahirsky

Valerie A. Zahirsky - December 06, 2021 at 11:29 AM

ES

Thank you, dear family. So many good memories!! 🙏

Ellen Soroka - December 17, 2021 at 01:33 PM

FK

“ So sorry for your loss. Cherish the fond memories you have and may they help to bring you peace. -Frank Koss

Frank Koss - December 03, 2021 at 03:12 PM

ES

Thank you, Frank! 🙏

Ellen Soroka - December 17, 2021 at 01:34 PM

Your children are not your children
They are the sons and daughters of God's longing for death
And through death we reach the Father's Kingdom in heaven
You have given them more than just our own strength,
You have given them the love of God,
You have given them the love of their mother,
You have given them the love of their father,
You have given them the love of their brothers,
You have given them the love of their sisters,
You have given them the love of their friends,
You have given them the love of their neighbors,
You have given them the love of their country,
You have given them the love of their world,
You have given them the love of their life,
You have given them the love of their death,
You have given them the love of their resurrection,
You have given them the love of their eternal life.

“ Dr Soroka was not a simple teacher and physician; he was rather an educator and a care giver, committed to the welfare of students, patients and all brethren. I am blessed to have met him at the Orthodox parish in Athens Ohio. He captures you with his wisdom, his knowledge and his deep understanding of the Christian faith: "Ye shall know them by their fruits (Mt 7:16)". He always carried the fruits of love, compassion and humility. His great legacy immortalizes the Paschal Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom: "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. ...Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice". Mike rejoices among the angels in heaven. His memory will be eternal. To The resurrected Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages! Amen.



Oucèma Karam - December 02, 2021 at 09:44 PM

ES

*Dear Oucema,
I so appreciate your kind and comforting words and deep understanding of Mike. Yes, he has the victory now in Christ! 🙏*

Ellen Soroka - December 17, 2021 at 01:38 PM

LM

“ *Michael was a pillar of our community and a dear friend. We will miss him so.
With love and prayers.*

Louise Moysaenko

Louise Moysaenko - December 02, 2021 at 02:58 PM

ES

Thank you, dear Louise. He will live on in our hearts, always 🙏

Ellen Soroka - December 17, 2021 at 01:31 PM

TF

“ *Theresa Baker & Family purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.*

Theresa Baker & Family - December 02, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.*



December 02, 2021 at 11:44 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.*



December 02, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ *I am profoundly grateful to have been one of Dr. Soroka's patients. As someone with chronic invisible health conditions and disabilities, he was the first doctor who made me feel really seen and believed. And he was always fighting for me, to figure out what we could do to make things better. He was so tenacious. So many of my other doctors just gave up but he never did. He had the most gentle touch and healing hands that could melt my intractable migraines away with the subtlest of touches. I always appreciated our conversations while he was treating my migraines--everything from science and literature to pop culture. As someone with chronic illness I am often very isolated and our conversations made me feel like I was part of the world again. He was a true Star Wars fan and when I found that out I always wore my Star Wars shirts to my appointments with him. And he always noticed. We had a great deal of fun discussing Star Wars together. My dissertation is not finished yet, but I could never have gotten as far as I have with it without his osteopathic manipulation. He made me well enough so I could start writing again. I was planning to invite him to my defense and of course he was to receive a special acknowledgment in the dissertation, which he will when it's complete. I admired his kindness, his care for his patients, and his dedication to his family. Rest in peace, Dr. Soroka, one with the Force. My thoughts are with his family and those closest to him.*



Elizabeth Story - December 02, 2021 at 12:31 AM

MS

“ *Michael, Barbara, Ileana and Theo Soroka purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.*



Michael, Barbara, Ileana and Theo Soroka - December 01, 2021 at 06:20 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.*



December 01, 2021 at 03:55 PM

AC

“ *Ellen, may you and your family find peace of mind in the merciful love of the lord Jesus Christ. Nothing that I can say will ease the loss of your wonderful husband, and one of my most worthy colleagues. I had the privilege of working with Michael through many of the adjustments of his residency training program at OUCOM, and greatly appreciated his kindness, warmth and genuineness toward his work.*

With Love,

Anthony and Helen Chila

ANTHONY G CHILA - December 01, 2021 at 03:27 PM

AD

“ Andy & LuAnn Dzura purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.



Andy & LuAnn Dzura - December 01, 2021 at 12:56 PM

BP

“ Dear Ellen & Family,
I am so sorry to learn of the death of your beloved Michael. I have fond memories of our trip to Columbus for lunch and a CATCO play. Michael was such a special man and I know he will be missed by many. I share in your pain and grief as my Gary died in early September from prostate cancer. Hope your many fond memories of Michael help sustain you and give you peace.
Love, Barbara Pfeiffer

Barbara Pfeiffer - December 01, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.



November 30, 2021 at 06:27 PM

KV

“ Dr. Soroka was an incredible teacher and physician. He was so kind and patient, and I always looked forward to spending time with him and learning from him. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from him. He will be greatly missed!

Kaitlin VanHooser - November 30, 2021 at 06:12 PM



“ *Dr Mike Soroka was one of the kindest most generous humans on the planet. He was a wonderful teacher and an amazing osteopath. Sending so much love and blessings for peace to Ellen and family and all who were touched and will miss him.*

Imber Coppinger - November 30, 2021 at 10:01 AM

CC

“ *Dr. Soroka was a gifted Osteopath. He could gently feel out the causes of your pain and fix them without yanking and jerking your body around. At my last appointment, we figured out that we were in the same graduating Class of '65 from Maple Heights High School. He was a "band nerd" and I was a "choir nerd". I was hoping to share more high school stories with him. I am saddened by his loss and I will miss his kind care. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family. Sincerely, Chuck Carroll*

Chuck Carroll - November 30, 2021 at 09:06 AM

KR

“ *Very sorry for your loss, dear Ellen & family.*
Kim Resanovich



Kim Resanovich - November 29, 2021 at 08:23 PM

SD

“ *Dr Soroka and I spent many hours together concerning his quest to be a great medical educator. He was genuinely interested in all we discussed and reviewed. Beyond that, he was just so pleasant and positive - so good for his students and colleagues. He will be missed and is irreplaceable!*



Stephen S. Davis, retired Director of Faculty Development for the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

Stephen Davis - November 29, 2021 at 05:02 PM

PB

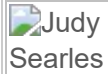
Dear Ellen and family. My sincere condolences on your loss. May his memory be eternal. Patricia A Blischak, from St Gregory's and Holy Cross Orthodox Church.

Patricia A Blischak - December 01, 2021 at 09:33 AM

JH

“ *Ellen and family, please accept my deepest sympathies for your loss with Mike's passing. I have many great memories of shared experiences in Ron Mohr's Tai Chi class in NE Ohio, and of the related social times. Mike's kindness, generosity, and peaceful spirit will be with me always. My faith assures me we will all meet again some day. Until then, I know Mike is with our other loved ones who have gone before, and is at peace in God's grace. I pray for God's peace and comfort for all of you as well. ~ Jane Herbst*

Jane Herbst - November 29, 2021 at 03:38 PM



“ *Dr. Soroka was a blessing in the healthcare field. He provided me with care like no other. If it weren't for his wisdom and expertise, I wouldn't be experiencing a quality of life. Thank you, Dr. Soroka, you will be missed immensely. Golden hands laid to rest. A friendship that will never be forgotten. Sending my condolences and prayers for his family and staff. -Judy Searles*

Judy Searles - November 28, 2021 at 05:41 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Michael D. Soroka DO.*



November 26, 2021 at 06:35 PM



“ *We will miss Doc forever.
God Grant You Rest Eternal our friend
Dale and Denise*

Denise - November 26, 2021 at 05:49 PM



*Dear Ellen and Family, Our deepest sympathies for your loss. We are thankful and blessed to have known Michael as a friend and as a caring Osteopath. He was a gentle soul, grounded, with a down to earth sense of humor, amazing knowledge, and generous of his time with his patients.
Diane & Mark Spezza*

Diane Spezza - December 03, 2021 at 03:04 PM



Thank you for your heartfelt tribute to Mike, dear friends! 🙏

Ellen Soroka - December 17, 2021 at 01:42 PM