

Michael Duarte
December 4, 1964 – July 20, 2020

On Monday, July 20, 2020, Michael (Mike) Duarte died suddenly at his home in Morgan Hill, California. He was a caring husband, proud father and devoted son. His family knows he is safe in the arms of God, but the unexpected nature of his death has left a void that will not be filled this side of Heaven.

Michael was born December 4, 1964 in Fremont, California to Ed and Frances Duarte and grew up in San Jose. In 1989, he married Sherri (Goodwin) and they made their home in Morgan Hill, where they raised two children and four dogs together.

Sherri, Tarah and Caleb have countless memories of how Michael loved them through acts of service. He was a doer. He learned to make the perfect cup of tea for Sherri so she would be coherent on her early morning calls. He always made sure Tarah and Caleb had a full tank of gas and cash in their wallet. He did all the grocery shopping, remembering every detail and request, and always had Tarah and Caleb's favorite foods in the house when they were visiting. Michael loved to cook, especially with his tried and true Weber. He was known for his tri-tip and created his own spaghetti sauce that would rival the best Italian restaurant. Truth be told, his children preferred his cooking to that of their mom.

Michael was a devoted son, a caring brother, and an uncle adored by his many nieces and nephews. His mother, Frances, will remember the respect he always showed for her and Ed. For his sisters, he will be remembered by Theresa for his sense of humor where she never quite knew if he was serious or joking, by Patti for making sure she was always taken care of and for checking in on her, and by Cathie for being behind every risky situation she was part of, including when she kneeled on the sidewalk with four of her friends so he could practice his skateboard jumping.

For over 35 years Michael was a carpenter and eventually a General Contractor. He valued quality above everything. Words used by his friends and clients to describe Michael included integrity, honesty, detailed and "just a really great guy."

Michael is survived by Sherri, his wife of 31 years, his children Tarah and Caleb and his much-loved Cocker Spaniel Duffy. He is also survived by his parents Ed and Frances Duarte, his sisters Theresa (Gary) Tolbertson, Patti Harvey and Cathie (Steve) Wright, along with his nieces and nephews Christopher (Brittnee) Tolbertson, Justin (Rachel) Harvey, Matthew (Jen) Wright, Eric (Taylor) Tolbertson, Katie (Rocky) Wagener, Andrew Wright and Stephanie Wright. He will be remembered in the hearts of his great-nieces and nephews, his aunts, uncles and cousins, the family he joined through his marriage to Sherri and his many friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Manuel E. and Delinda Duarte and Clarence and Thelma Chapman, and a nephew Mark Harvey, Jr. He was also preceded in death by Sherri's parents who loved him as they did their own sons.

Looking ahead, Sherri, Tarah and Caleb know that the family road trips will never be the same. But they will continue these and play George Strait's "50 Number Ones" as loud as they can. They will root for the SF Giants, watch the 49ers and cheer on the Chevys and Toyotas in NASCAR (and maybe once in a while the Fords.)

Caleb will miss having his dad to help him take care of his truck and getting his feedback on every one of his shows. Tarah will miss the easy banter she had with her dad and knowing she could FaceTime him for help to repair the AC in her car or build an IKEA dresser. Sherri will miss the quiet way Michael loved her and made sure things were taken care of, and planning and spending their future together.

Tarah and Caleb were Michael's pride and joy. In honor of Michael, memorial donations can be made to two nonprofits that are important to each of them: Musicians On Call (<https://donate.musiciansoncall.org/>) and United Christian Youth Camps (<https://ucyc.com/why-give/>).