



Michael Bradley

October 9, 1951 - July 26, 2023

Michael Bradley of Peoria, Illinois, passed away at Richard L. Owens Hospice Home on July 26, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. Born on October 9, 1951, he leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, hard work and unforgettable memories.

Mike was born to Kelly G. and Bernadette M. Bradley (Mathis), who undoubtedly passed down their sharp wit, unwavering attention to detail and a healthy dose of cynicism. Michael received his education at Richwoods High School, graduating in 1970 and then going on to take architecture courses at Illinois Central College. It was throughout this time that he made friendships that lasted a lifetime. On Baccalaureate Night in 1970, he met Rebecca L. DeRenzy and sometime later they began dating. It was during this time, he realized he had met the love of his life and they married on November 23, 1974.

Following in his father's footsteps, he began his occupational path at the iconic Pabst Brewery in 1971 until the brewery's closure in 1982. His flexibility and willingness to adapt led him to West Concrete located at CAT in Mossville, where he worked as a general foreman/laborer until 2006. His well-deserved retirement began in 2014 from the Laborer's Union Local 165. He worked with unwavering loyalty and dedication wherever he was, leaving a lasting impact on all who had the pleasure of working alongside him.

This year would have marked 49 years of marriage to Becky. Their journey together blessed them with two children, Erin and Sean. Mike's family was of paramount importance, and he cherished every moment spent with his loved ones. Some of his best memories were of camping and fishing off his boat and spending time at the cabin in Chetek, WI. Proudly passing on his love of fishing and watching his children grow and embark on their own paths in life brought him immense joy. He was known by "Papa" to his four lovely grandchildren; their presence brought him countless smiles and he undeniably enriched their lives beyond measure.

While we mourn Mike's absence, we must also celebrate his lifelong dedication and selfless contribution to those he held dear. Never turning down an opportunity to help his family and friends with any do-it-yourself project that would present itself. While the impact he made on those lucky who have known him and the lessons he imparted on those he worked with may be immeasurable, he always stressed the importance of measuring twice and cutting once. "If you're gonna do something, you may as well (sure as hell better) do it right."

So, let us remember Mike as the witty hard-working craftsman, the dedicated husband, the adoring father, and the doting Papa. May his spirit live on in our hearts as we navigate life's twists and turns, always seeking a reason to do what makes us happy - just as he would have wanted.

In honor of Michael Bradley's remarkable life, a private memorial service for family and a celebration of life will be held on a date and time to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations in honor can be made to the Richard L. Owens Hospice Home or Easterseals Central Illinois. His legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched, and his spirit will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know him. As we bid farewell to a cherished

husband, father, grandfather, and friend, let us find solace in the wonderful memories that he left behind. Please feel free to share your own memories of Mike, as we all know he was not one to talk about himself often.