



Michael "Mike" Prochaska

November 10, 1919 - September 7, 2013

Michael Prochaska

RACINE – Michael Prochaska, 93, passed away on Saturday, September 7, 2013 at his home.

Mike was born in Racine, November 10, 1919, the son of the late Michael and Pavla (nee: Sucanski) Prochaska. As a child he moved to, and was raised in Czechoslovakia, returning to the United States in 1938 prior to Nazi occupation. Mike then joined the Civil Conservation Corp (CCC).

He enlisted and proudly served in the United States Marine Corp from May 18, 1942 to November 19, 1945. He was with the Fourth Marine Division participating in action at Poi-Namur, Kwajalein, Atoll, Marshall Island, Saipan, Mariana Islands, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Mike was honorably discharged as a corporal, receiving the Purple Heart for action on Tinian.

On March 7, 1946 he was united in marriage to Gloria Patriarca at the First Baptist Church in Racine.

Mike was the founder and president of Michael's Signs, which he began in 1948.

He was a member of First Baptist Church, Racine and Raymond Community Church, United Church of Christ. Mike was also a founding member of the Tuesday Optimist Club. In addition he was a Master Mason with Racine-Belle City Lodge #18 and a member of Marine Corp League, Agerholm-Gross Detail.

Mike is survived by his wife of 66 years, Gloria and their children: Thomas

(Bonnie) Prochaska of Racine, Connie (Don) Johnson of Rice Lake, Carol Prochaska (Don Davidson) of Madison, and Stephen (Vikki) Prochaska of Racine; grandchildren, Matthew (Maggie) Prochaska, Joshua (Laura) Johnson, Elizabeth (Mike) Casebolt, Adam Johnson, Michael Prochaska, Kristina Prochaska, Alisa Prochaska and Stephen Saloutos; two great grandchildren, Thatcher Casebolt and Finley Prochaska.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, brother, John and sister, Harriett. Funeral services will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Friday September 13, 2013 at 10 a.m. with Rev. Manda Stack officiating. Visitation will be held at the Sturino Funeral Home on Thursday from 5 until 8 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. until service time at 10 a.m.

Mike will be laid to rest with full military honors at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Those wishing to remember Mike in a special way may direct memorials to Badger Honor Flight, www.badgerhonorflight.org, P.O. Box 258066, Madison, WI 53725.

The Prochaska family would like to extend a very special thank you to dear friend and fellow lawnlover, John Bouwens, Gentiva Hospice, Wheaton Franciscan Health Care, and Dr. Engel for their loving care and friendship.

Cemetery Details

Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

21731 Spring Street
Union Grove, WI 53182

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 12. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Visitation

SEP 13. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

SEP **13**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
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info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Sturino Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael "Mike" Prochaska*



Sturino Funeral Home - September 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Dear Gloria and Family,*

I remember how wonderful you and Mike were to my parents, Bob and Nancy Spear. They thought very highly of your entire family. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your dear loved one.

*Sincerely,
Julie Ann Beth nee; Spear*

Julie Beth - September 12, 2013 at 04:16 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Prochaska.*



September 12, 2013 at 11:05 AM

TC

“ Tom, Patti and I are saddened by your loss. based on what i read and what you told me (including "roof Stories") Your dad was one hell of a guy. We will keep you and Bonnie in our prayers.
Tom Cummings

Tom Cummings - September 12, 2013 at 08:53 AM

JM

“ Steve and Vikki, please accept my sympathies for the loss of an obviously vital and special member of your family. I hope the many wonderful memories you must have will bring you smiles and comfort during this sad time.

Jan Marchuk

Jan Marchuk - September 11, 2013 at 10:49 AM

LR

Steve, Vikki and family, So sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept my condolence. Laurie Ruffalo

Laurie Ruffalo - September 11, 2013 at 04:02 PM

JJ

“ Dear Tom and Family,

How wonderful for you all to have had Mike in your life. The world is a better place because he was in it. He exuded strength, dependability and caring. My deepest sympathy for your loss.

I wish you endless smiling happy memories.

Most fondly, Jill Jensen

Jill Jensen - September 11, 2013 at 09:31 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Prochaska.*



September 10, 2013 at 12:57 PM



“ *Dear Gloria, Tom, Connie, Carol, Steve, and all your family,*

Mike was a wonderful person who holds a special place in my heart. Growing up, he was a great friend of my family, loved by all of us. His jokes were always good, and his face was always smiling. While I had not seen him in several years, I will miss him. I wish I could be with you at the visitation and funeral. You have my deepest sympathy.

*Pat Ransom
103B East Sutton Pl
Waukesha, WI 53188*

Pat Ransom - September 10, 2013 at 08:27 AM



“ *Michael was a shining light of God's love. His enthusiasm touched so many of us. We were glad to have him as a member of Raymond Community Church, United Church of Christ. Our prayers are with all of you in this time of loss. We know he is in the arms of God, who he loved so much.*

Blessings, Rev. Manda Stack

Manda Stack - September 09, 2013 at 07:39 PM