



Mike Solem

September 11, 1963 - January 22, 2020

Michael “Mike” A. Solem took his final lap on January 22, 2020 at the age of 56. Doctors at Nebraska Medical Center couldn’t fix his failed heart, but Mike displayed grace in both the fight and the surrender.

Celebration of Life Gathering will be held on Monday, January 27, 2020 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be given to the American Heart Association: 7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75231. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Mike was born to Don and Eleanor Johnson on September 11, 1963 in Moorhead, MN. After Don’s passing, Eleanor married Glen Solem who raised Mike as his own. He grew up in East Grand Forks, where his records in shot/discus at East Grand Forks Senior High held for many years and football seasons were spent at the bottom of the pile. He sharpened his construction skills at Area Vocational Technical Institute. Later, a stint on a snowmobile series pit crew sparked his passion for checkered flags.

Mike met Gail Gust in 1991 at next-door class reunions. Mike’s opening line was “Here I am, you lucky lady” and the love story began. They were married and spent their honeymoon relocating to Storm Lake, Iowa, to raise their family in 1992. Their travels together ranged from Menards to Jamaica and

countless racetracks in between. Mike was an amazing father to Michael, Ashley, and Alyssa. His parenting philosophy was captured in the phrase “quit horse-dicking around.” The kids would argue he was usually the instigator of said horseplay. His family will miss his short fuse, quick wit, and unconditional love.

Mike never found an overhead door he couldn't open. He founded MS Door in 1999 and grew the business to serve commercial and residential customers in Buena Vista County and beyond. You might not get a bill, but you could always get your car out. He filled in the long workdays with pest control, snow removal, and meaningful banter at every stop.

Favorite pastimes included racing, hockey, Storm Lake Whitecaps, and yelling at sporting officials. Mike tallied only one ejection, fittingly at the last game he attended. He especially enjoyed being part of the track family at Buena Vista Raceway. He was the master of anonymous behind-the-scenes tasks. Not one to relax, he was always the friend with a truck and a toolbox. As “Papa,” he relished providing the grandkids forbidden snacks and a wide latitude to explore.

Mike's race ended too soon, but he spent his life in victory lane.

His father Don Johnson and brother Keith Solem predeceased him.

Survivors include wife Gail, children Michael (Katie) Solem, Ashley (Ryan) Charette, and Alyssa Solem, grandchildren Bryan, Natasha, and Allison Solem, Dennis and Abigail Charette, his parents Eleanor and Glen Solem, sister Shawn Solem, several nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

Previous Events

Time of Gathering

JAN 27. 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake

1615 W Milwaukee Ave,

Storm Lake, IA 50588

(712) 732-1911

jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com

<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mike Solem*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 27, 2020 at 12:35 PM

TD

“ *A few years back ... a couple glamour shots of Mike and I. God Bless you cousin!*



Tim Dibble - February 01, 2020 at 07:46 AM

 Mikie
Warnock
Barker

“ *Sending big hugs to you and your family!*



Mikie Warnock Barker - January 30, 2020 at 01:09 PM

TG

“ Have not had a chance to see mike in the last 20 years .He was a great friend always willing to help out when needed . sorry for you loss

TODD GRABANSKI - January 29, 2020 at 12:40 PM

JR

“ JULIO RENTERIA purchased the My Soul Lives On Blanket for the family of Mike Solem.



JULIO RENTERIA - January 27, 2020 at 04:47 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes - January 27, 2020 at 01:59 PM

CS

“ Cindy Suhr lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Cindy Suhr - January 27, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ 97 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 27, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ Dave, Deb, Logan And Jenna Merten lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Dave, Deb, Logan and Jenna Merten - January 27, 2020 at 07:15 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a great friend. Worked with him at the BVR when Herrig promoted the races...



Arlo Hogrefe - January 26, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Mike Solem.*



January 26, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ *Peg Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem*



Peg Anderson - January 25, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ *May You All Feel The Peace That Passeth Understanding Going Through These Most Difficult Times . Many Prayers For Your Family and His Many Friends . We Will All Miss Him Very Much . Dave & Patti Lange*



Dave & Patti Lange - January 24, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ *Ray And Sandy Eickholt lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem*



Ray and Sandy Eickholt - January 24, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mike Solem.*



January 24, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ *OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO MIKE'S WIFE & FAMILY IN THE LOSS OF MIKE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN ONE'S LIFE CAN BE GONE.*



*PEACE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE
325 SENECA ST. APT. B
STORM LAKE, IOWA 50588*

PATTY GUNVILLE - January 24, 2020 at 03:37 PM



“ *Jean Assmann lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem*



Jean Assmann - January 24, 2020 at 02:51 PM

MT

“ Mike took me in and made me feel at home when I moved in to Storm Lake in the house accross from his shop. He often cleared my drive after heavy snows and chatted with me in the evenings after work. He is the reason I met many people in the area and he always amazed me at his selflessness in always caring for his community. He will be greatly missed.

-Mason

Mason Troendle - January 24, 2020 at 02:39 PM

JM

“ Jeff Myers lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Jeff Myers - January 24, 2020 at 11:52 AM

CL

“ Carolyn Lessmeier lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Carolyn Lessmeier - January 24, 2020 at 11:38 AM

AC

“ Condolences and prayers, from Storm Lake Police Chaplains Alan Cummins and Howard Avery.

Alan Cummins - January 24, 2020 at 10:07 AM

MS

“ Mike & Staci Struthers lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Mike & Staci Struthers - January 24, 2020 at 09:51 AM

SM

“ Steph/Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Steph/Sharon Mickelson - January 24, 2020 at 07:41 AM

KP

“ Karla Pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Mike Solem



Karla Pickhinke - January 23, 2020 at 10:21 PM