



Michael George Spowles

February 25, 1948 - March 7, 2017

Michael George Spowles
Summerville, SC

Michael George Spowles, 69, husband of Laura (Streck) Spowles, passed away on Tuesday evening at MUSC, Charleston SC.

A gathering of friends and family will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017 at 4 o'clock until 5 o'clock PM at James A. Dyal Funeral Home.

Michael was born February 25, in 1948 in Brooklyn NY, he was the son of Grace (West) Spowles and the late George Spowles. Michael graduated from William Tennent High School Warminster PA in 1965 where he excelled in track and field, setting school records in both the high jump and pole vault. He joined USAF in 1966. Tours of duty included Thailand & Vietnam, he was a wounded veteran. Mike stayed with the USAF as a reservist for 22 years where he reached the rank of First Sergeant. He also served with the 5th Special Group (Army Reserves) out of Pittsburgh PA. After his active duty tour he attended Slippery Rock University on the GI Bill and graduated with a BA in environmental science and minor in Philosophy. He retired from civil service after 30 years with the Army Logistic Command; his last station was the Navel Weapons base in Charleston SC. Michael enjoyed researching the American

Civil War and managed to get a non speaking part in the movie Gettysburg. He was fond of long distance shooting, pier fishing and listening to lectures from the Grand Courses of History.

He is survived by his wife Laura, and sons Kyle and Ryan, his Mother Grace West Sprowles, his sister Debra (Schad) Sprowles and his twin brother Stephen G. Sprowles.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 17. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *James A Dyal Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael George Spowles*



James A Dyal Funeral Home - March 16, 2017 at 01:59 PM



“ *Michael George Spowles*

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM

TI

“ Today I finally read the posts honoring my father Thomas J. McMahon Jr. on his obituary in 2015 and I read a very moving comment from George, saying so many wonderful things about my father:

“To the family and friends of Thomas J McMahon. Tom was and still is a great inspiration to us that had the privilege of spending time with him. There are no words in any language that can truly express our deep feelings and grief we feel with his passing. To this end, I graduated High School (HS) with Tom. We shared many sports activities as well as social encounters. I had one hero in HS and that was Thomas J. McMahon. That feeling will always be with me. My deepest condolences to his family.

*Respectfully,
Michael G. Spowles
Summerville, SC”*

If someone from his family reads this I want you to know how much it moved me to read his words about my father. I searched for his name online to thank him and found this page, but I still want his family to know what his words would've meant to my father and I truly wish I could have known your father/husband/brother to let him know and since he seems like he was one of the great ones too. I hope the memories you have of George have made his loss more bearable over time and I wish your family all my best.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. McMahon III

Thomas J. McMahon III - September 22, 2022 at 10:14 PM

TI

I meant to write Michael George Sprowles. My apologies as I was emotional when typing that.

- Thomas J. McMahon III

Thomas J. McMahon III - September 22, 2022 at 10:17 PM

“ Dear Mike,

I was deeply shocked & saddened to hear of your passing. I don't recall when we first met, but I do know it feels like I've know you from my earliest childhood. It must have been around 7th grade when we each held down our territories at the opposite ends of the old "Speedway Tract" in Warminster. We would converge somewhere for a football game or go rat hunting w/ swords & bayonets behind the barn at the Warminster Tavern. Hearing that you were throwing "Pearl Bombs" at Godzilla in the old Hatboro Theater; I thought that was the coolest thing ever. Throughout High School we were totally into Track & Field where you did amazing things as a "Stick Man" (Pole Vaulter) as well as any other task you put your mind to. Remember when the Chocolate Pole was the one to have?

After Tennent when you & Steve enlisted in the Air Force, I thought a nice send-off time would be seeing "2001: A Space Odyssey" at the old Leo Theater; that got your head straight I guess! I wish I had more time to find all the letters & even a tape recording that you & Steve sent me from Thailand. I really enjoyed reading about your service & was honored that you wrote me.

I remember Carl Yetter & me visiting you at the Naval Hospital on your return & all the times we spent together while you were getting acclimated to the new U.S.A. Lots of adventures w/ horses, night raids & an assortment of unusual characters. You went off to Slippery Rock & there were some after midnight calls when you needed a ride from Route 80 or places beyond, a last minute winter's ride in Debbie's Mustang out to the "Rock" braving extreme temperatures & deep snow. Speaking of Debbie- The greatest prank ever when you invited me over to your wonderful parent's home & as I sat on the couch for over a half an hour the small doll in black pajamas & a Vietnamese straw hat leaped at me scaring the HOLY - - - out of me; Good one Deb! Your father could pull some good pranks too.

You got into a groove out in Ridgeway where Tom Forcey & I visited for a weekend. Tom remembers a lot, I remember nothing except sitting in your boat out on the reservoir. Then you had a nice home

in Carlisle & I only saw you when you came in for Reserves. I remember the wedding w/ Laura at St. John's, the church w/ so many happy & sad memories. Visits were far & few between regrettably, but I'm so glad that we got to reconnect at our reunion. I always wished I could've visited you in SC & reminisced even more, but I know in my heart what a true friend you will always be & share all those wonderful memories too.

Grayson

Grayson Henry - March 17, 2017 at 03:04 PM

DS

Thank You Grayson, I do remember just a few of those tales. Peace & Love xox

Debra Schad - March 17, 2017 at 08:20 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael George Sprowles.*



March 17, 2017 at 07:19 AM

DA

“ I met Mike back in 1973 at SRSC and have numerous fond memories. One memory (that can be shared with family) was the rafting trip on the Cheat River in WV. The trip was preceded by a long night of heavy drinking and little to no sleep. As we arrived at the river edge we realized that no one had considered food for the week end.. . except Mike. Mike brought out a picnic basket, complete with silver ware, napkins and plates. My mental vision was one of KFC or even better. But true to form, Mike presented us with a jar of horse radish and a box of saltines! Ah, the memories will never be forgotten.

Dave - March 16, 2017 at 08:13 AM

VM

“ Laura and family,

I worked with Mike many years with the Army prior to his retirement. He was a pleasure to work with, always smiling, never complaining...even when work drove all of us crazy. My thoughts and prayer go out to all of the family and, I must say - he lived life to the fullest. May God wrap his arms around you thorough this difficult period of your life.

Vickie Morris

Vickie Morris - March 16, 2017 at 08:03 AM

SL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Stephanie (Sprowles) Long - March 15, 2017 at 02:48 PM

SL

“ Every child has their favorite uncle growing up. The one who you couldn't wait to see, the one who spoiled you rotten, and made you feel ten feet tall. Uncle Mike was always my favorite. I remember when he lived in Carlisle, PA. His house was decorated in ducks. There were ducks everywhere! I remember Uncle Mike showing up one Christmas afternoon with a brand new pink bicycle for me. It was my first bike and it had pink streamers coming out of the handle bars. I remember when he built his house in Mt. Holly Springs ,Pa. It was when he lived here, we visited Gettysburg and I learned the entire history of the Civil War. I remember countless family vacations to Wildwood, NJ and one year to Sandbridge, VA. I remember it was this vacation (Aunt Laura was pregnant with Kyle) Uncle Mike told stories of his childhood with Dad and Aunt Deb. My favorite story began with "Yoohoo.. over here!" I still smile when I think about this story. I'll always remember his incredible knack for story telling. I numerous trips to South Carolina to visit (one involving a father/daughter road trip). I remember calling Uncle Mike to share happy news when my own parents wouldn't answer their phone. I remember the way he said, "Hi Steph" because it sounds just like my dad's voice. I remember how he was/is so much to so many. But to me, he will always be my favorite uncle. <3
Steph

Stephanie (Sprowles) Long - March 15, 2017 at 02:32 PM

DS

Sweet xox

Debra Schad - March 17, 2017 at 08:20 PM

YC

“ *Your SPAWAR co-workers purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Michael George Sprowles.*



Your SPAWAR co-workers - March 15, 2017 at 11:24 AM

SS

“ As I write this I wonder how my Brother lived so long. Mike was an intense person. At age 8 he escaped from the dreaded Catholic cloak room where nun's would put "bold upstarts" to remove them from the classroom. Mike simply went out the hallway door and walked home, which at this time was center city Philly. While stationed in Thailand together, Mike became a native and would often visit the lovelies after curfew. He simply took his favorite deuce and a half which he named "Don't Mean Nothing", and made a path through the jungle. Mike was accepted to Slippery Rock University and never applied. His twin brother enrolled him. Mike arrived at SRU during the war protest era of the early 70's in a modified Plymouth roadrunner with headers, wearing a civil war cavalry jacket, leather riding boots and caring a double barrel 12 gauge shotgun. It was around this time we decided to go whitewater rafting during a flood in West Virginia. Mike pulled Charley Trougher out of the water by his hair (he was drowning) said the hell with this and hiked over the mountain with a paddle to protect himself from critters. Upon graduation from Special Forces school, Mike hitchhiked south to find his college sweetheart, only to be "escorted" out of town by the local police (years before Rambo). As a First Sergeant for a USAF Red Horse squadron, Mikes unit received and outstanding achievement award for there work in Bosnia during a 3 week tour. Years later I found out from a former Air Police Sergeant who was stationed there at the same time, that he never saw such a groups of drunks who worked so hard and often wound up in the brig, only to have Mike get them out. Those of you who were close to Mike know that he had a lot in common with Sinatra "MY WAY". These are just of few of my Brothers exploits. I will miss him dearly and love him forever.

Brother,
Stephen

Stephen Sprowles - March 15, 2017 at 09:54 AM

MS

I wish that I could share the sort of memories that I've read here (lord knows that we all have at least one). But, I'd like to share a one about when my Uncle

Mike and his kindness played a role in me meeting the woman that would become my wife.

I was living in Charlotte, NC at the time, and had found work on a boat leaving from Charleston.

Well Uncle Mike insisted that I not only leave my car at his house, but that I come down a few days early to catch up. In the way that only he can (involving a few beers, a cigar or two, and The Flying Dutchman Overture) he prepared me for the voyage where I would meet my one-day-wife. If not for his insistent kindness, his heady conversation, and his unique way of bolstering one's attitude... I certainly would not have been able to catch that boat, and I seriously doubt that I would have had the adventurer's attitude (one that has left a lasting impression) necessary.

Uncle Mike's impressions were seldom subtle and often long-lasting. He made the lives around him brighter, and those who knew him were honored to do so.

*With all sincerity,
His nephew,
Michael R. Spowles*

Michael R. Spowles - March 17, 2017 at 07:24 AM

BS

“ *I read that "Because you love much, you grieve much". My heart is broken.*

Bea

Beatrice Spowles - March 13, 2017 at 07:50 PM

ER

“ *To Mikes family and friends you are in our thoughts and payers
Mike will be missed we had some great times at the Rock
A FINALE SALUTE TO MY FRIEND*

ed&judi rooney - March 12, 2017 at 07:09 PM

DS

“ Michael you were, and still are a most wonderful Brother. You held my hand when we crossed the street. You wiped my tears when our dog Sugar went to Doggie Heaven.

You taught me how to drive, shoot a bow, and throw an ax. You use to let me drive your supercharged road runner car, until I got it banned from Horsham Township. (sorry) You saved my butt by repairing a hole that I burned in my new dresser, by burning incense without putting a plate underneath. You taught me how to carve a pumpkin, 30 of them after we burned a fatty on Halloween. Thank you for all your advice on boyfriends. And thank you for teaching me to be strong, I am strong when I am on your shoulders.

Thank you for being the Godfather to my son.

Thank you for being kind and generous. And Thank you for the dirty ernie joke. I will miss you with all of my Heart. And I will LOVE you forever. Sweet Dreams Sweet Brother xox

PS sorry you had the bedroom with the sewer pipe coming through it..... what can I say, the rent was cheap...xox

Debra Schad - March 12, 2017 at 12:58 AM

DS

“ 4 files added to the album Michael



Debra Schad - March 11, 2017 at 01:01 PM

MX

“ Mother & Sis xox purchased the Sunny Memories for the family of Michael George Sprowles.



Mother & Sis xox - March 11, 2017 at 12:27 PM

SG

“ Mike was a great friend and teammate in high school and his mother was like a second mom to me and many others. I think we actually called her mom. I remember playing many pick up football games across the street from their home on Madison Ave with Mike and other friends. I am proud to have my name on the WTHS Veterans Wall of Honor with Mike. We haven't had contact for many years but seeing him at the 50th reunion was a special moment in time. Needless to say it came as a big shock when I learned of his passing this week. My sincere condolences to Mrs. Sprowles, Stephen, Debbie and of course to his wife and sons.

Steve Gordon



Steven Gordon - March 11, 2017 at 12:03 PM

DS

Thank You Steve, Peace & Love xox

Debra Schad - March 12, 2017 at 01:00 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael George Sprowles.*



March 11, 2017 at 11:59 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Michael George Sprowles.*



March 11, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ *Mike was a wonderful man and a great friend. He will be missed by his Ice House Family. My deepest sympathy to his family for their loss. Paula Carpenter*

Paula Carpenter - March 11, 2017 at 06:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael George Sprowles.*



March 11, 2017 at 12:05 AM