



Michael A. Birr

July 2, 1949 - September 9, 2024

Michael A. Birr, age 75, of Kankakee, passed away Monday, September 9, 2024 at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn.

He was born July 2, 1949 in Kankakee, the son of Charles & Doris Arthur Birr.

Michael married Mary Buntin on May 6, 1972 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee.

Michael was a 1967 graduate of Kankakee High School.

He was a bricklayer for 30 years.

Michael was involved with Kankakee Valley Theatre for many years.

He enjoyed traveling to New Orleans with his wife and spending time with his family.

Michael was a lifelong active member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee, where he served as maintenance director for more than 30 years. He participated in the Asbury Chancel Choir since he was 9 years old.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Mary Birr of Kankakee; his mother, Doris

Birr of Kankakee; two daughters, Gail & Jeremy Silcox of Bourbonnais and Sarah & Matthew Raymond of Kankakee; one brother, Steven & Sally Birr of Bourbonnais; two sisters, Ruth & Thomas Denoyer of Kankakee and Lori & Richard Morris of Manteno; two grandchildren, Carter Silcox and Connor Silcox; and many nieces and nephews.

Michael is preceded in death by his father.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial visitation will be held 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 2024 at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

An additional visitation will be held 10:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Visitation

SEP 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church
196 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-4408

Memorial Service

SEP 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church
196 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-4408

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Mike and I were members of the same handbell choir at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee. Among the many memories we shared there, was an appearance on the Ted Mack Amateur Hour on television. I am learning of Mike’s passing quite late, but I want to pass along my condolences and a wish for peace to his family.

Dan Cooper - January 01 at 12:35 PM

DC

“ Mike was truly a friend and I will continue to miss his friendship. My sister Jeanne and I grew up in the same church community as Mike. We shared many memories and good times. I was in not only church related vocal choirs with Mike, but also an instrumental hand bell choir that was featured on the television show, The Ted Mack Amateur Hour. My sister got to see Mike again after all these years, at a couple of funeral-related services in recent years. I envy her that time of reconnection with Mike. Of course, my condolences to the family at this time of great emotion. May all of you find the peace needed and deserved at this time.

Dan Cooper - December 01, 2024 at 12:45 PM

MF

“ Mike was a Good friend and dedicated KVT supporter and helper when we worked together. You could always count on his help. Sad to loose him, know he will be missed at church as well. God speed.

Mike Fitch - September 15, 2024 at 09:12 AM

JM

“ Mary and family....Phyllis let me know about Mike. Dick and I are so sorry for your loss. Praying comfort and peace from our Heavenly Father now and the days ahead..

Johanna McCarty - September 14, 2024 at 01:01 PM

BS

“ Mike was a wonderful kind man. I always enjoyed seeing him at church or at the community players events when visiting with my Mom, Rita Bowsher. God Bless his family & friends as they grieve his loss.

Becky Bowsher Shea - September 13, 2024 at 12:41 PM

SH

“ Dear, Sweet Mike ~ SO loved by absolutely everyone! I loved our conversations about the good ole days at KHS...we will miss you terribly! Prayers for the family, may God give you comfort and strength...

Shari - September 12, 2024 at 02:28 PM

SN

“ Besides being my cousin, Mike had a beautiful voice. He was kind enough to sing at my wedding and he sounded wonderful.

Sandy Netzel - September 11, 2024 at 11:15 PM

DM

“ Gordy and I always enjoyed our time at KVT with Mike. Gordy always greeted him as the "bearded one". My heartfelt condolences to Mary and the rest of the family.

Donna McCollum - September 11, 2024 at 06:22 PM

DS

“ Gail, your father seemed to have been amazing in life creating beautiful and loving memories to you and your family. Love to you during this time of sorrow.

Diane Siaroff - September 10, 2024 at 08:39 PM

SB

“ Mike Birr as a solid a human being to ever walked this earth. We went to school together all those many years ago, and he always performed and volunteered wherever he was needed. He defined what a stalwart meant at Asbury. Always happy to see him at my mother and grandmother's church. They loved Mike's quiet strength! He will be missed as a rock of the community.
RIP Steve Bowsher

Steve Bowsher - September 10, 2024 at 06:17 PM



“ Rest in Peace, Mike. You were one of the best people to ever have walked the earth.



Bob Schneider - September 10, 2024 at 10:50 AM

BS

Well Mike was one of those people that was just there not to make him self notice just the opposite there to help. I remember we would bring a funeral to church and there stood Mike, he would say what do you need we would say we need this or that and the thing there it was. Mike as kind, thoughtful and caring. Think you Mike for being just Mike. You will be missed. See you later.

Bruce Schreffler - September 14, 2024 at 10:37 AM

NF

I have such fun memories of Mike during my KVT years. I remember him as quiet, sweet, and always willing to help. Always. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Norma Felbinger - September 22, 2024 at 11:46 AM

NF

I had intended this to say "I have such fond memories of Mike..." But the auto corrected one fits as well.

Norma Felbinger - September 22, 2024 at 11:47 AM