

Michael C. Shults, known as Mike to his friends and Papa to his family, 71, of Palmer & Barrow, Alaska, passed away surrounded by family on August 14, 2025.

Born in Auburn, Washington on October 22, 1953.

Mike spent his life dedicated to his community, his family, and the many young lives he mentored over the years.

Mike worked for the North Slope Borough school district in Barrow, Chugiak & West High Schools for many years, in multiple roles, where he was known for his unwavering commitment to mentoring and youth development. He ended his career in workforce development helping people find training and jobs. He donated countless hours to his communities over the years as a Lions Club member. He loved Christmas and played Santa for the children of Barrow and his family and friends. His love for sports led him to coach multiple teams, and he brought enthusiasm, encouragement, laughter and heart to every game. A passionate softball player, Mike found joy on the field and built lasting friendships through the sport. He loved visiting Loreto, Mexico and made many friends that he'd call family there as well. He was such a presence that the resort included "Miguelito" as he was called, in their trainings for new employees. He was quick with a joke and always ready to lift the spirits of those around him. His warmth, humor, and deep care for his friends and family made him a beloved figure in the community.

Michael is survived by his loving wife, Cindy; his three sons and their wives, Kelly & Michelle, Kevin & Amanda, Alan & Kellie; his grandchildren, Hayden, Delaney (husband Pavel), Brady, Daniel, Naya (husband Will), Avery, Eva, Lyla, Alasdair (wife Hailey), and Wyatt (wife Madelyn); and his great-grandchildren, Willow, Daniel, Adeline and Saylor - he was looking forward to meeting his newest twin granddaughters, born a week after he passed as well as a great grandson that is due in December. Mike also leaves behind his sisters Kathy Tanaka (husband Rick and family), Joanne Kaiser (husband Steve and family), Pamela Scott-Lie (husband Stein and family), the Pedrini family Lola, Rob (wife Kelly) Cathy and Mike.

In addition to his family he left behind 33 canes, hundreds of cast iron pans, 22 wine glasses (each one his favorite as long as it was full of wine) Michael's legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the teams he coached, and the family he cherished. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

During this time of remembrance, if you would like to share memories or send condolences, please feel free to do so. Your thoughts and kind words are greatly appreciated. Please send to: cshults@hotmail.com