

Michael Jerry Veenendaal

September 14, 1947 ~ June 30, 2021

Our beloved husband, father, grandpa, brother, uncle and friend passed away peacefully June 30, 2021 after a valiant struggle with Cancer.

He was born September 14, 1947 to George Arthur and Aleen Whitman Harrison Veenendaal in Salt Lake City, Utah. He met and later married Marilyn Russell on March 13, 1970 in the Salt Lake City Temple.

Mike attended Olympus High School, after which he moved to Utah Technical College to obtain an associate degree in Fire Science.

He was employed for 5 years at Zions First National Bank, served as President of George's Plastic Laminating (family business) and then moved on to where he spent his career employed by Sandy City Fire Department for 33 years after volunteering for them for 5 years. He along with his brother Dan were instrumental in instigating the Hug-A-Bear Program for the fire Department in Sandy. He assisted in attaining the new innovative Transport Engine, the first one in the state of Utah. He eventually retired in 2009 as Deputy Fire Chief.

After retiring from the fire department, he continued and finished his career working 7 years at the Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC) as Director of the Fire dispatch. He was instrumental in starting the Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) for the state of Utah. This was an organization to help handle the stress and day to day trauma experience of first responders. He also helped to organize the METRO automatic aide for area fire departments.

He belonged to the State Fireman's Association for 51 years where he served as Chaplin for 2 years.

As an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mike served a two year mission to the North British Mission. He loved and had a great Testimony of Jesus Christ. He served in two Bishopric's, the Stake Presidency, but most of all loved working with the youth when he served as Stake Young Men's President and had a dedicated involvement in scouting for many years.

Mike loved to volunteer. He worked at the Ching Rescue Farm, and the CAWS Society, was a member of the Sandy City Exchange Club serving 2 years as president and was the Coordinator of the Community of Sandy City's Citizen's Pride Days.

He loved Cars and bought a new one every 3 years stating that you can either make a car payment every month or spend the money repairing one. This love carried through going to the NHRA drag races every October with his son or any member of the family who would go with him.

He loved to cook and took gourmet cooking classes, often cooking at many occasions for us and others.

He made friends wherever he went and was greatly respected by all. He never judged anyone, but always had a helping hand reached out to those in need. Most of all he loved spending time with his family, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They had many unusual but MEMORABLE adventures together.

His motto was: EVERY DAY IS A GREAT DAY – SOME JUST BETTER THAN OTHERS!

He is survived by his Wife of 51 years, Marilyn; Children: Missy (Dave) Widdison, Michelle (Jason) Anderson, Michael (Michelle) Veenendaal Marci (Mark) Legerski. Grandchildren: Skyler, Kira, Sierra, James, Saxton, Taylor, Owen, Ryker, Corbin, Zaiden, Annalyn. Great Grandchildren: Rayne, Zyaire, Liam.

Preceded in death by his parents George and Aleen Veenendaal, in-laws Orvid and Trena Russell, sister Louise Swenson, and two grandchildren Kaitlyn and Hunter Anderson.

Our family would like to thank all of the doctors and nurses who served him at the Huntsman Cancer Center. Also Bristol Hospice services especially Natalie, Mike, and Dave.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 11 AM at the Sandy West Stake Center, 8680 South 220 East in Sandy. A viewing will be held Tuesday evening from 6-8 PM at Larkin Sunset Gardens Mortuary, 1950 E. Dimple Dell Road in Sandy, as well as just prior to the funeral services beginning at 10 AM at the Stake Center. Interment to follow services at Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery.

Those wishing to attend the services virtually or who may not be able to attend in person may watch the services which will be streamed via Zoom by clicking on the "Watch Services" button above. You will be required to sign in to a Zoom account in order to watch the services.