



Michael A. Conner

February 19, 1994 - April 27, 2020

MICHAEL ALEXANDER CONNER, 26, of St. Petersburg, Pa. went to be with the Lord on Monday (04-27-2020) following a long, hard battle with addiction. Born in Clarion, Pa. on February 19, 1994, he was the son of Mark and Mary Beth Freeberg Conner, who survive of St. Petersburg.

He was a 2012 graduate of Allegheny Clarion Valley School and Clarion Co. Vo-Tech.

He had been employed by Miller Welding of Brookville, and later by Alturna Mats of Titusville as a machinist. He was quite proud of his welding portfolio and heavy equipment operator's license.

Michael was a gentle giant with a heart of gold and was especially fond of nephews Jacob and Rowen, and niece Megan. Mike enjoyed four-wheeling, video games, woodworking, and spending time with family and friends.

"Mike" was a gentle soul who could light up a room with his smile, wicked sense of humor, and yet could be feisty and outspoken, and all the while would have done anything for anyone struggling with his demons. He never wanted to be defined by his addiction or mistakes, and truly had high hopes for his future in being a light for others struggling with his affliction.

Many times he spoke of felling the judgment and condemnation of society. We as a family hope that his life and death help shatter that stigma of addiction with others. We as a family feel the best manner to honor "Mikey" is for anyone reading this or knew him to think twice before judging an addict, but rather to choose compassion and reaching out to others in this situation.

Addiction does not define nor does it discriminate; it will take hold and destroy anyone in its path including the family and people who love them. Addiction is a demon that is wiping out a generation of loved ones with serious conflict.

“Mike” was not just another statistic or “one gone too soon”, but was a special gift to his family and anyone who crossed his path in his journey of life.

In addition to parents, he is survived by two sisters: Marissa (Emil) Fischli of Hasson Heights, and Malia Conner of St. Petersburg; two brothers: Mitchell (Randi) Conner of Elwood City, and Matthew (Emily) Conner of North Huntingdon; maternal grandmother, Elaine Callander Simpson of West Freedom (Parker); maternal grandfather: John (Judy) Freeberg of Houtzdale, Pa.; a number of nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Doyle and Doris Conner and his maternal step-grandfather Larry Simpson.

Due to the Corona-virus, and following the guidelines set by the CDC and Pa. Dept. of Health, a private visitation and funeral will be held for Mike Conner, followed by a private burial at Mt. Calvary Cemetery at Dutch Hill in Perry Twp. Clarion Co. A public memorial service may be held at a later date. he family suggests memorials to Not One More Clarion, % KGC Federal Credit Union, 778 Beatty Ave., Knox, Pa. 16232 or Hope Rising Church, 240 Liberty St., Clarion, Pa. 16214.

Tribute Wall

IJ

“ Dear Conner Family: Condolences on the passing of your loved one. What a powerful message you gave in Michael's Obituary; letting others know the heartache and testimony of this horrible addiction was beautifully done.. Prayers for comfort and strength.

Irene M James - May 11, 2020 at 02:41 PM

MC

Thank you, if his story helps just one person then his death was not in vain.

Mary Beth Conner - July 08, 2020 at 10:35 PM

MC

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Mary Beth Conner - May 08, 2020 at 01:33 AM

KK

*I am so sorry for your loss. I do not know you or your son but I know this disease. I am an addict. I have 4 years of sobriety and I beg and plead everyday that I stay sober. I know that Michael wanted nothing more than to live a long life with you all. But it's q
Guaranteed he lived a full one regardless of the time. Living with this disease is exhausting. At times it can really stifle your spirit. It's like being held captive, wanting to dance in the sunshine and breathe in fresh air but you're stuck in darkness. Michael is free now. His spirit soaking up all the love and sunshine that surrounds him. I hope that brings some solace to your grief.*

kristen krueger - May 10, 2020 at 07:10 AM

MC

Thank you for your kind words.

Mary Beth Conner - July 14, 2020 at 05:58 PM

KB

“*To the entire family, I am a relative of your in-laws (Smith). We are all thinking of you and sending many loving Prayers to hopefully get you through this difficult time. Know that you have friends every where that is Praying that God will lend you our strength for the days ahead.- Kim H & family, Charles & Peggy B.*

Kim H, Charles & Peggy B. - May 01, 2020 at 06:10 PM

RW

My deepest condolences 🙏

Robin Weston - May 03, 2020 at 08:44 AM

MC

Thank you.

Mary Beth Conner - July 14, 2020 at 05:58 PM

SG

“ I don't know any of your family but I would like you to know that I'm so sorry for your loss. I have lost 2 of my children due to drug overdoses. I know the pain and heart ache you are feeling. My 2 children were not bad people either. They were beautiful with such loving hearts & kindness to everyone. May God bless you and comfort you in the difficult days ahead!
Love & prayers are being sent to you. Sharon Gathers 🙏🕊️



Sharon Gathers - May 01, 2020 at 12:02 PM

MC

Thank you Sharon, it is comforting to hear from others who have gone through it. Bless you and I'm sorry for your losses also.

Mary Beth Conner - July 14, 2020 at 06:00 PM

TH

“ There are no words to describe the loss of a child. My heart goes out to all involved.

May your good memories guide you through this trying time.

Sincerely ,Tim Harkness

Tim Harkness - May 01, 2020 at 10:14 AM

DS

“ My heart goes out to your family and I am so sorry for your loss. I too am the mother of an addict. My son is 27. I know what you have been through. God bless you and may Mikey rest in heaven.

Dede Smith - April 30, 2020 at 08:12 PM

CE

“ As a grandmother I feel your pain . It's hard to get through to someone that has a addition or depression . Our family is going through it. 🙏

Clara Egan - April 30, 2020 at 04:26 PM

JM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I am glad I had the chance to know Mike. He always lit up the room with his smile and dimples.

jody mortimer - April 30, 2020 at 12:32 PM

SB

“ My thoughts and prayers to Mark, Mary Beth and family.

Sue (Myers) Baylor - April 30, 2020 at 12:08 PM

MS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss! I never knew you or your son but after reading his obituary I needed to reach out to you! I lost my son to a drug overdose in 2014 and I can truly say I know what your feeling! My son had an addiction problem as well, he also had severe PTSD and had trouble sleeping and that's the reason for his overdose because he was trying to sleep. He served in the Iraq war, the military would not help him.
Again my condolences to you and your family!



michele schilling - April 30, 2020 at 12:07 PM

PG

“ *Mark, MaryBeth, and family...so sorry for your tremendous loss! There are no words. Just know that you will be in my prayers in the days, weeks, and months to come.*

Pam Gruver - April 30, 2020 at 11:09 AM

 Brent
Colleen
Kiehl

“ *My condolences to the family.
I read Michael's obituary on fb. It was like I was re reading my son's from 3 years ago.
My heart goes out to you all. And for all whom don't know the struggles that our loved one endured. They have finally found peace with no more pain.*



Brent Colleen Kiehl - April 30, 2020 at 11:07 AM

KP

“ *Though you don't know me, I wanted to tell you how powerful your message was in Michael's obituary. Your understanding of this horrific disease and your willingness to give testimony to his courage in the face of addiction was deeply moving. My prayers surround you and all those who suffer the ravages of this terrible pandemic...May your words of compassion and love offer hope and wisdom to all who suffer so deeply. With God's Blessings... Pastor Karen Parsh*

KAREN Parsh - April 30, 2020 at 10:37 AM

RM

“ *Mark, MaryBeth & family:
I think back on the little guy that was running around playing on the bleachers and doing what little brothers will do. While, he was enduring yet another baseball game of his big brothers. I haven't seen Mikey for many years, but your description of him tells me he grew up to be a gentle, kind person. I pray for your family for comfort in the days to come. We are so sorry for the loss of your precious son.*

Rhonda & Roger McCall

Rhonda McCall - April 30, 2020 at 10:22 AM

TD

“ *Sincere condolences to Micheal Conner's family & friends! R.I.P Mikey! Prayers for you all to get through this heartbreaking time!*



Tiffany Ditty - April 30, 2020 at 09:46 AM

CW

“ Although you don't know me I felt compelled to send my condolences. I lost my son Michael to addiction almost 7 years ago and his 2 brothers struggle with addiction as well. I am sure your son was a very special person with a struggle that many people don't understand. Your obituary was a beautiful tribute to his life. My heart breaks for you because I do understand the pain and just reading his story brought it all back. My advice is to talk to other parents that have gone through this to help you survive. I belong to a parent support group and we meet once a month. I realize you live a distance away but if you would like to come or just want to talk please email at jcwurster@comcast.net. I will pray for you and your family as you begin your grief journey. Sending a hug. Carole

Carole Wurster - April 30, 2020 at 09:32 AM

KM

“ What an amazingly written obituary. I am so sorry for your loss. I hope by sharing his story ,it will help others battling this horrible disease. May loving memories comfort you and your family during this difficult time



Kim Murphy - April 30, 2020 at 09:19 AM

CB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. As a sister who has a loved one fighting addiction, I feel your pain. His obituary was very meaningful.

*Retired Student Services
Clarion County Career Center*



Connie Bauer - April 30, 2020 at 08:29 AM

PS

“ Pam Simpson lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Conner



Pam Simpson - April 30, 2020 at 08:15 AM

RG

“ We are so sorry for your pain honey 😞 . I can't imagine the depth it goes. May the angels surround yours all within their wings and bring you comfort and peace and strength to go through this sad hard time. 🙏 . So many have gone because of this and it breaks our hearts for your loss. I'm here if you need anything, much love and many prayers sent over yours all 🙏🙏💔💙 Ron and Sue Gindlesperger



Ron and Sue Gindlesperger - April 30, 2020 at 07:52 AM

AC

“ Amy Callander lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Conner



Amy Callander - April 30, 2020 at 07:22 AM

DS

“ Mark, Marybeth, & family, our hearts break for you as you have lost your son. We cannot imagine your grief. We lift you in prayer today & many more to come as you try to live your lives without Michael. May God comfort you in this time. Sincerely, Dave & Shelley Seth

Dave & Shelley Seth - April 30, 2020 at 12:46 AM

CA

“ I’m so sorry for your loss Matt and Marissa.

Cori Anderson - April 29, 2020 at 10:13 PM

MM

“ Our deepest sympathy, you are all in our thoughts and prayers 🙏
Alison & Mark

mark milford - April 29, 2020 at 09:40 PM

MC

“ My condolences to the Conner family and friends of Mike. May God give you peace and comfort in the days, weeks and months to come as you grieve.

Maria Clark - April 29, 2020 at 09:25 PM

LP

“ I didn't know Mikey, yet he's family. And this family is strong. I admire you, Mark, Marybeth, Mitch, Marissa, Matt, Malia, Elaine. You've helped so many, and while you could have chosen to hide, you've stepped out to help others struggling with this same disease. Truly a family disease - one that affected you, too, and one that nobody understands unless they've lived through it. You've all posted pictures of a young man who loves his family, showing that Mikey was much more than this disease. I'm praying for all of you as you learn how to move forward with his memory and that, in sharing your story, you continue to help others.

Lacy Buzard Patrino - April 29, 2020 at 07:33 PM

LM

“ *Mikey was a sweet, young man. Thank you to his family for posting such an open and honest obituary. God be with you and send you comfort.*

Linda Miller - April 29, 2020 at 06:57 PM