



## Michael "Mike" Wayne Benefield

April 3, 1952 - March 11, 2018

Michael Wayne Benefield was born on April 3, 1952, at the U.S. Army Hospital at West Point Military Academy to Elinor Ruth Prince and Charles Rayford Benefield. Mike's father served in the U.S. Air Force during that time and was later deployed to Guam. After deployment, the Benefield family moved back to Dallas in 1954, and then to Mesquite in 1961.

Mike grew up attending Mesquite ISD schools and graduated as a proud Mesquite "Skeeter" in 1970. He was an excellent student and played basketball and baseball through junior high. His passion turned to baseball in high school, earning him a scholarship as a center fielder at Grayson County College. After Grayson, Mike traveled east to Stephen F. Austin State University and fell in love with the Piney Woods of East Texas. He was an active member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and graduated with a degree in business administration in 1974.

After graduation, Mike was presented the opportunity to work for a new local sporting goods store called Mesquite Sports Center. The owner, George Ralph Francis, was looking for someone just like Mike to help him with his new business and he couldn't have made a better choice. George would become Mike's mentor, trusted friend and business partner. Since 1975, and until just weeks ago, Mike helped build a stand-alone/brick and mortar family-owned business into one that is respected in its industry, not only locally but throughout the country. After selling the business to his trusted colleague, Danny Gregory, in 2004, he continued working for the store in outside sales and broadening its reach. This new role also allowed time to hone his entrepreneurial skills and invest in a variety of new ventures, including his favorite Cajun restaurant.

When a stage 4 colon cancer diagnosis struck Mike in 2014, his world – and his family's world – was rocked; but he handled it with dignity and strength every step of the way. He refused to let cancer define him or control his life; he never stopped dreaming, planning and investing in his family, friends, community and church. Mike was a devout Christian and never lost an opportunity to express his faith. That strong faith, combined with his personal discipline, contagious smile and unwavering positive attitude served him well through these years of illness and inspired all who knew him.

Mike is survived by his wife of almost 39 years: Cindy; daughter: Lesli and son-in-law

Stuart Browne; son: Drew and daughter-in-law Kelly and grandson Baker; parents: Ruth and Rayford Benefield; brothers: Chuck Benefield, Greg Benefield and sister-in-law Delana; a multitude of beloved nieces, nephews, special cousins– and many, many loving and devoted friends.

The family of Mike Benefield has been touched by the tremendous outpouring of love and support during his illness and death. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mike's favorite ministry through Eastridge Park Christian Church, "Calvary's Kidz", 2701 N. Town East Blvd., Mesquite, TX, 75150.

Funeral services will be held 11:00am Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at Eastridge Park Christian Church, 2701 N Town E Blvd, Mesquite, 75150, with Pastor Scott Wooddell and Bro. Dan Carroll officiating. Interment will follow at 3:00pm at Rest Haven Memorial Park. A gathering for family and friends will be held prior to the service at the church beginning at 10:00am.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Rest Haven Memorial Park**  
2500 State Highway 66 East  
Rockwall, TX, 75087

**MAR 14**   **Gathering**   10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Eastridge Park Christian Church  
2701 N. Town East Blvd., Mesquite, TX, US, 75150

**MAR 14**   **Funeral Service**   11:00AM

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Eastridge Park Christian Church  
2701 N. Town East Blvd., Mesquite, TX, US, 75150

**MAR 14**   **Interment**   03:00PM

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Rest Haven Memorial Park  
2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US,  
75087

# Comments

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“ Dear Cindy and Family,  
Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this hard time. Your family has made a huge impact in the Rockwall Family.  
Michele Jensen

Michele L Jensen - March 19, 2018 at 09:49 PM

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“ Cindy, we are just heartbroken that your sweet Mike has passed. If there is ever ANYTHING we can do to bring comfort to you, we will do it. We were out of state during his memorial, but you have been in our constant prayers. We think so highly of both of you. Sending our love to you, sweet girl, and your family.

Julie & Gene Burton - March 19, 2018 at 07:49 PM

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“ Dear Cindy,  
Just learned of Mike's passing and am deeply saddened, but knowing he is healed is a gift from God. Bless your family.  
Love,  
Hal and Sharon Cook

Sharon Coom - March 16, 2018 at 09:08 PM

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“ Cindy & Family,  
We were so devastated when we heard about Mike's diagnosis. We have been praying for Mike as well as all of you. It is so hard to lose the heart of a family. Knowing you are believers, we believe God will hold you close as you find your new normal as we pray with & for you in the Lord's name.  
Karen & Jerry Gatlin



Karen Goldsberry Gatlin - March 15, 2018 at 02:08 PM

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“ Dear Cindy and Family,

Many thoughts and prayers go out to you. I know your hearts are broken.

With Sincere Sympathy,

Sheri Hatzenbuehler Proske



**Sheri Proske** - March 15, 2018 at 09:48 AM

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“ I'm saddened to hear of Mike's passing, I enjoyed taking care of him during his chemo treatments at UT. My family also enjoyed seeing and visiting with him at Mesquite Sports over the years! A super nice man, he will definitely be missed!



**Traci Vike** - March 14, 2018 at 04:39 PM

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“ Mindy Berger lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" Wayne Benefield



**Mindy Berger** - March 13, 2018 at 09:55 PM

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“ The Spann Family lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" Wayne Benefield



The Spann Family - March 13, 2018 at 05:03 PM

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“ Shirley (Grafton) Laurence lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" Wayne Benefield



Shirley (Grafton) Laurence - March 13, 2018 at 02:55 PM



“ Cindy, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your precious family. I'm sorry I won't be able to attend services, but please know I'll be thinking of y'all. I'm so honored that I had the pleasure to meet Mike last summer when y'all were down on the coast. Love you and sending hugs.

Shirley (Grafton) Laurence - March 13, 2018 at 02:57 PM



“ We loved Mike and his family. I will really miss him.

The Stone Family

Mesquite TX

rick stone - March 13, 2018 at 07:20 PM

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“ Cindy and family, Ruth, Rayford, Chuck, Greg and extended family,

Our thoughts, prayers, concern, and love have been with you throughout Mike's illness. They certainly remain with you in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Our families share quite a lengthy history from childhood memories, days of baseball, basketball, MHS Class of 1970, and so many fond times experienced throughout the years.

May God surround you and comfort you with those rich memories that lift you most. Those days of laughter, sharing, and positive experiences that are so dear to each of you. So many share your loss and offer our most well intentioned words, thoughts,

and encouragement today and always. We know God is with you and Mike is in His care. We love you.

With our most heartfelt sympathy and condolences,

The Henson Family  
Dorothy  
Gill and Louise  
Monty  
Melanie and Rick Bolin  
Kim

**Gill Henson** - March 13, 2018 at 11:04 AM

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“ Condolences to Greg Benefield and family from the office staff, drivers and process servers at Special Delivery Service, Inc. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Rest in Peace, Mike.

**Special Delivery Service Inc.** - March 13, 2018 at 10:17 AM

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“ Cindy, I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Such a difficult time but you can do this. I know your faith and support group will get you through this and you will become a stronger person. Thinking of you with love... Susan Reinhardt Mills

**Susan Reinhardt Mills** - March 13, 2018 at 10:11 AM

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“ Mike was a great inspiration in his showing of courage and faith these past few years. He was a good friend and a fun golf buddy. I'm glad to know your hard days are over, Mike - No more bogeys, just "sandy poley pars" and birdies.

Wayne Adams

**Wayne E Adams** - March 13, 2018 at 09:47 AM

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“ Cindy, my deepest condolences to all of your and Mike's family and friends. I'm imagining him in Heaven, playing 36 holes of golf with daddy and Fincher today, all three healthy, laughing and at peace. Please let me know if you need anything and know I am praying for you all.

Kelley Francis Nail

940-368-7368  
Austin, TX

**Kelley Francis Nail** - March 12, 2018 at 02:16 PM

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“ Lit a candle in memory of Michael Benefield



**Joan Terry** - March 12, 2018 at 02:08 PM

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“ Jane Jones lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" Wayne Benefield



**Jane Jones** - March 12, 2018 at 01:26 PM