



Mr. Michael Anthony Whittaker

October 31, 1952 - December 11, 2014

Michael Anthony Whittaker, age 62 of Nashville, Tennessee formerly of Tullahoma, passed away Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014. Visitation with the family will be held Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, with funeral service with Military Honors following at 4:00 PM at the Chapel of Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home. Burial will be held Monday at 11:00 AM in Franklin Memorial Gardens in Winchester, Tennessee. Michael is survived by his wife, Ping Shen Whittaker, his mother Louise Wilder of Winchester, Tennessee, brothers; William E. McMahon, III of Rivermore, California, John Denis McMahon, of Santa Ana, California, and his half-sister, Rose Lawson of North Carolina. He is preceded in death by his father, Charles Ray Whittaker of Jacksonville, Florida. Michael was a graduate of Tullahoma High School (1970), Motlow State Community College (1972), and Middle Tennessee State University (1983). He served in the United States Navy, and was employed as a dedicated senior software developer for the Tennessee state government. Michael was characterized as a generous, compassionate, hardworking man. He was also an avid reader with a keen academic curiosity. In lieu of flowers, for those who wish, the family suggest making donations to St.Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Michael's honor. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105 (800) 873-6983 www.stjude.org. Those attending the burial on Monday, please meet at Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home at 10:15 AM Monday morning to go in procession.

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Franklin Memorial Gardens

Winchester, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **14**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home
401 N Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
(931) 455-3481

Tribute Wall



“ Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Michael Anthony Whittaker



Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home - December 15, 2014 at 03:16 PM



“ Mr. Michael Anthony Whittaker

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ To My Love Michael,

*Your inner strength as strong as rock-mountain,
Your heart as peaceful as tranquility of water,
Your affection as tender as silk,
You love as pure as gold!*

Ping Shen Whittaker - December 08, 2015 at 08:48 PM



“ Ping Shen Whittaker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael Anthony Whittaker



Ping Shen Whittaker - December 08, 2015 at 08:45 PM

PW

“ *Ping Shen Whittaker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Anthony Whittaker*



Ping Shen Whittaker - December 08, 2015 at 08:44 PM

“ Dear Friends and Family of Mike.

At Mike's service, his mother asked if I could write a few words about him and his work.

I first met Mike a couple years ago when my director asked me to bring him into the Business Intelligence team. His reason was that Mike didn't have enough to do in his current team and he had no idea if he had any IT ability. Mike was happy to make the move and happy to have work. After only a couple of weeks I reported back to my director that the new guy he sent to my team can do most anything. His IT talents are exceptional. The one thing that impressed me most about Mike is that he could always figure out what he didn't already know. When many developers would give up, Mike would always find a solution.

Mike's role in our Business Intelligence team was a mainframe programmer. In IT, few people can transition from Mainframe programming to other types of development because they are very different. However, after only a few weeks, Mike was onboard and writing code on the new system while still maintaining his mainframe responsibilities. I should mention that the applications he supported by himself used to require a team of four people. The other four developers left the team for one reason or another and I asked Mike to learn it. He did, and consistently told me he needed no help, that there was hardly enough work to keep him busy. That speaks to his skills as an IT professional.

On a personal note, I can say that everyone enjoyed working with Mike. His quirky sense of humor kept us all laughing and often times guessing. I was always amused when he would make some obscure reference then wait to see if anyone got it. Mike usually had something interesting to say, and sometimes not so interesting, but always entertaining. He was a good guy and someone we thoroughly enjoyed working with. His work ethic, eagerness to help, and determination to always do the best job he possibly could made him a highly valued asset to DHS, and especially to the Business Intelligence team.

We all miss Mike already.

I enjoyed meeting Mike's family yesterday, although I wish we could

have met under more pleasant circumstances. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

All the Best,

Karl

Ping Shen Whittaker - December 08, 2015 at 08:42 PM

JS

“ 6 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Jerry Siler - December 15, 2014 at 02:01 AM

BM

“ I remember a time when while we were living in the House on Cumberland Ave in Tullahoma..Our back yard at the time was a pretty wide green belt so we had no shortage of four legged visitors. One time Mike was trying to catch squirrel so I remember helping him catch it. We had chased it into the garage and Mike caught it.He kept in a big hamster cage that we had on hand. I think mom made him let it go after he had it a week or two. In the meantime he got to listen to Blood Sweat and Tears and Paul Revere and the Raiders albums my bother Mike would play. He'd sit in his room for hours and play records. He had a stamp and coin collection I think he worked on while he was listening. I remember taking some darts out of his room and trying them out on my brother John which led to a long talk with my mother about why I couldn't do that. I remember going to the Dairy Queen in Tullahoma to get ice cream. Mom, Mike, John and myself.... Mike had this huge Train set. It would dominate the living room and dining room. (Mom sure did put up with a lot.) Though I do recall a night or two, or three...lol..while Mike was in High School..Coming home in the wee hours..You know it was bad if Mom addressed you using your First, Middle, and last names...lol. My parents divorced early in my child hood and my Bother Mike became quite protective of mom. I was too but hey he was a lot bigger than me at the time..lol..you know he never stopped doing that either.. One of many things I always loved about him. He was always fixing things around the house making sure Mom didn't need help with anything. I love you Mike..I'm going to miss you until I see you again. -Your Brother Billy

Billy McMahan - December 15, 2014 at 01:49 AM

PM

“ When Michael came to work in our group we found out that his political beliefs were different than the rest of us. He still said what he believed. He gave me a beautiful Irish Blessing in a frame one day that I keep on my desk. We enjoyed going to lunch together and he was very fascinating to talk with. He told me about practical projects that he enjoyed doing for his home. He told me about a lecture about quantum physics at a church near Nashville. My wife and I went to it and were amazed by the ideas that the lecturer talked about. He liked the Great Courses that you could order videos of a variety of subjects. He loved thinking about the universe and physics. When the Commissioner of our Department asked our Director of Information Systems who he thought was doing the most valuable work, our director told her Michael Whittaker.

Pete McNally - December 13, 2014 at 11:58 PM

BB

“ This is so sad. This is such a great loss. Michael and I were childhood friends. His grandmother use to babysit me. You will be greatly missed Michael. Prayers for the family.

Becky Burt

Becky Burt - December 13, 2014 at 11:01 PM