



## Michael Meroney

November 23, 1945 - December 9, 2020

Michael Penn Meroney Born November 23, 1945 in Miami, Florida and passed away December 9, 2020 in Frisco, Texas.

Preceded in death by Father Charles Arthur Meroney and Mother Thelma Ward Meroney.

Survived by his wife Carol Elizabeth Meroney and children Charles Peyton Meroney and his wife Traci Leigh Meroney, Christina Gwyn Howard and her husband Shane Carl Howard and Mary Elizabeth Meroney and his grandchildren Max Hutton Meroney, William Connor Meroney, Hannah Elizabeth Howard, Danielle Howard and Koltin Howard.

After 25 years of fighting Parkinson's disease; Mike is finally free of the constraints of his physical body and is rejoicing with the Lord.

He was a man with enormous energy with many gifts and talents.

Mike lived an extremely full life even when fighting the effects of Parkinson's.

He had both an extremely intelligent and creative mind, immersing himself completely into his many passions.

As a young man in the 60's he experienced pop stardom as a member of a band called "The Briks".

Mike then became passionate for Christ by becoming a born again Christian and co-pastor of Calvary Bible Church. He raised his family working full time in a company he owned while attending Dallas Bible College pursuing a degree in Theology. He mastered both Hebrew and Greek so as to better understand scripture. His library was full of scholarly texts which continued to reference throughout his life.

What most would consider a hobby he was all in, learning everything he could about

whatever his passion was.

Sailing became books on strategy, race charts, timing practices, regattas, sail experimentation, etc..

Golf was another passion, he became a scratch player and played in a number of Pro-Am tournaments in Maui and Nassau with players such as Hale Irwin and Fuzzy Zoeller.

Fly fishing became yearly meccas to Lake City Colorado. Books on nymph and dry fly patterns, learning techniques for every river condition and time of day, practicing casting in backyard and local ponds. Once on his favorite mountain stream he would fish from before dawn to after dark with no breaks. Fly in nose, no problem, tape it down and fish till dark. He loved it and he mastered it.

Music came back as a passion in the mid 1980s and he formed a band called the "Pathetics". They played a number of local venues and recorded some original songs. His garage became a recording studio where the band would practice along with creating demo tapes for other musicians.

Bird hunting became yet another passion, full regalia and the best gear. Sandy, his German short hair became his lieutenant in the field and later his companion on the couch watching westerns and documentaries.

His boundless energy was not just for hobbies. He was also passionate about work. After the ministry he became a successful commercial real estate broker. After the real estate market crash he started a new career building provider networks for the largest PPO in the country. He was an entrepreneur at heart and spent the majority of his career with Health Care Data Solutions, a healthcare technology company he founded. There he mastered a number of technologies and developed numerous successful software solutions for the healthcare industry. He worked here until Parkinson's forced him to retire.

He embraced life to the fullest and was surrounded by the best of friends. His friends were so good to him and were a testament who he was. He loved being with them. There was always laughter and usually because of something he did or said. He was a beloved husband, father and friend. Those that knew him will always have some memory that brings them a smile, just like that sly little smile and twinkle in his eye when he was up to something.

To view Life-Stream click on link <http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/44610>



# Events

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**JAN Memorial Service**

02:00PM

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The Memorial Chapel at Restland Funeral Home

13005 Greenville Avenue at Restland Road, Dallas, TX, US, 75243

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 09 at 11:29 AM

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“ Peyton, you did an outstanding job of characterizing your dad. I felt Mike's spirit and visualized his mischievous grin throughout the day. He was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by you, your mom, sisters, and all his precious family. May God comfort you all continually during this season of grief.



vicki p williams - January 11 at 05:43 PM

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“ I met Mike when he came to TJ, and he immediately joined our group of friends. He was always happy, smiling and fun-loving. I have a vivid memory of Mike driving a huge emerald green Oldsmobile (formerly his father's) which we called the "Green Pea"! We would pile in, blast music and Mike would drive while waiving his hands in the air and singing whatever was on the radio. I loved seeing him 3 or 4 years ago at Diane Goodall Sealy's house at a party.  
Molly Malone

Molly Malone - January 09 at 05:24 PM

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“ I will really miss my best dance partner. Diane Goodall Sealy

Diane Sealy - January 09 at 01:31 PM



“ Peyton, So sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. He was such a nice man and glad I got to know him and you when we worked at SPA. You, and the rest of the Meroney Family, are in my prayers!



**Joe M Denton** - January 08 at 10:45 PM

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“ Margie & Chris purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Michael Meroney.



**Margie & Chris** - January 07 at 04:09 PM

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“ After reading Mike's obituary and more comments from some of his many friends I realized that although I have known Mike all my life, there were things I either didn't know about him or have forgotten. I was surprised to learn of Mike's mastery of both Hebrew and Greek to aid in his study of scripture. I also didn't know of his passion for sailing. Thanks to all of you who have left comments which help to create a wonderful narrative of some significant events in Mike's life.

Mike and I were very close growing up in Dallas, and I was honored to serve as "Best Man" for his wedding to Carol in the mid sixties. Shortly after that I moved to Arizona and my connection with Mike and Carol was limited to a few brief visits to Dallas. Mike did travel to Phoenix in 1970 to be in my wedding to Nancy, and then Mike and Carol came to visit us at our home in Redding, CA around 1997 just after Mike had been diagnosed with Parkinson's. Mike taught me how to fly fish and we had a great time hanging out and fishing until dark. After that, there were a few brief visits when I was in Dallas usually due to some family member having passed away. The last time was December, 2017 when I went to their home in Frisco and took Mike to lunch.

Mike was one of the most fun loving and courageous people I have ever met. I feel fortunate to have know him.

With love, Jim Pernell

Jim Pernell - January 07 at 04:09 PM

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“ Jim and Nancy Pernell purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Michael Meroney.



Jim and Nancy Pernell - January 07 at 01:17 PM

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“ Garden Cross was purchased for the family of Michael Meroney.



January 06 at 03:25 PM

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“ I am impressed with Mike’s accomplishments and all he has gone through over the years. What a long list of things he did and the hearts he touched. I am also impressed with Brian Mahon’s good memory! It certainly brought back lots of things I had forgotten. However, I will never forget Mike and Carol. Mike’s laugh and Carol’s sweet smile. Mike was a great friend to all. I was fortunate enough to hang with that whole gang my Junior and Senior year at Hillcrest. First with Frank X Tolbert and then with Doug Simril. My favorite music is still R&B like BB or Clapton etc. I have the most vivid memory of Mike playing Johnny B Good on his guitar at LouAnns. I can’t tell you who else was there, but Mike. I have a memory of him really getting into that song and he was bending over just like Chuck Berry. I have a horrible memory, but I can see that clearly. Carol and I had many adventures together as she dated Roy and I dated Doug for a time. We all ran with the “gang”. Tons of fun and great music.

I can see Mike walking along with his bounce and a smile on his face. He was always ready for fun and we had our share. Speaking of Doug and Cecil selling cars at Trophy Nissan, their theme song still plays to this day on TV... Trophy, Trophy Nissan..... Cecil told me years later they didn’t get credit or money for doing it. I can hear Doug’s voice in the background every time I hear it.

Carol was probably the sweetest person and most laid back of anyone. We had some crazy times together. When she got with Mike it sounds like they continued their life with family and lots of friends. Mike certainly kept busy despite his Parkinson’s, which would be really a difficult thing to do unless someone had a strong, positive attitude like he must have had.

Lastly, I regret that I have not seen either for many years which the exception of the 50th Hillcrest reunion. I enjoyed being with them then and wish I had kept our friendship alive.

Love to the Meroney family.

Kathy Ellis Wright

**Kathy Ellis Wright** - January 06 at 12:10 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Meroney.



January 06 at 11:40 AM

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“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Meroney.



January 06 at 11:38 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Meroney.



January 05 at 10:36 PM

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“ One more from St. Mark's that shows Mike's incredible heart to his friends:

My 2nd post following Wayne Warren's below:

Wayne,

If Mike is forming a band up there, he's probably doing it with Doug Simril who was also a member of our class but who left after 9th grade for TJ after his father had died unexpectedly that year and the family finances were temporarily uncertain. Doug played guitar and keyboards and sang backup for Boz and Steve Miller, sometimes rhythm guitar behind Steve and sometimes leading. Doug is on all of the early Steve Miller albums and on Boz's up through Silk Degrees. They all had been members together of the St. Mark's based The Marksmen along with Roger Gauling on vocals (and maybe bass, but I don't remember clearly) and Charlie Hyman on drums (and in an earlier iteration members included Baron Cass and a founding member whose name I can't remember).

Doug would have been the guy at most TJ and St. Mark's parties of our peer group who would have sat down at the piano to sing and play blues rock and to play rhythm and blues as Addison poignantly tells us about Mike doing in 2014. Doug also had a Gibson, BB King style or Les Paul style, really; and, of course, Les Paul was a regular visitor to the Miller household around the corner from Freddie White and taught Steve guitar. A small world connected through St. Mark's. The Gibson was always in Doug's car or van trunk because he would often sit in with blues and rock groups we went to hear in small venues around town. They would roll their eyes a bit at the white kid asking to sit in, as when it was a black blues joint on South Akard and no one but us was white, but once he started playing that all ended. Once Doug and I got to sit and talk with BB King in San Antonio at a UT-Austin SAE brother's wedding during the one semester Doug was in Austin because a woman in the party had a boyfriend who was a drummer backing up BB King at a Louann's style music and dance hall in San Antonio at the same time, and she took us by after one of the wedding dinners.

Doug and Mike were my best friends during times that were both good and difficult for each of us. We were in a group of good friends who all knew each other and who hung out together with varying degrees of connection to each other. Jimmy Wilcox, Freddie White, Frank Graham, Gerry Fine, Buddy Clark, Curt Duwe, Roy Franks, and Eckie Hudson all would have been included in the group, along with Jake Weatherford from Hillcrest.

For good measure, Doug ended up selling cars at Trophy Nissan along with Cecil Cotten of Mike's band, the Briks. A lot of ex-rockers went to pasture there. My mother sent me a Times Herald article which had Doug arguing stubbornly with the producer about the syncopation at the recording of the Trophy Nissan ad jingle that I think Cecil had written and that some of you may remember.

To complete the circle, Doug died in his early to mid-40's of throat cancer—too much alcohol and cigarettes. I didn't find out until a few years after when my stepsister

heard about it from Frank Graham, one of whose children played soccer with one of hers. When I connected with Mike in late 2014, I asked him if he had been around for Doug's death and dying. So who was there with Doug as he lay dying and took care of Doug's funeral arrangements? Mike, of course.

They were good times with strong connections. We are all in sympathy with Carol and all of Mike's family and we are all grieving.

With love,  
Brian Mahon

**Brian Mahon** - December 21, 2020 at 06:33 PM

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“ More from St. Mark's, from Allen Cullum, the class historian, from Addison Wilson who knew Mike at Walnut Hill and TJ and from Wayne Warren who knew him from the St. Mark's luncheons.

Allen Cullum: I really thank Richard for saying what he says below. Each of us is a better person for having known Mike Meroney.

I think about the times that I do not want to go to the trouble to do something or go somewhere – poor me! Think about Mike and the “trouble” that he went to each time he came to our monthly lunches, especially the Holiday Lunch, or to our Reunions every 5 years, as he did to our 55th Reunion on 4/27/19 (as shown in the attached photo).

Once, Mike told me how he came to be expelled from St. Mark's, maybe in the fall when we were all juniors. He had a weekend party at his home and somehow Chris Berrisford, the Headmaster, learned of it and called Mike to his office. He indicated to Mike that he'd be more lenient on him if he'd tell him who else from St. Mark's was at the party. Mike refused, so the next day Mike was attending Hillcrest (TJ, of course)

Mike was a good man, and we are fortunate to have had him as a classmate. I am glad that our class is “inclusive” and includes people like Mike as class members, whether they graduated or not.

Addison Wilson: About 6 years ago, when all of us were working on our 50th, I was invited to a TJ “type” 50th party. I knew all that group from my early grade school capers at Walnut Hill School. Later Meroney and Jordan and I opened John J. Pershing (1956). Anyway, in spite of his Parkinsons, 6 years ago Meroney sat down at a piano at the TJ party and started some rhythm and blues. He could still do it after all those years. Then after 2-3 minutes, and in the middle of his medley, the Parkinsons hit him and he just fizzled. It was just like the same way he lived his life: extra capable, strong and passionate, and giving it all he had until he had no more. Isn't that what we all want?

Wayne Warren: I didn't know Mike in school but helped him during our luncheons. Reading everyone's remembrances of him and the amazing things he accomplished and the suffering he went thru for so long has brought me to tears. He is probably forming a band up in heaven.

**Brian Mahon** - December 21, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ I was the drummer for the Briks and was amazed at his passion for music. We were very popular in Dallas and played a lot of gigs. We were all proud of our success and Mike was always pushing us to get better and make it to the big time. Unfortunately some of us got hit with Vietnam draft and had to leave the band. Mike stayed on then moved on to his next experience. In 92ish Mike got Cecil Cotton, Lee Hardesty, myself and another guitar player to fill in for Richard Borgens and rehearsed and jammed every week for several months in Mikes garage studio and played for the 30 year Thomas Jefferson reunion. Carol was a

princess to put up with us. Mike loved music even while his Parkinson's continued to impede his playing music. Mike was a strong Christian and I am sure he is organizing a band in Heaven. Mike was a true friend and always stayed in touch and called me often.  
Steve Martin

**Steve Martin** - January 05 at 11:15 PM

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“ Mike is being remembered warmly on a St. Mark's email thread of the Class of 64 whose monthly lunches and reunions Mike attended. I'm cutting and pasting some of the comments. Mike was appreciated and loved.

My 1st post:

I found out about Mike's death a few days ago from Gerry Fine, a mutual friend of Mike's and mine, who went to TJ and Allen Academy back during our school days. Mike was a very good friend to me from 9th grade through my leaving for NY and NYU after 1 1/2 years at UT-Austin, and afterwards for a week when I returned to Dallas for my draft physical after drawing a low lottery number in 1969-70. I found out about his Parkinson's when Hillcrest set up a still well-frequented social website for the 50th reunion of the class of 64. I had commented on the death of Cecil Cotten, the leader of the Briks, from Parkinson's and mentioned my connection to Mike as a band member. Mike went to TJ after St. Mark's but was in a 64 Hillcrest yearbook picture of the band posted on the website. Mike's wife, Carol Neil, was in the Hillcrest class of 64, and a friend of hers told me about his Parkinson's and gave me his contact information. I touched base and got to see Mike and Carol for brunch in the Turtle Creek area when Alice and I visited later in 2014 for my mother's 95th. I had to catch him in the mornings on the phone because his speech was best then; between his speech and some hearing loss of mine, it was too difficult otherwise, but we were immediately comfortable together as if no time had passed and as if I had not been estranged from Dallas and out of touch with him for almost 50 years. We soon knew that our political leanings were very different, as were our religious beliefs, and that he was a hunter and that I hadn't shot a gun since killing a rabbit in Colorado during my junior high school year there. But Mike said, with feeling, "None of that matters." He was still a good, loving friend. In 2018 he asked if I wanted to go hunting with him and Roger Gaulding and Eckie Hudson in Montana (or is it Wyoming?). I told him it wasn't possible and wasn't something I could or would do, but basically he was telling me again that he was a good friend and wanted to include me. I didn't stay in touch enough and had been planning to call him over these holidays. I am saddened deeply and his death is weighing on me, but I also appreciate how much both he and Carol suffered with his early onset, severe Parkinson's.

I knew about Mike's career accomplishments because he regaled me with them at the brunch in late 2014 (he wanted me to know that he had been somebody, but I didn't need him to tell him that because he had always been somebody to me and still was). I had not known about his scratch golf play or fly fishing prowess, the self-taught Hebrew and Greek, and his scholarly immersion in areas of interest. I was not too surprised about the golf or fly fishing. I spent a lot of days and nights at Mike's house, and we spent hours playing pool both down on Industrial Blvd and at the pool table in his large 'suite' of a bedroom where he applied himself with fervor to becoming a masterful pool player. That he became a master of 2 other stroke and rhythm sports made sense. He was not much of a student in high school, but there's an object lesson there about how academic test scores only roughly reflect intelligence and may predict college test scores but not necessarily a well-lived life.

I hope that St. Mark's does not still practice in loco parentis discipline when something happens outside of the school. That is how Steve Miller and some others

also were expelled before Mike. Part of my student activism at NYU was serving as an elected member of a Student Faculty Committee that ended in loco parentis practices at NYU as students were getting disciplined when arrested at antiwar demonstrations and civil rights demonstrations.

I will miss him and will remember him dearly.  
Brian Mahon

**Brian Mahon** - December 21, 2020 at 06:22 PM

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“ Mike was always such a dynamic, fun person to be with!! He had a wonderful sense of humor and loads of ideas to keep things from getting dull!!! He was a true delight to know and, although he will be deeply missed, he is finally free to dance and sing with Jesus!!God bless you sweet family!!



**vicki P Williams** - December 18, 2020 at 06:51 PM

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“ Mike and I grew up together in Dallas. We spent many a happy time together swimming in the creek on his property and playing “army” by the old railroad tracks that used to run behind his house. We would spend the summers shoeless, walking and riding bikes on the neighborhood streets. Mike and I have been friends for almost 75 years, I will miss him.

**Jim Pernell** - December 17, 2020 at 11:13 AM

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“ I began 5th grade with Mike at JJ Pershing in its opening year (1956). I have had contact with him at some level throughout time, from college in Lubbock and Denton to deer hunting with him for years to numerous social encounters. I believe Mike had the finest brain of anyone I've ever known and he used it with a passion for whatever was the subject du jour - always all in!

The disease was terrible and he handled it very well and his wonderful wife, Carol, was a Godsend. What a shame they had to deal with that beginning at too young an age.

I shall always remember his unique laugh whenever I think of him.

**Howie Irwin** - December 14, 2020 at 09:32 AM

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“ Laura McGowen is following this tribute.

**Laura McGowen** - December 13, 2020 at 07:47 PM

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“ What a beautiful soul God gave my Uncle Mike! I have many fond memories spending time at the Meroney house. Mary Elizabeth and I would listen to the Beach Boys records over and over in her little red chair, Uncle Mike would follow us around with the camera and make us laugh and always encouraged us to sing in the garage despite how shy we were. He would practice magic tricks on us and I remember one Halloween he put speakers in the yard and talked from a microphone inside the house to the trick or treaters. So many great memories. My heart is heavy for the entire family. I love you all Meroney family! Eternal rest grant unto Uncle Mike and may Christ's love pour over each of you. Much love and blessings, Laura Leigh



**Laura McGowen** - December 13, 2020 at 07:35 PM

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“ Count it all joy that Michael has fallen asleep into the arms of Jesus and has began his eternal life.

**wayne h mcgowen** - December 13, 2020 at 02:18 PM