



Professor Michael Jenkins

September 30, 1931 - June 13, 2020

Professor Michael W. M. Jenkins died peacefully in hospice in Marietta, Georgia on June 13th 2020, at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife, Thelma May -- who was at his bedside when he passed -- his son, Mark Andrew, and daughter, Sharon Ann, and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Arthur William Jenkins and Elsie Leonora Jenkins (nee Edney), and all eight of his siblings.

Michael was born on September 30th, 1931 in Gloucester, England. From an early age Michael was fascinated with airplanes. His early memories of the Battle of Britain, fought in the skies above his homeland, forever shaped his dreams. Even in his later years, seeing a Spitfire in flight still evoked powerful emotions.

In 1948, he started an apprenticeship at Gloster Aircraft Company learning the craft and art of building airplanes in the factory. In 1956, he married his sweetheart, Thelma May Hopkins and in 1961 the couple welcomed their first child, Mark.

In 1963, the family moved to the US and then made their way south to Georgia. In 1966, Michael began working at Lockheed's Marietta facility, finishing in the Aeronautics Advanced Design Department. In 1970, the family welcomed a daughter, Sharon, into their lives.

Pursuing his passion for aeronautics and education was a life dream for Michael. In 1988, he began teaching aerospace design at Georgia Tech where he was voted Most Valuable Professor by his students many years running. There is a Senior Aerospace Design trophy named in his honor, which is given to the top aeronautical engineering students. Michael had many other awards and accolades. He became a Fellow of Royal Aeronautical Society and the Institute of Mechanical Engineers as well as an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics. He pioneered three patents related to stability and control in airplanes.

Michael was a playful spirit who always looked for a way to make others smile. He loved sharp witticisms, bad puns, and physical humor and his laughter was infectious. The other way he expressed joy was through art. His cartoons, sketches, watercolor and oil paintings provide enduring memories of his talent.

Despite all the achievements and awards, he is best remembered for being a loving husband and father. One who wanted the very best for his family.

A funeral has not yet been scheduled because of the pandemic, but it was Michael's wish to have his ashes returned to the Cotswolds of his youth in England. The family would like to thank the caregivers at Heritage Hospice in Marietta for their compassionate care and support during Michael's final days. Condolences may be posted to Northside Chapel website (www.northsidechapel.com). If you wish to donate to a charitable cause in Michael's honor please consider the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org) and Heritage Hospice in Marietta (heritage-hospice.com).

Cemetery

Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road

Roswell, GA,

Comments



“ Thinking of you Thelma and all of the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Linda and Risto

linda huovinen - June 30 at 02:26 PM



“ My brother in law Mike was married to my sister Thelma for 63 years and me and my late husband Dave have happy memories of their visits to Gloucester England over the years. Mike had a great sense of humour, showed extreme kindness and was a good listener if one had a problem.

Dave also had an interest in aircraft and we visited Cosford and Hendon aircraft museums also we saw an air display in Kemble, Stroud Gloucestershire. there were visits to the Cotswolds, etc so have a host of happy memories to treasure.

Good night and God Bless Mike.

Lots of love to family from Sylvia xxx

Sylvia Masters - June 30 at 09:57 AM



“ Dear Aunty Thelma, Mark and Sharon.

To put it simply Uncle Mike was a HERO in our family. He was held in such high esteem especially by his Mum (Granny Jenkins) and his baby sister Shirley (my mum).

To read Marks words confirmed to me what an exceptional man he was.

His mum Granny Jenkins lived with me and my family for 16 years so when Uncle Mike visited his mum in Gloucester he visited us too, a real bonus. He was the Uncle who visited rarely but caused great excitement with the prospect of his arrival, and once he left he was the topic of conversation for months and months afterwards.

Nick and I were lucky enough to stay with Uncle Mike and Aunty Thelma as part of our honeymoon over 30 years ago and the memories are still fresh today. Lunch at the Peachtree Plaza revolving restaurant. Stone mountain. The animal conservation visit and putting my hand in a possum's pouch wow! That experience fostered my love of wildlife and birds and it was undoubtedly inspired by our visit.

We still have the painting of the red cardinal that you gave us as a wedding gift, although the birds in our garden are not as colourful.

Mark mentioned Uncle Mike's laugh, it always reminded me of a naughty boy, you couldn't help but smile when you heard it.

I can remember vividly him introducing us to the The Three Stooges and how that

slap stick comedy made us laugh uncontrollably until we cried.

Special memories to treasure.

Sent with love and blessings to you all.

Meg and Nick Liddiard

xx

Meg Liddiard - June 30 at 05:45 AM



“Thelma, I am so sorry to learn about Michael’s passing. I enjoyed the interesting conversations we had when you came for your yearly eye exams; especially his sense of humor. My condolences to you & your family at this time. Grief passes with time; but the wonderful memories you have of Michael will live in your forever!
Fondly, Dr. G Posner

Geoff Posner - June 28 at 08:26 PM



“Thelma, I am deeply sorry for your loss. You and Michael always cut fine figures when I encountered you at the gym. Michael usually had something incisive to share with me, and, quite often, with a wry sense of humor. I will miss seeing him, but hope you will be able to return when the pandemic subsides.
Jim Sneed

Jim Sneed - June 28 at 09:43 AM



“Our thoughts and prayers are with Auntie Thelma and cousins Mark and Sharon on the death of Uncle Mike. May you enjoy the great memories you have of a truly wonderful man. All our love Michael, Suzanne, Louise and Ashley

Michael Parker - June 27 at 01:52 AM



“Uncle Mike, circumstances meant we could not get to know you as a person and as an Uncle. However we all knew what a gentle kind person you were. Dad, Uncle Jim and Uncle Dave are all together now, probably chatting to each other and with mom. Your love of aeroplane’s is shared by Adrian, and every time a Spitfire flies over us on its way to or from a summer show, we shall think of you. Rest in peace.

Michael Parker - June 27 at 01:40 AM



“ What a lovely tribute to Mike I just read. Such an accomplished man! After a long and happy marriage, I know you will miss him, Thelma, and the companionship you have shared for so many, many years. I hope you will find comfort from your family and friends in the days ahead. Love to you and your children. ~ Sue

Sue Gray - June 25 at 08:56 AM



“ The first time I met Mike, Thelma and I were going out of town to a tennis tournament, and Mike brought Thelma to meet with me, so we could ride together. He was such a dapper gentleman and wanted to make sure she was in good hand, oh and also very funny. When we got back, he was there to pick her up with some lovely flowers, for me, for taking good care of her. Now, that is true love. So sweet. God be with and his family

carol robinson - June 24 at 05:02 PM



“ Uncle Mike, a perfect gentleman, at peace now, I bet you're up there with Uncle Bill, Uncle Dave and my dad Jim putting the world to rights. Thoughts and prayers are with Aunty Thelma, Mark and Sharon with love from Norma, Jane, Anne & Emma xxx

jane - June 23 at 11:37 AM