



Michael E. Davis

May 17, 1922 - April 23, 2017

Michael E. Davis of Rensselaer, Indiana passed away April 23, 2017 at Franciscan Health Rensselaer. Mike was born in Jacksonville, Illinois on May 17, 1922, the son of the late Harold L. and Florence (Davis) Rolston.

He attended elementary school in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Southeast High School in Kansas City, Missouri, with the Class of 1941. He was enrolled at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri, and left there after just two weeks to join the military.

Mike was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from September 1942 to December 1945. As a member of the Army Airborne Communication Division, he spent time in England, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany, and Czechoslovakia. Mike was a participant of World War II Campaigns and Battles in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and east-central Europe. He was awarded five Campaign Bronze Stars and unit commendations.

Upon his discharge from the U.S. Army, Mike returned to college at Kansas State University where he received his B.S. in Geology in January 1950 and his M.S. in Geology in August 1951. From 1949-1950, Mike was a graduate assistant in the geology department and from 1950-1952, he was an instructor in geology at Kansas State.

On November 27, 1947, in Kansas City, Missouri Mike married Helena Pointer.

In 1948, Mike was employed in the field office of the U.S. Geological Survey-G. S. A., engineering geology of the Tuttle Creek Dam site in Manhattan, Kansas. In 1951 he became a geologist and service engineer with Dowell Incorporated, a subsidiary of Dow Chemical. Mike and Helena moved to Rensselaer, Indiana, in 1952, when Mike joined the faculty of St. Joseph's College where Mike was an instructor in geology. He took a leave of absence from St. Joseph's College from 1954-1957 and was appointed the Chief Project Geologist with Knox-Bergman-Shearer Consulting and Photo Geologists in Denver, Colorado. While there, Mike was responsible for mapping and technical report writing of the geology of parts of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, comprising approximately 30,000 square miles. Returning to St. Joseph's College in 1957, he was named Associate Professor, teaching geology, mineralogy, paleontology, stratigraphy-sedimentation, field mapping and photo geology.

While at St. Joseph's College, Mike was Assistant Director of summer college field camps from 1958-1962 and in 1971, serving students from five different colleges. In 1966-67, he was the summer interim geology teacher at Indiana University Northwest.

Mike was a member of numerous committees and boards from 1964-1984, including the National Association of Geology Teachers where he served as president of the east-central section from 1964-1966; the American Institute of Professional Geologists, serving as president of the Indiana section from 1971-1974, and in 1981 was a member of the Educational Affairs Committee of the American Institute of Professional Geologists. In addition, Mike gave numerous professional presentations as well as authoring many professional

publications. In 1980, Mike was the recipient of a professional grant for a 3-week study in the Peoples Republic of China.

While at St. Joseph's College, he served on the Athletic committee from 1958-1970, serving as chairman from 1961-1970; was the faculty representative on the President's Administrative Council, 1964-1970; was the faculty representative to the St. Joseph's College Board of Trustees, 1970-1981; was director of CORE 5-6, 1983-1984; and in 1984 was elected to the St. Joseph's College Board of Trustees. Mike was the recipient of the St. Joseph's College Student Association Senate Wooden Cask award in 1978 and was co-chairman of the St. Joseph's College Scholarship Dinner for many years. Additionally, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from St. Joseph's College.

Mike was a member of the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Rensselaer. He enjoyed being involved in the communities in which he lived. Mike was elected in 1955 to the City Council in Edgewater, Colorado, a position he held until 1957 when he returned to St. Joseph's College. He was a member of the Rensselaer Lions Club from 1958-1978, serving as president in 1975-76, the Jasper County Economic Development Commission, serving as president in 1978, and Rensselaer American Legion Post #29. Mike gave presentations dealing with glacial geology, hydro geology, and the geology of Northwestern Indiana to various groups in Jasper, Newton, Benton and Pulaski counties, including Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Historical Societies, high and elementary schools, Boy Scout troops and 4-H clubs.

Surviving is his loving family, wife Helena P. Davis of Rensselaer; children: Catherine Flynn-Tymkow of Flossmoor, IL; M. Patricia (husband Mike) Brown of Cary, NC; Michael A. (wife Mara) Davis of Kentland, IN; Karen (husband Patrick) Davis-Marks of Calhoun, GA; Lisa Davis of Austin, TX and Timothy

(wife Sally) Davis of Houston, TX; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents and two sons-in-law, Richard Flynn and Tony Tymkow.

Friends may call at the Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A Funeral Mass will be held at the St. Augustine Catholic Church, Rensselaer, Indiana on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 12:00 PM with Father Don Davison officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Rensselaer, Indiana with full military rites. Memorials may be made in memory of Mike to St. Augustine Catholic School, Rensselaer; Eugene & Marilyn Glick Eye Institute at Indiana University at glick.medicine.iu.edu; or Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Chicago, IL at www.mercyhome.org

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery - Rensselaer

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR 26. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Visitation

APR 26. 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Linda Hughes lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



Linda Hughes - May 19, 2017 at 08:38 PM



“ *Mike Davis, one my professors at St Joseph's, was fair, honest and firm in his work with the students. Then there was the occasional light side. He is missed by many of us.*

*Tim Hurley
SJC '63*

Tim Hurley - April 30, 2017 at 10:52 PM



“ *Dear all, my deepest condolences on your loss of such a wonderful man. Mr. Davis or was it "poo pah" that Kathy (Flinn) Clausen and I called him:) Karen, we're thinking of you now and our prayers are with you. If you get a chance, please email me at aobrien@scsengi-neers.com to let me know how you're doing and we can catch up after so many years.*

My prayers are with all of you, Ann (Pantle) O'Brien

Ann O'Brien - April 28, 2017 at 02:18 PM

LP

“ *A good life leaves behind seeds that keep on growing. So sorry for your loss.*

Mike & Linda Pugh

linda pugh - April 28, 2017 at 07:50 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael E. Davis.*



April 25, 2017 at 10:47 PM

ST

“ *Sincerely, The AgVenture, Inc. Team purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael E. Davis.*



Sincerely, The AgVenture, Inc. Team - April 25, 2017 at 08:27 PM

MG

“ *On behalf of Fr. Scott Donahue and Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Michael Davis. May the angels lead him into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome him and take him to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.*

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls - April 25, 2017 at 04:28 PM

FM

“ I had Mike as a professor during my years at SJC and then a colleague for a number of years and as a friend for many. My sympathies to Helena and family. He will be missed!



Fr. Tim McFarland - April 25, 2017 at 04:12 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael E. Davis.



April 25, 2017 at 02:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael E. Davis.



April 25, 2017 at 11:48 AM

DW

“ Our sincere sympathy to all of you. You are in our thoughts and prayers.



Don & Gloria Waymouth - April 25, 2017 at 09:20 AM

BI

“ So sorry to hear the news of Mr. Davis passing. He was as nice a human being as you would find in this world. To all of the Davis children, our deepest condolences go out to you. Bill & Becky Jennings ('86)

bill - April 25, 2017 at 08:48 AM

DO

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Davis family. Mike was a wonderful man, a great teacher and a highly valued colleague over many years. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

David ('75) & Donna Owens

David Owens - April 24, 2017 at 11:59 PM

AB

“ Even if SJC weren't shutting down, Mike's passing would represent the end of an era. A classy guy who was as supportive of and interested in junior colleagues as he was students. He and Helena made us all feel like family. Becky and I extend our sympathy to the entire Davis clan.

Allen Berger - April 24, 2017 at 09:53 PM

JL

“ Jim & Dorrie Lefler lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis



Jim & Dorrie Lefler - April 24, 2017 at 09:28 PM

JW

“ Mike and I will miss our friend and fabulous teacher. I can still hear his laugh and telling Mike to go across the hall to either change or feed our daughter. Much love and many prayers. You will be missed. Mike ('72) and Jan Williams ('73)

Jan Williams - April 24, 2017 at 06:31 PM

DK

As a student ('75) and sister of Jan Williams, I heard so many wonderful things about Mr D. He earned the respect from many, not just because he was a professor, but because of the man he was. He will be missed, and remembered by many.

Debbie Kraemer - April 24, 2017 at 07:08 PM

CK

Mike and his family have always been special friends to the Kerlin family. I will miss his ornery sense of humor and his love of Saint Joseph's College. He was a one of a kind man.

Charley Kerlin - April 26, 2017 at 07:35 AM

TS

“ Professor Davis was a great teacher, and a superb person. We as students were fortunate to attend his classes. I took 11 hours over three courses and enjoyed them because he made geology interesting. He remained active as a St Joseph family member long after his teaching days. Seeing him again after 40 years at a Fellows weekend was the highlight of our visit to the college.

*Tom Skrodzki
Class of 1968*

Tom Skrodzki - April 24, 2017 at 06:18 PM

JB

“ Joe & Penny Bardoczi lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis



Joe & Penny Bardoczi - April 24, 2017 at 05:56 PM

EL

“ Thank you Mr Davis, you were one of my favorite teachers at St Joe's. You and your family will be in my prayers. Rest In Peace. Ed Lawdensky, Class of 86.

Ed Lawdensky - April 24, 2017 at 05:21 PM

 Becca Oberle

“ What a wonderful teacher. He was a favorite of so many and touched so many lives. May God bless and keep all of his family as they say goodbye to this wonderful man. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Rebecca Oberle Class of 87.



Becca Oberle - April 24, 2017 at 04:39 PM

JL

“ They don't come any better than, Mike Davis! We lost a good one that will NEVER be forgotten! My condolences to the Davis family. Prof. Davis was the BEST teacher/man I had in 4 years. . John Luzzo 1987

john luzzo - April 24, 2017 at 04:27 PM

JM

“ *Jim & Drina Madden lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



Jim & Drina Madden - April 24, 2017 at 02:49 PM

JP

“ *JoAnn (Wappes) Pearson lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



JoAnn (Wappes) Pearson - April 24, 2017 at 02:49 PM

JP

One of the many Outstanding Professors at SJC! May Dr. Davis rest in peace.

JoAnn (Wappes) Pearson - April 24, 2017 at 02:51 PM

MC

“ *Mary Jo Casey lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



Mary Jo Casey - April 24, 2017 at 01:22 PM

 Kerry Langan

“ *Mr. Mike Davis was one of the kindest people I've ever known. So very intelligent, caring, and hilarious. Oh, he could make me laugh! He was also among the most modest people I've ever met, always self-deprecating. He treated me like a daughter when I worked at St. Joseph's College in the early 1980s. I will remember him with the greatest fondness and gratitude. My condolences to his loved ones.*
Kerry Langan

Kerry Langan - April 24, 2017 at 01:15 PM

BM

“ *So sad to hear about Papa Davis. He was one of my favorites! I have so many wonderful memories of the times I spent at the Davis household. My heart goes out to Helena, Lisa Tim, Karen, Pat , Kathy, Mike and all of the Davis family.*

Beth Greene McCune - April 24, 2017 at 11:51 AM

KI

“ *Kendra Illingworth lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



Kendra Illingworth - April 24, 2017 at 11:35 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Michael E. Davis.*



April 24, 2017 at 11:26 AM

BD

“ I had Prof. Davis for many geology classes. He was a wonderful teacher and a great man. I learned some geology, but more about life and how to be a good, caring person.



Brian DiPaolo - April 24, 2017 at 10:00 AM

AS

“ I was fortunate to have had Mr. Davis for Geology and Core class. He was a "mentor" to a struggling student making some less than smart choices at St. Joe. He KNEW how to inspire me and hold me accountable. My Uncle Phil Wilhelm and Mr. Davis were great friends. I'm sure they are visiting. Thank you Mr. Davis. Angela Wilhelm 1986

angela wilhelm shelton - April 24, 2017 at 09:19 AM

PW

“ Mike was a wonderful man who always managed to make me smile. He loved his family and Saint Joseph's College and so many people loved him. I will miss my fellow "Welshman" on the SJC faculty. He made the world a better place. Rest in peace, Mike!

Peter Watkins - April 24, 2017 at 08:38 AM

SH

“ Sheila Hanewich lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis



Sheila Hanewich - April 24, 2017 at 08:34 AM

ME

“ *Maureen Egan lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



Maureen Egan - April 24, 2017 at 08:09 AM

 Teresa Massoels

“ *Loved Dr. Davis and his smile. He always put you in a good mood when you spoke with him. Love, Bill & Teresa Massoels*

Teresa Massoels - April 24, 2017 at 07:22 AM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Davis*



Judy Burvan - April 24, 2017 at 07:03 AM

 Jody Watkins

“ *With sympathies to Mike's family. He was a wonderful colleague and a great guy. I enjoyed knowing him during his time at Saint Joseph's College.*



Jody Watkins - April 24, 2017 at 06:47 AM

SW

“ *Im so sorry my prayers with the family*



Stacy waling - April 23, 2017 at 09:42 PM

BG

“ *So sorry for your loss*



Beth Glicken - April 23, 2017 at 07:57 PM