



Mr. Michael C. "Mike" Fernicola

July 1, 1954 - May 29, 2012

Mr. Michael C. "Mike" Fernicola, age 57, of Utica, passed away on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at the St. Luke's Home with his supportive family by his side. Michael was born in Utica on July 1, 1954, the son of Bernice (Rudolph) Fernicola and the late Anthony J. Fernicola. Raised and educated locally, he was a graduate of Utica Free Academy and continued his academic studies at the Berkley School of Music in Boston. Throughout the years, Mike and companion Elaine Nguyen shared a relationship built on respect and support for one another.

Mike was an outgoing, decent, kind-hearted, affable man and a friend to all. He also held a special abiding love and regard for animals. He was inherently entertaining and his characteristic outgoing personality always drew a crowd. He was endowed with an engaging sense of humor and gift of showmanship that warmed the hearts of those around him and gave him satisfaction from rousing their laughter. His family celebrates his life through what he loved best – playing his trumpet with the Honeybush Brothers, a part of his life that is best illustrated by a poem written by his sister:

The Joy of Bees

Mo Ferree

Bees labor in the hive.

Each, his duty to perform

Preparing the golden nectar
Tickling the senses.
Bees bring us joy.
Humming their song
The buzzing fills our ears.

As the sun fired when Denny's lights blazed
Rod buzzed his trumpet.
But Mike buzzed and dive-bombed
A pollen splash
Flying from the stage, raising the roof
And splitting honeycomb for the crowd.

And there was Ed with his strong support
Fingers strumming as the flora danced round.
Lew could fly too as his fingers raced across the keyboard
From pedal to petal and key to stamen.
Ba Dummp... Ba Dummp...
Into the hive dove Wayne keeping the beat for the others to follow.

And filling the air was Bobby spraying the base note of fragrance
From flowers visited.
Before the comb could drip, Kevin strung the sounds together,
The main drone who managed them all.
Together they made the sweet sound of honey-flowing fountains of gold
That even Pooh would approve of.

They provided delight ---
A dance for some, a special event for others,
Sweet joy tasted now in memories.

To provide for, to share with
Is what it's all about.

We thank you Honeybush Brothers, for your golden sounds
That like the bees, have buzzed so much joy into our lives.

Mike Fernicola – Lover of animals
Friend to all

Mike is survived by his mother, Bernice Fernicola of Utica; his sister, Marilyn “Mo” Ferree of Ripley, NY; and sister-in-law, Donna J. Fernicola, of Utica; nephews, Jake and Anthony Fernicola both of New Hartford; his longtime companion Elaine Nguyen, at home; and special friends Ed and Bobby, from the Honeybush Brothers. He was predeceased by his father, Anthony J. Fernicola, brother, Robert E. Fernicola; and brother-in-law, Joel Ferree. The family extends sincere thanks to the staff at the St. Luke’s Home, especially Jack Cofano and Emily Curly who went above and beyond the call of duty to make Mike’s last days a time to remember.

Visitation will be held on Saturday morning from 10:00-12:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Mike’s funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence immediately upon the conclusion of visitation at 12:00 p.m. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in Mike’s honor may make a donation to the Northern Chautauqua Canine Rescue, Gale Street, Westfield, NY 14787.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Service

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Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Michael C. "Mike" Fernicola



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - May 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ I too won't forget Mike and his smile especially while he played his silver trumpet in our 8-Trac band (when we were young). I will always remember him as a very friendly and warm person and much fun to be around.

Art Pashayan - June 09, 2012 at 07:08 AM

LM

“ Mike was fun. His smile was contagious. I will never forget him approaching any band, trio, or solo musician to request the Blood, Sweat & Tears song Lucretia Mac Evil. We used to laugh at the blank looks the musicians would give Mike as they pondered the absurdity of the request. Although my life had taken me away from Utica, and out of Mike's orbit, I will never forget him. As we used to greet each other at Berklee College of Music, "Two five man!"

Lenn Millbower - June 02, 2012 at 10:19 AM

LM

“ 3 files added to the album *Mikc in 8-Trac Band, 1970*



Lenn Millbower - June 02, 2012 at 10:14 AM