



Mr. Michael F. "Mike" LaNeve

July 27, 1963 - November 17, 2018

SYRACUSE - Mr. Michael F. "Mike" LaNeve, age 55 ("Bonus Time"), a native Utican and a resident of Syracuse for more than 20 years, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 17, 2018 in the comfort of his home with the ones he loved most in his heart.

Born in Utica on July 27, 1963, Michael was the son of the late George S., Sr. and Anne A. (LaRocco) LaNeve. He was a graduate of Notre Dame High School/Class of 1981 and furthered his studies in Special Education at the College of St. Rose earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. He pursued his post-graduate work in Reading Education at SUNY Cortland where he received his Master of Arts degree.

Mike made the city of Syracuse his home, and the area school districts welcomed him as a Special Education teacher, a vocational calling that was a major part of his life. He began his career in the Central Square School District at the Paul V. Moore High School. He was also involved with the New Visions Special Education Program at Onondaga Community College which was a very rewarding position for him. As an educator, he was dedicated in working with children and young adults with special needs. He was kind, compassionate, and had an understanding approach to dealing with some of the most challenging students, and he truly believed that each one offered something special to this world. He will be remembered for his inspirational reminder that "Every child is gifted; they just unwrap their packages at different times".

Michael was his own person, and he always had the ability to make people laugh. His animated stories were embellished just enough to have the greatest effect, and as a good Italian, he spoke with his hands. If you were looking for Mike, you could probably find him at Barnes & Noble, iPad in hand, accompanied by a salted caramel hot chocolate (which he loved!), and a bowl of Italian wedding soup. As an academic, he was a voracious reader of a variety of authors and books that piqued his interest. He was a patron of the Arts from his high schools days when he performed in Hello Dolly, and Pippin. He loved the theater and the excitement of Broadway shows, especially the production process which he found so entertaining and enlightening. He also appreciated movies, and his most recent favorite films were Bohemian Rhapsody, and A Star is Born. Mike will be missed by many at The Rain Lounge where he shared camaraderie, conversation, company, and countless great evenings. He enjoyed cruising to different ports of call each year with these dear friends, proud of his "Gold Card status" but seeking that Platinum card that his friends enjoyed! He honored the traditions of the past, but also knew the fun of new adventures, especially trips to Austin, Texas to visit his nephew Tom, (while also hoping to catch a glimpse of Chip and Joanna of Fixer Upper!)

After suffering a stroke at the age of 45, Mike met the crushing challenges that followed and he fought his way back to a happy and productive life. He came so far in his fight, a monumental task that seemed impossible to those who witnessed his future successes. He never lost the prospect of hope, and he did prevail.

Mike is survived by his siblings and their spouses, Angela and Thomas Chmielenski, Richard J. "Rick" Sr. and Mary Beth LaNeve, Jeanine and Gary Surprenant, his brother-in-law Glenn Devendorf and his wife Lynn. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Anne Devendorf; and his brother, George S. LaNeve, Jr. He will be lovingly remembered by his nieces, and nephews, Thomas Chmielenski, Thomas "Tad" Devendorf, David and Kim Devendorf, Laurie (godchild) and Randy Devlen, Christopher and Nicole LaNeve, Richard

Jr. and Kit LaNeve, Margaret and Mike Hammell, Christopher Surprenant and Joseph Saccento, Nicholas Surprenant and Lyndsey Chenier, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins with whom he shared a great closeness. Additionally he leaves his godson Collyn Dungey; and a host of friends, especially Duke Epolito, Ken Pitcher, and Jon Perry. He was predeceased by his grandparents, aunts, and uncles all who played an important part in his upbringing.

In keeping with Michael's wishes, he was cremated. He will be inurned in Calvary Cemetery with his parents in the springtime. A memorial service will also be held in Syracuse at that time. Details will be announced closer to the date by the family. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Memorial Gathering on Tuesday evening from 5:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Memorial donations in Mike's name may be directed towards the Literacy Program at the Thea Bowman House online at <https://www.theabowmanhouse.org>; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Reflections of Love will be offered at the conclusion of the gathering with the spiritual guidance of Pastor David Ossenfort.

Tribute Wall

DT

“ *Jeanine (and family), It's been quite a few years since we have seen each other but Michael and I shared many good times in high school and in college together. We had our ups and downs but I will always cherish the fun (and sometimes crazy) times we had together. His passing will leave a huge void in so many lives because the number of souls he impacted during his time here can never be measured. My sympathies to you and your family. (You know he is up in heaven right now making everyone around him laugh!)*

Dee (Zellner) Talarico

Delvina Talarico - November 27, 2018 at 01:36 PM

JS

Thanks so much Dee!

Jeanine LaNeve Surprenant - December 08, 2018 at 10:45 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael F. "Mike" LaNeve.*



November 26, 2018 at 09:30 AM

W(

“ *Mr.LaNeve was an amazing man!! He was my favorite teacher. He was the first teacher that believed in me. You could tell that he really cared about us. He was there if you ever need to talk to him about anything. He was also so so funny. I am so sad to hear this. My heart is broken. RIP Mr.LaNeve!!*

I am pray for his friends and family.

Wendy Bernard (Trout) - November 25, 2018 at 07:00 PM

OA

“ *Olympia Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael F. "Mike" LaNeve*



Olympia Andrews - November 24, 2018 at 02:47 PM



He was a wonderful teacher with a big heart to match we will miss you and rip heaven gain a angal

Julia Yarman - November 25, 2018 at 12:48 PM

OA

“ *I may have never has him for a Teacher but he was always fun to talk to and always there for any student or friend as he always was. I'll will cherish all the good times he made me laugh and brighten my day. You are one of a Kind and will be missed by so many! RIP Mike We love you*

Olympia Andrews - November 24, 2018 at 02:47 PM

ND

“ Going to miss our online book club and discussing our latest books we were reading. You touched my life more than you know—you inspired me by continuing to regain your health and never taking anything for granted.
❤️❤️❤�



Nancy DeWitt - November 24, 2018 at 10:15 AM

CP

“ A true gift to never walk out of a room without leaving people laughing! I will never forget that gift Mike possessed! Thanks, Mike!
xo

Cindy Pettit - November 22, 2018 at 08:46 PM

SP

“ My Mt. Carmel friend who I will always remember with a smile. So many memories singing songs taught by the nuns and Father Peter Paul Polo. Even though time separates all of us, those who were lucky enough to know Mike and the Mt. Carmel days will always have Mike in their hearts. We were all family. To the LaNeve family, no words to express how sorry I am to hear of his passing. I pray God sends you his peace in this difficult time.

Salvatore Piazza - November 22, 2018 at 03:28 PM

TW

“ Mike - our paths crossed for a reason - the passing of our mothers a month apart but mostly due to your teaching my youngest brother at OCC's Annual New Vision Program. I will miss our many chats; Wegman trips; and your happy go lucky nature (55 Bonus Time!). My visits to Barnes and Noble will never be the same. Rest In Peace my friend.



Tom White - November 22, 2018 at 02:04 PM

SM

“ I remember when a group of us went to the China Buffet for your birthday. We bought you some fake lottery tickets and you thought you won \$10,000. The look on your face was priceless!

Sandy McGuane - November 22, 2018 at 12:34 PM

JR

“ I'm going to miss you so much Mikey. Love you 💜

Joan Royle - November 22, 2018 at 07:20 AM

RO

“ I remember mike from when I was a student at central square middle school. Through social media we reconnected for the past 9 years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends

robyn - November 21, 2018 at 11:48 PM

KO

“ My friend of more than 30 years. So many good times. Union trips to Albany. Always the best lunches preferably to Olive Garden. The trip to Buffalo to see Maroon 5 when the wi d was so bad we felt like we were in the Wizard of Oz. You were the best and I will love you and miss you forever. RIP my friend 🥺💔

kathy osborne - November 21, 2018 at 11:09 PM

FW

“ MICHAEL, YOU WERE THE WINNING SMILE, THE LOVED SON AND BROTHER OF A GREAT FAMILY; FOR THOSE OF US, WHO HAVE KNOWN YOU FOR A VERY LONG TIME, WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN IT IS OUR TIME, WELL, THAT IS IT. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AND LOVED FOR THE PERSON THAT YOU WERE. MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOUR FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS THAT WILL MISS YOU SO MUCH. MAY GOD TAKE YOU HOME, AND MAY OUR GOOD LORD AND HIS MOTHER MARY, WATCH OVER YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WITH LOVE-----FIORA GRANDINETTA WILSON

FIORA GRANDINETTA WILSON - November 21, 2018 at 10:55 PM

DO

“ Teaching in the same building as Mike was always so much fun. He was witty, sensitive, and loved by so many. He loved his students and always motivated them to do their best. RIP dear Mike.



Debbie Owens

Deborah Owens - November 21, 2018 at 09:28 PM

BA

Debbie, I agree 100%. A shining example of a caring educator. Peace be with you Mike.

Burt Alm - November 21, 2018 at 08:49 PM

MK

Debbie, you've said it best. I remember Mike at the Middle School and have such fond memories of his smile and laughter. His students were so lucky to have him as their teacher. He was such a kind soul and will be missed by so many. I so enjoyed his Facebook posts and all the things he was accomplishing. RIP, Mike.

Marzynski Karen - November 22, 2018 at 04:26 AM

LV

I will always remember him by his laugh and his wit. Well said Deb.

Lois Volcko - November 22, 2018 at 06:44 AM



All of these comments really show the essence of what Mike was to his students and his colleagues. Such a great laugh and sense of humor, his dedication to his students and his great personality made him a joy to be around. RIP, Mike.

Marsha Swimm - November 22, 2018 at 08:11 AM

PD

“ Mike,
I was so blessed to call you my friend and will miss you more than you know. I will smile each time I think of you, remember an inside joke, or just remember your quick wit.
Rest In Peace my sweet friend...and “If I Could Turn Back Time” I would in a minute....

Thank you for showing us how to enjoy life and not waste precious time.

Sending thoughts and prayers to all family and friends....

Love you forever,

Patti DeVivo “YSF”
XOXO

Patti DeVivo - November 21, 2018 at 09:08 PM

GO

“ Gary T Ollerenshaw lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Michael F. "Mike" LaNeve



Gary T Ollerenshaw - November 21, 2018 at 09:04 PM

PS

“ Dear ,Mike you will be missed so much. Sue and I had enjoyed the time we had with you. You gave us the joy of your company on the cruises. Talking walking and shopping will never be the same. Thanks for your friendship. Love Patrick and Susan Silver

Patrick Silver - November 21, 2018 at 08:37 PM

GO

“ To Angela, Tom, Ricky, Mary Beth, Jeanine, and Gary and the rest of the family. I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of Michael.

I last saw him when your mom died and have been wanting to get together to enjoy some time with him we just never could connect, Mike and his laugh will be missed by so many people. It is so hard to say goodbye to a brother, but we have to remember all the great moments we spent together as a family. The memories help get us through the rough times, time does heal. Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers as will be Michael. Michael rest in peace my friend and enjoy the time you will now spend with your Mom and Dad and the rest of the family.

Gary Ollerenshaw

Gary T Ollerenshaw - November 21, 2018 at 08:27 PM

DE

“ MLN there are too many memories to count. All with much laughter. You have helped in my worst times and protected me. I will miss you and think of you every moment of every day. Send my best to your Mom and Dad George and Maryanne. Your dear friends will SUFFA (inside joke)

Duke Epolito - November 21, 2018 at 08:14 PM

VD

“ I will always hold you in my heart, my friend. Love you, always

Victoria Delfino - November 21, 2018 at 07:49 PM

MS

“ I love you buddy.

Mark Salamida - November 21, 2018 at 04:32 PM