



Michael C. Martens

May 14, 1966 - May 9, 2024

Born in Appleton, WI on May 14th, 1966. Passed away in Grafton, Wisconsin on May 9th, 2024. Loving husband of the late Susanne Rae (nee Bacher) Martens. Beloved son-in-law of Dorothy R. (nee Couillard) and the late Richard W. Bacher. Dear loving brother-in-law of Cathy Jean Bacher. Further survived by his two Australian Shepards – Lindi and Miki Martens, other relatives and friends.

Michael's Mother – Rose Marie Martens and Father Leo B. Martens preceded Michael in death. Further survived by half-brothers and half-sisters – Jean M. Graef, John R. Martens, Debra A. Olmsted, Cora L. Haltaufderheid, Richard L. Martens and Judy A. Martens.

Michael was an avid bicycle rider and racer. He founded the Giro de Grafton bike racing event which draws people from all over the world. Michael loved going with Susanne to their cottage and playing in the water with their two Australian Shepards Lindi and Miki. Michael loved music and hiking and many other outdoor activities. Michael was also an artist and drew many wonderful pictures that he would give as gifts to family and friends. He worked hard as a Plant Manager and supervised many employees.

The family will greet friends On Sunday, August 4th, 2024 after 2:00 PM at Northshore Funeral Services Chapel followed by the Funeral Service at 5:00

PM. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Michael's name to one of the following: Crohn's & Colitis Foundation OR Humane Society of Waupaca County.

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Previous Events

Life Celebration

AUG 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Northshore Funeral Services
3601 North Oakland Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 961-1812
jarmata@icloud.com
<https://www.northshorefuneral.com/>

Service

AUG 4. 5:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

PM

“ Part 2

You were a groomsman in my wedding and from there forward we spoke multiple times every week laughing a lot, but also using each other as a sounding board for some of life's tougher times. Your skill in finding the best deals for practically everything was unmatched. You advised me on bikes, computers, slack-lines, you name it.

That Trek Supercommuter eBike I bought from you is a blast to ride. Man, it goes 28-30 miles an hour with very little effort. I have to tell you, I took the bike into La Crosse for work one morning and thought of you when you were a bike courier in Denver. Riding at high speeds weaving in and out of traffic, doors opening just as you are passing by.

You took advantage of every season Wisconsin had to offer, but I think Summer had a special place for you, and Susanne. You talked so much about how much you enjoyed being at the lake, including the mandatory morning Hartman Creek mountain bike ride when you were up north. You found a lot of bikes on the trails in Hartman Creek based on all the pics you took - wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

I miss being able to pick up the phone and talk with you. I miss that a lot. I am so grateful our paths crossed many decades ago.

Best Friends Forever. Love you and miss you.

Paul

Paul McLellan - August 13, 2024 at 08:20 AM

PM

“ Dear Mike, I hope wherever you are, you are at peace with your family - Susanne, Mick & Lindy. I really miss you.

My first encounter with you, we were probably in 3rd or 4th grade. Neither of us could specifically recall the interaction, but we were featured on the cover of The Appleton Post-Crescent Newspaper as 2 little guys taking a summer school class of woodworking. Little did we know this would be a 45-year friendship with one of the best people I've ever met.

Our lockers were near each other in middle school and we exchanged a few words, kind of getting to know each other. In high school, our friendship blossomed. We both joined the swim team swimming under Ed Zepka, the original hockey puck. For those who don't know, Coach Ed Zepka called every swimmer in his 40+ year of coaching high school swimming hockey pucks. Zepka, the OG hockey puck, was not to be outdone by Walleye Willie - Bill Simpson was the Assistant Coach for swimming and was responsible for teaching swim technique to young adolescents. It always cracked us up thinking of Walleye Willie as a swim coach. The 2 never really fit.

The story we relived many times was coming back from an away swim meet, Coach Zepka was in a car behind the bus. Not sure why he wasn't on the bus with us, regardless a few of us talked another swimmer into "mooning" the car behind, but we never told him that it was Zepka. Oh, boy, he "mooned" the person in the car, and then we got a verbal lashing from Zepka upon arriving home. We had a super hard practice the next day.

You took to distance swimming assembling an impressive high school career. We did triathlons together competing locally, as well as driving to Wausau for a race. I recall on the drive back, we intentionally drove with the windows closed with the heat on, in the middle of summer, just to see who would break first. Dumb things young men do.

the time we biked to Waupaca to stay at your sisters in waypacka was another story relived in many conversations. We arrived at your sister's place in waupaca after a 45ish mile ride. We partied with your sister that night going into Waupaca at the Wheel house. The next day, as we were riding back nearing the Appleton city limits, we were in a celebratory mindset and decided to both pop wheelies. You crashed, and to this day I clearly recall you getting road rash and spewing an endless stream of expletives walking in a circle with a limp from the crash. This was one of those times when I was for sure laughing AT YOU!

Those high school years cemented our friendship. Following high school we each did our post-high school education and continued staying close. You came out to Denver to live with me briefly. You worked at Bennigans wearing your mandatory Bennigans uniform with buttons all over it. I swear it was exactly out of the movie Office Space, with items of flair. It was while you were staying with me in Denver we made a discovery we laughed at for a long time. I was "house-sitting" for a woman who had decided to travel to New Zealand for several months. She wanted someone to stay in her condo so I did. You came out to join me and soon after one night we went into her room and under her bed, we found a plate of pot. For a short hot second, we debated whether or not to smoke "Becky's pot". Well, we ended up smoking almost all of her pot replacing what we smoked with oregano thinking she'd never know. Dumb stuff guys do.

We skied Berthoud Pass near Winter Park for as many weekends as our limited funds would take us. Hoop Creek run was our favorite. It was a blast to ski in this half-pipe sort of ski run only with trees, and then hitch hike back to the top of the mountain.

You were a groomsman in my wedding and from there forward we spoke multiple times every week laughing a lot, but also using each other as a sounding board for some of life's tougher times. Your skill in finding the best deals for practically everything was u

Paul McLellan - August 13, 2024 at 08:19 AM

DW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Danielle Witon - August 01, 2024 at 09:45 PM

JH

“ Mike had everything someone would look for in a friend. His caring demeanor, always so happy to see you. His genuine excitement for so many things that he enjoyed that we shared together and so many others. His smile sense of humor and spark in his eyes will never be forgotten . We were blessed to have Mike as a close friend and anyone who was lucky enough to meet him knows why. One of a kind. ❤️ Jeff & Shari Hartman



Jeff & Shari Hartman - June 03, 2024 at 08:26 PM

CB

“ Michael was a great brother-in-law and I will miss him dearly. I always looked at Michael as being my brother. I will miss his laugh and funny stories and his passion for biking. Now Michael and Susanne are together and enjoying heaven! Love you! Cathy

Cathy Bacher - May 30, 2024 at 03:28 PM