



## Michael Theodore

November 21, 1926 - April 7, 2020

Michael Theodore, age 93, of Gibsonia, passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2020. He was born in Bulgaria, the son of the late Atamas and Zlatka (Bonev) and the brother of the late James Theodore. He was also preceded in death by his wife Mary Louise (Bacon). He was an Army veteran that served during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He then attended Carnegie Tech, where he met the love of his life, Mary Lou, while they both were obtaining degrees in Chemical Engineering. While at Carnegie Tech, Mike was a star basketball player where among his many accomplishments were becoming a three-year captain, winning the Pittsburgh basketball scoring title, being awarded Carnegie Tech's "Outstanding Athlete" award and becoming the first Carnegie Tech player to score 1000 points in his career. As a result of his many accomplishments, Mike was later inducted into the Western PA Sports Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, East Boros Chapter. He went on to work as an Engineer and Supervisor at MSA Safety where along with his many contributions, he worked on the development of a construction hardhat that is still being sold and used today, protecting millions of workers around the world. Since its introduction, MSA estimates it produced and sold more than 200 million of the iconic "V-Gard Hardhat" Mike helped develop. Mike was an avid outdoorsman and was renowned for his love of rattlesnake hunting and collecting which he regularly provided to the Pittsburgh Zoo. Mike and Mary Lou were both active volunteer organizers of the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, whose proceeds support science education. During these trying times, there will be no visitation or service. Entombment at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in North Versailles.

Arrangements handled by the Forgie-Snyder Funeral Home, 1032 Broadway, East McKeesport, 412-823-8083. A memorial service is planned to be held at a later date. Donations in memory of Mike Theodore are requested to be made to St Barnabas Charities 5850 Meridian Rd Gibsonia PA 15044. For online condolences please visit <http://www.snyderfuneralservices.com>.

# Cemetery

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## **St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery**

1443 Lincoln Highway

North Versailles, PA, 15137

# Comments

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“ I was his doctor at the V.A. for several years. I loved all 800 of my vets, but when I left, I stayed in touch with only the most special of special. Michael was that for sure. No longer his doctor, I was able to be his friend. We had several lunches at his Chinese place, and several trips to the local donut shop. He kept saying he wanted to treat me and my husband to a big steak dinner downtown (but the logistics of that would have been very difficult-- besides which, I'm vegetarian-- but I never told him that part. Kept the dream alive.) Sadly, life just got too busy, and I didn't see him in the last 2 years. He was always in my heart, though. I've taken care of many older folks, and none had what he had: a young-at-heart attitude, an interest in current affairs, and such ongoing curiosity. He just had a twinkle in his eye. Probably what impressed me most was his reverence for his wife. He just was so proud of her. I'm sad I never got to meet her. Much love to all who knew them.  
-Dr. Susan Hoppe

**Susan Hoppe** - April 18, 2020 at 04:17 PM

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“ The world has lost a bright light. Mike was always such a friendly, kind and caring person. A wonderful friend to my mother and father working together at the Pittsburgh conference. Later when you came to St. Barnabas where I worked I got to know you better. I loved the stories you told about the good times in New Orleans, Orlando and Chicago. The best may have been getting lost in the woods at Seven Springs. I will miss our talks but I hope the four of you are reminiscing about old times together now. Rest in peace. God bless you.

**Norman Birch** - April 13, 2020 at 11:29 AM

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“ My most cherished memory of Mike took place at Mary Lou's funeral. At the funeral home with many of their friends present, Mike asked me to say a prayer for Mary Lou. I can't recall the words I said, but I do remember the honor I felt at being asked, knowing his devotion for Mary Louise, the love of his life. Always the kind and humble man, Mike stood tall in so many ways, even when his physical body could not. In our sorrow at his passing, we are comforted to know that he can now enjoy eternal happiness with Mary Lou, his love.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. May he and Mary Louise and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



**Jay Auses** - April 12, 2020 at 01:37 PM

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“ Mike was and still is one of the most influential, inspirational, and just an absolutely beautiful man that I have been blessed with pleasure of knowing. It was thru my dear sister, Jenn. He became instantly family. Everyone loved Mr. Mike and I don't think there was a restaurant within a 10 mile radius of him that didn't know and love him! Most people will say that everyone loved him but while that is true but in turn Mike loved everyone and he just loved people! Mike was extremely gifted with intelligence and he was also hilarious and a jokester, that is when he wasn't talking about his beloved Mary Lou! The only thing that brings comfort is knowing that he now is at peace with MaryLou.

Mike, now you truly can watch over our Jenn! May you Rest In Peace and know you have touched us all and left such an impact that we will always remember the love for life you showed everyday!



**Jessica Wilson-Matko** - April 11, 2020 at 04:25 PM

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“ It was my great pleasure to work with Mike at MSA and share his friendship. His memory will remain. Our sincerest condolences. Richard & Norma Erth

**Richard Erth** - April 11, 2020 at 02:08 PM