



Michael J. Belaj

June 23, 1953 - May 8, 2023

Michael J. Belaj, age 69 of Cambridge passed away on Monday, May 8, 2023 at his home with his wife by his side. He was born on June 23, 1953 in Cleveland. He moved to Seneca Lake at as a young man and graduated from Guernsey Catholic HS in 1972.

Michael had several experiences in his job career from growing up mowing yards and camp sites at Seneca Lake to selling firewood. Then he went to work at Gray Drug moving into management for them and Rinks Department Stores. Running seismic lines in the swamps of Mississippi and a short time at Engles Ship Yard.

Then being Herb Ferrell's right hand man at Derby Oil & Gas heading the drilling of several wells through Ohio and also Pioneer Western & Greg L. Brown Co out of Texas.

To starting his own business in 1990, Eastland Energy Group Inc. He is described as a hard business man but a honest man. He also got involved with his wife in creating Courtside Deli and selling it in 2004. They had Bee Property Services doing bank repo cleanouts for a while. Then refurbishing furniture with her as Red Cat Vintage.

In 2010 he was approached with running for Guernsey County Commissioner, and after consideration, he took on the challenge.

He was very passionate about freedom and fairness to his fellowman. When the oil and gas boom came and being asked alot about information on lease he started a group to inform land owners of the rights and there options. He freely gave advice to anyone that called up until to his final days.

Michael had a strong love for his family. He loved his children unconditionally through all their experiences in life even when he didn't agree to their choices. He ended every conversation with an I love you! His first grandson Donovan probably knew him best by spending summers working with him learning his values and life importances.

In 1992 through a good friend he met his wife Jeri Ann Ables and from that meeting till his last breath they shared every moment, adventure and challenge together as one. Marrying in May 2000, they will forever be each others greatest strength and love.

He leaves his wife Jeri Ann (Ables) Belaj; children, Michele Herman of Zanesville, Sarah Belaj of Belpre and Tim (& Tiffany) Belaj of Buffalo; grandchildren, Donovan (& Brittany), Breeanna, Kane (& Abby), Curail, Khloe, Olivia, Lucas, Mica and Mary and steps, Chase and Brantlee; great grandchildren, Bryson, Waylon and Wyatt and step, Brody; his

siblings, Joseph L. (& Bonnie) Belaj of N.C. and Veronica (& Steve) Mourer of Cambridge; his mother-in-law Janice Ables; a brother-in-law Russ (& Sheila) Ables; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and cousins.

Mike is preceded in death by: his grandparents Joseph & Catherine "Kattie" Belaj and Velvie Radcliff Williams and James "Pop" Williams; his parents Lawrence and Lorraine (Wine) Belaj; his father-in-law Gerald Ables; a step daughter Faith Ann; a grandson Thomas Laughman and special friend Bearcat "Buddy".

A memorial mass will be held at Bundy-Law Funeral Home on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 2 pm with Father Robert Borer officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Maddy's Cat Rescue, 637 Wheeling Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725. Mike's online guest book may be viewed and signed at www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

At a later date

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bundy-Law Funeral Home

120 North 11th Street

Cambridge, OH 43725

(740) 432-5705

info@bundy-lawfuneralhome.com

<https://www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

RV

“ *God bless you Mike. My days working with you at Derby Oil were the best.*

Roy Veverka - June 30, 2023 at 02:49 PM

TF

“ *The Ables Work Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael J. Belaj.*



The Ables Work Family - May 14, 2023 at 09:06 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael J. Belaj.*



May 12, 2023 at 09:33 AM

“ My father was a strong proud man and taught me so many things from around the age of 5 I was out in the thick of it sleeping in the dog house on his drill site, one story I have is of getting stuck in the mud in his waiting pants and the mud was up past my stomach and that rig we were on for 4 days and I missed kindergarten and got into trouble but my dad said my daughter will learn more out here in these 4 days on an oil rig then playing games in kindergarten. And from then on there were many days dad let me play hookie to go. To work with him up in Wooster and would help his secretary Sherry send out the statements for that time. And when I got older I'd spend summers painting tanks and weed eating and changing the well charts. And soon my Son Donovan and Thomas would be old enough too help him and Donovan became his right hand man following him in his foot steps and becoming good at his work ethic as did Thomas I'm so glad my kids got to learn from my dad he taught them so much. There are so many good memories I have. With me his oldest daughter and then came Sarah five years later and we all delivered Timmy after that in a family birthing center. We lived a beautiful life loved fishing and all that the outdoors offer. I will miss him dearly and fishing with him he helped me reel in a 7 and half pound bass I caught at the age of 7. These are just some of the best memories I have and too many to mention. I remember him running for commissioner and helped to put signs up all throughout the county roads that was fun. Anytime I had a question or concern with the world today or politics I'd call my Dad. I miss him already I had a question just this morning and I'm so used to grabbing my phone to text him and ask I almost did that. He was a good man and although times were hard throughout our lives our love prevailed and God blessed us with many good times and good meals almost forgotten how much I will miss my dad's ribs and his cabbage rolls but thankfully he left me with a few recipes I have written down over the years. I also wanted to say to My step mother Jeri Ann thank you so much for taking such good care of him in the end of her's time on this earth. When he meant you he found his soul mate and you made him very happy. I know knowing Dad he is watching over you sitting in his chair that you sit in now saying oh so now you. Take my Chair in his funny way he'd tease you. You made his life a happy one and you two were the glue that kept our family close around the holidays and that will be forever missed. I love you Jeriann and I hope your prince charming and my Dad has a blessed journey to heaven. My Father was strong and proud too the very end and one of his final messages was that it was all in God's hands now and at my Son's funeral had said for me to put on my God armor and I once again have that armor on and will keep it on throughout my life. Love you Dad and miss you already so much you. Love your daughter Michele.

Michele Herman - May 10, 2023 at 08:27 AM