

Michael Caringello, Sr.

August 31, 1938 - January 18, 2024

Michael Caringello, Sr., age 85 of Lake Bluff, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2024. Michael was born on August 31, 1938 in Valenzano, Italy. He is preceded in death by his wife, Patsy Jensen Caringello (2018) and is survived by his two sons Michael, Jr. (Leslie) and Angelo Caringello; grandchildren Grace Caringello, Mary Caringello and Mark Caringello (Liz Sucevic).

Fondly, known as “Mike the Barber” left school at the age of eight to become a barbers apprentice in his hometown. He retired in 2022, leaving a remarkable legacy of cutting hair for 75 years! Michael’s Barber Shop wasn’t just a place to get a haircut, it was a place of community filled with joyfulness, laughter, and hometown scoop. Imagine a man who could turn a simple haircut into a stand-up comedy routine.

Mike emigrated to the United States and arrived in Lake Forest on Christmas Eve in 1955. His first job was a groundskeeper at Barat College in Lake Forest, where the nuns taught him English so he could attend barber school in Chicago. He earned his license and in 1959 opened Michael’s Barber Shop in Lake Forest. Mike served his community by cutting hair for an astonishing 63 years.

Aside from his impressive career, he was active in the community and a proud

member of the Knights of Columbus. He was an enthusiastic participant in many hobbies such as gardening, where he would argue that 40 tomato plants at a time was not overkill and always managed to overgrow his zucchinis. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting which his family referred to as bird watching outings. "Fishing" which was mostly fixing the motor so he could get back to shore and always looked forward to his "guy" trips to Freemont, WI. He was a passionate Chicago Blackhawks and Bears fan, and Michael's unique dance moves were legendary, every family function was a warm-up for his next performance.

Michael's true passion in life, however, was his family. He was a devoted husband, father and truly the best grandfather anyone could ever have. Alzheimers is a terrible and cruel disease. And while his capacities were diminishing, Mike's kind, funny spirit remained until the end. So, let's raise our scissors and salute Michael, "The Barber", the jokester, the loving family man who made every day a lot brighter for us all. He will be sorely missed. Our family will be forever grateful for the compassion and care he received at Harvest Home memory care in Grafton, WI.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest. Following the Mass, a reception will be held at Gorton Center, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL. The Mass will be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGaaA7Gv3oY>. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Michael's memory to the Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org/> .

For more information – Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest at www.RTfunerals.com or (847) 234-9649.

Cemetery Details

Ascension Cemetery

1920 W. Buckley Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 25. 9:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Mary
175 E. Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall



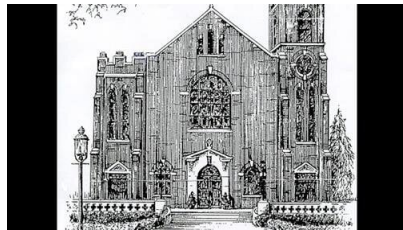
“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Life Tribute Video in memory of Michael Caringello, Sr.*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - January 25, 2024 at 06:59 PM



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Caringello, Sr.*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - January 23, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ *When I was a student at Barat College, all the guys went to Mike's to get their haircut. Everybody loved Mike. He was a warm, friendly person, who made everyone who came in his shop feel at home. Rest in peace Mike.*

John Miller - January 27, 2024 at 03:39 PM

VK

“ Mike was a really great guy; we were fortunate to get to know him. He gave all three of my sons their first ‘real’ haircuts (and many more). Rest in peace and thank you. - Vicky, Rocky, Paul and Joe.



Vicky Kujawa - January 25, 2024 at 09:38 PM

BB

“ Michael was truly the best. I always enjoyed my visits to his shop. I calculated that I had received 435 haircuts from Michael. He would always say - that's the best I can do. His stories were always interesting and amusing. My prayers are with his family during this sad time. Bob Bush

Bob Bush - January 24, 2024 at 07:56 PM

SD

“ Perhaps the best fishing advice I ever received was from him as he knew how to catch about anything. And getting the warm shaving cream and straight razor treatment on the back of your neck after a haircut is a bar few barbers will ever reach. A fine man with a tireless work ethic, a true American success story. One of the few people in town from old Lake Forest who had a direct impact on me. My condolences, Angelo. You had a wonderful father. Sincerely, Sean Derning

Sean Derning - January 23, 2024 at 07:15 PM

YF

“ Your Harvest Home family purchased the Celestial Love for the family of Michael Caringello, Sr..



Your Harvest Home family - January 23, 2024 at 02:41 PM

YF

“ Your Harvest Home family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Caringello, Sr..

Your Harvest Home family - January 23, 2024 at 02:41 PM

LL

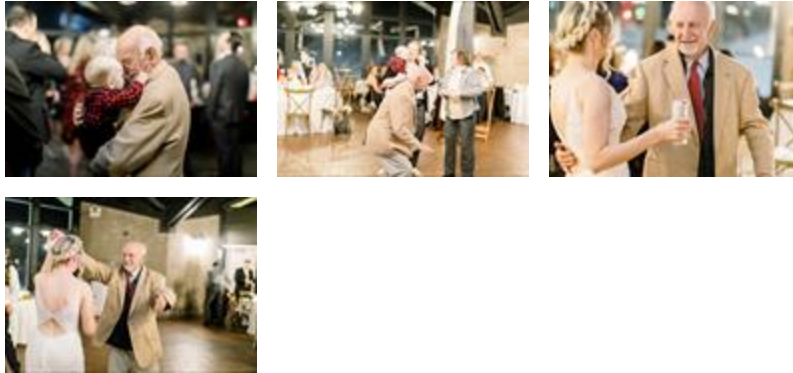
“ Michael was one of the first people I met the week I moved to Lake Forest. My five year old son needed a haircut and we went to Michael's. I will never forget meeting him! He was magical! He was so kind to my son and my son adored him! We visited Michael at The Sheridan last February. Even though he was struggling with Alzheimer's his kindness still shined through. He will be greatly missed!



Lacey Lamy - January 23, 2024 at 12:40 PM

CC

“ Always the star of the dance floor!



courtney conner - January 23, 2024 at 11:52 AM

GJ

“ What can I say about my Uncle Mike? First off, he and his wife, my Aunt Pat, are not technically my blood relations. However, my mom and Patsy were the best of friends growing up, and my dad was one of the first people that Uncle Mike met when he came to Lake Forest, so they have always been a huge part of my life. In fact, when I was 7 or 8, we were standing in their kitchen and they asked us if we (my brother and I) would start calling them Aunt Pat & Uncle Mike (instead of Mr. & Mrs. Caringello, which, let's face it, is a mouthful!). Uncle Mike was funny and sweet, but always the jokester! He would sneak (aka, steal) glug glasses out of the Swedish Glee Club by hiding them in the hood of my coat when I was a kid, making me his unwilling accomplice! His smile and his giggle were infectious, and boy did he love to dance and have a good time! I am comforted by knowing that he has been reunited with Aunt Pat and all of his loved ones who have gone on before him and I'm sure that everyone in Heaven is smiling brightly and dancing up a storm! RIP Uncle Mike. You were one of the good ones.

Gwen (Boutin) Johnson - January 23, 2024 at 10:44 AM