



Michael Joseph Murphy

June 29, 1965 - March 20, 2025

We are saddened to announce the passing of Michael Joseph Murphy on Thursday, March 20, 2025. He was the loving husband of Lauren Polenske. Proud father of Sean(Katlyn) and Daniel Murphy. Beloved Son of Dennis and Dianne, nee Hooker Murphy. Dear brother of Steve (Amy) Murphy and Laurie (Dave) Okon. Fond uncle of Kailey, Conor, Shane and Aidan. Dear Brother-in-law of Larry (Lisa) Polenske and Patrick Polenske.

Michael's advice, good humor, warm smile and inspiring presence will be deeply missed. He devoted himself to helping young people be the best they can be. He was an outstanding role model as an Assistant Scout Master and Cub Master for the Boy Scouts of America. He was an Associate Artistic Director of Hale Theatre Company and an announcer for Clear Ridge Little League Baseball. He was a supremely good man, a dedicated friend and a mentor to many.

Visitation is Monday, April 7, 2025 from 4 PM to 8 PM at Foran Funeral Home, 7300 W. Archer Ave.(55th street just west of Harlem). There will be a Celebration of Life Service for Michael at 7:30PM with Rev. Julio Pena officiating.

Michael was a Navy veteran who served his country proudly. Family and friends will meet on Tuesday at 1:30 PM at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery where Michael will be laid to rest with Military Honors. His legacy of love, service and kindness will continue to inspire and uplift all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in peace.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Rd.
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit
7300 West Archer Ave
Summit, IL 60501
(708) 458-0208
contactus@foranfuneralhome.com
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

APR 7. 7:30 PM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit
7300 West Archer Ave
Summit, IL 60501
(708) 458-0208
contactus@foranfuneralhome.com
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

Burial with Military Honors

APR 8. 1:30 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W. Hoff Rd.
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall



“ *Foran Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Joseph Murphy*



Foran Funeral Home - April 07, 2025 at 04:54 PM

LI

So many lovely memories of your family with Mike. God bless!

Lissie - April 19, 2025 at 05:38 PM

SJ

“ *The world was brighter with Murph in it.
He was a good man and a friend to everyone. He and Lauren encouraged so many. My daughter Aimee was blessed to be a part of their theater group as a child.
I am so glad I knew Mike. He was the best.
Let's keep his spirit with us. Be the best we can be. Continue his love of theater thru the roles you play. And when the spotlight is on that stage know Murph is enjoying the show from the best seat in the house.*

Sandy Jarzembowski - June 15, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ 36 files added to the album LifeTributes



Foran Funeral Home - April 07, 2025 at 04:34 PM

DG

“ My thoughts and prayers 🙏 our with you and your entire family at this difficult time. Treasure your fond memories forever in your heart ❤️



Dale Marie Grandys - April 07, 2025 at 10:01 AM

JT

“ Murph, was one of the 'warmest' people I had ever encountered. My wife, Meg, knew him better than I because she acted in the Hale theatre group over many years! Murph's renditions of Meatloaf songs and his love for his sons won him over for me. He was a magnet...you couldn't help but want to be engaged in whatever he and Lauren were sharing with the community. I am saddened to know that he has passed. But what Murph has left behind for all of us will not be forgotten. God bless you Murph!

John Taylor - April 07, 2025 at 06:52 AM

DH

“ Dennis and Paula Hallberg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.

Dennis and Paula Hallberg - April 06, 2025 at 08:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Murphy.



April 06, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.

April 06, 2025 at 12:27 PM

TE

“ I was privileged to know Murph for over 45 years and he was the best person to know. Between sharing theater, going to White Sox games, doing karaoke, and starting new families, we were always friends. Despite not seeing each other that often over the years, he was always near and dear to me and my family. I had the honor of watching him begin his life with Lauren, become a father, and being an incredible friend to everyone he met. I will miss him dearly and will remember him as the kind, generous, and loving person that he was.

Tracy (Glatz) Ebert



Tracy Ebert - April 06, 2025 at 09:46 AM

LF

“ Love, The Bartman Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Michael Joseph Murphy.



Love, The Bartman Family - April 06, 2025 at 09:28 AM

LF

“ Love, The Bartman Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.

Love, The Bartman Family - April 06, 2025 at 09:28 AM

JK

“Thirty three years of friendship, standing up to each of our weddings and many theatre productions and singing of Black Water. I'm going to miss you Michael. Rest well.



Joe Kenny - April 04, 2025 at 01:19 PM

EG

“Erin G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.

Erin G. - April 03, 2025 at 05:06 PM

GP

“Mike will be sorely missed. He was always a much welcomed friend and a talented vibrant and creative presence. He contributed some much to delightful theater scripts and performance, even church feastday plays and pageants. A mentor and entertainer for children events. Warmest condolences to his family, friends, and followers. Jurek Polański. 🕊️

G. Jurek Polanski - April 03, 2025 at 12:12 PM

DP

“Murph, where do I even begin? I known Murph since I was around 12 years old and he was also lighting up any room he was in. It still stings that he's not with us anymore, but I'll forever cherish the memories that I have with him



David Perez - March 31, 2025 at 09:37 PM

JM

“My thoughts and prayers to Mike's family. He was a good man! He will be missed. Thank you for your service Mike!

Jim Marquardt - March 31, 2025 at 06:37 PM

PP

“Pat, Larry, Lisa, Kari, Amy Polenske purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Joseph Murphy.



Pat, Larry, Lisa, Kari, Amy Polenske - March 31, 2025 at 04:56 PM

PP

“Pat, Larry, Lisa, Kari, Amy Polenske planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.

Pat, Larry, Lisa, Kari, Amy Polenske - March 31, 2025 at 04:56 PM

RS

“ Rita & Ray Smuskiewicz purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Michael Joseph Murphy.



Rita & Ray Smuskiewicz - March 31, 2025 at 03:57 PM

RS

“ Rita & Ray Smuskiewicz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.

Rita & Ray Smuskiewicz - March 31, 2025 at 03:57 PM

KC

“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mike. I will always remember his kindness and indulgence of my "singing" (karaoke) by patiently playing all my selections at CPD event. May he rest in everlasting peace.

Kathy Clark - March 31, 2025 at 11:25 AM

DP

“ Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Murph's family and friends. Heaven gained another Angel for their choir.....He is probably organizing a heavenly theatrical production and getting ready to DJ a weekly karaoke night. Godspeed and Rest in Peace Murph!!!!



Daniel and Patti Prendergast - March 31, 2025 at 11:12 AM

PP

“ *My sincere condolences to family and friends during their time of sorrow..*

Fair winds and following seas. Rest in peace, Shipmate!



Patti Prendergast - March 31, 2025 at 09:37 AM

PP

“ *Patti Prendergast lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Murphy*



Patti Prendergast - March 30, 2025 at 09:38 PM

WR

“ *Murph was one of the kindest men I've ever known, knew him first through scouting with my sons, Pete, Tom and John Wognum and then later through Johns theatre company Galaxy. He was so supportive of everyone, the world needs more men like him, not less.*

Wendy Richards - March 29, 2025 at 10:34 PM

ER

“ *Elizabeth R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Joseph Murphy.*

Elizabeth R. - March 29, 2025 at 03:14 PM

JL

“ *Jack and Juliana Lococo purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Michael Joseph Murphy.*



Jack and Juliana Lococo - March 29, 2025 at 11:48 AM