



## Michael P. Winter

June 27, 1968 - October 26, 2023

Venice, FL - Thursday, October 26, 2023. With unbelievable sadness, the WinterGard family announce the passing of Michael Paul Winter, 55, of Venice, FL and Meredith, NH. Mike's adored wife, Carrie Gard, was by his side and has steadfastly been his partner in their courageous battle against pancreatic cancer.

Mike was born and raised in North Tonawanda, NY by the late Bridget (nee Black) and Robert Winter (Mamie) with his brother Sean (Katie) and sister Catie (David). Later in life he discovered a family connection to Walter Frederick and his son, Tenaya. In addition, Mike had a fond relationship with his Uncle Richard who taught him how to fish, drive boats and RVs and showed him how to cultivate the unique connection he would share with each of his nieces and nephews. His love for the Buffalo Sabres and Bills was an integral part of his identity. On game days you could find Mike at the local pub watching the game in his Bills gear, never sitting - always standing and drinking a Labatt Blue. GO BILLS.

His carpentry and artistic skills were profound but he always referred to himself as the "Tile Guy". He took tremendous pride in his work and his craftsmanship was sought after by many high-end builders. He remodeled several homes with Carrie and put his personal touch on every one. Mike curated a life for himself that he loved. Whether he was walking on the beach,

playing frisbee golf, puttering in his workshop, tending to his yard, or mixing a cocktail, you would find him smiling and just soaking it all in. He drove his truck at an astoundingly slow speed, had a booming voice, a fear of leftovers and the ability to know and wave to everyone in his neighborhood. Mike cherished his time with his two girls, Carrie and their street dog, Lady. The three of them could frequently be seen cruising up and down the East Coast in their RV, stopping at antique shows along the way.

Mike's footprints can be seen in so many places. Due to his ability to forge strong relationships with so many, we would like to hold parties in the three places he calls HOME:

Bills Mafia: Stop by on November 18th, 5pm to 9pm at the Brickyard Brewing Company 432 Center St, Lewiston, NY 14092, to have a beer, tell a story, and share some laughs in honor of our Mike. Bills and/or Sabres attire requested, ties WILL BE CUT at the door, unless it is a Buffalo themed tie.....per Mike's request.

Southern friends and family: Please join us for a celebration of life on Sunday February 18th, 3pm to 6pm at the Winter home in Florida. New Hampshire friends and family - details to come.

In lieu of flowers:

Please consider a donation to Mikes PanCAN PurpleStride fundraiser by clicking here ([https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/PurpleStride/PurpleStride?px=3367454&pg=personal&fr\\_id=2832](https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/PurpleStride/PurpleStride?px=3367454&pg=personal&fr_id=2832)).

Mike participated in a stage one clinical trial for pancreatic cancer in hopes of finding a cure to eradicate this disease.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV **18**. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Brickyard Brewing Company  
432 Center Street  
Lewiston, NY 14092

## Celebration of Life

FEB **18**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

Winter Home

# Tribute Wall

NP

“ *Carrie, my most sincerer condolences to you and your family.*  
*Nelson Parker*

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**Nelson parker** - October 31, 2023 at 03:04 PM

AB

*Wow, what a Guy! I'm just seeing this , sent to me by my brother in law (Skip Ebling)who played his first Disc "Frisbee" Golf round at Wellfield Disc golf park in Venice, whom by the way is a Huge Bills Fan from Batavia NY and most recently Charlotte NC. We call the 4th hole The "Mikey Winter hole". The memorial Plaque and Bench are a very nice remembrance and it's good to know who was Mike Winter. Thanks Skip!*

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**Ace Bogart** - April 17 at 11:13 AM

“ It is odd to write that I first met my son, Michael at Fort Dix, in 1968.

*He was, as I recall, only two or three weeks old. His mother Bridget, having driven with a friend from North Tonawanda, to show him to his father.*

*The Drill Instructor said I had ten minutes, so I walked to the parking lot and held my boy for nine minutes. He was tiny and fragile...we held hands, or at least, he held my finger; and then I handed him back to his mother, and said goodbye (for longer than I ever could have imagined). I wouldn't meet him again until 2015.*

*Holding him in my arms on that day in San Francisco was so very different. He was a man, strong and beautiful, and when I looked in his eyes there was immediate and complete recognition. We might not have looked alike; nor thought alike, but we felt alike.*

*I will always be grateful to Bridget for driving four hundred miles to show me our son; and I will always be grateful to Carrie Gard Winter for bringing him and Sean back to me. And it must be said that the man who raised them did a wonderful job. Thank you, Robert Winter. The boys have continued to call him father, and rightly so.*

*Michael, I came to learn, had an open-hearted honesty that immediately endeared him to most of those he met. Untroubled by prejudice or pride, he gave freely of himself, and was an unfailingly accurate judge of character. His ability to absorb and comprehend a huge variety of skills was amazing and I trusted his knowledge and ability more than my own.*

*There was one remarkable mystery about that boy...when a Bills game was on, he would leave home and find a sports bar where he could watch the game undisturbed by irrelevant and maybe irreverent comments. This was his passion; and he made no excuses or apologies for it.*

*I know that Mike was happy. He had found the love of his life, and*

*they were enjoying every moment available. Perhaps there is no better time to say goodbye. The burden is on those who love him, and must live without that bright presence. I never heard a word of self-pity or anger from him, and he succeeded in keeping his ironic humor wrapped around himself and those he felt he needed to protect.*

*A unique, and special man who always, always will be loved and missed.*

*-Walter*

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**Walter Frederick** - October 29, 2023 at 07:18 PM

CW



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**Carrie Gard Winter** - October 30, 2023 at 09:07 PM

DH

*Such a beautiful story. So sorry for your loss.*

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**Dena Henney** - October 31, 2023 at 09:01 AM

JA

*Robert, Jack and I are devastated by this news! We wish we could have made it to the funeral, but we are still living in Ohio. Perhaps we can gather together in the Spring and visit with you and your growing family. God bless. On another note, Jack 's brother passed years ago from pancreatic cancer, as did a dear friend of mine.*

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**Jack and Charlene Antalek** - November 17, 2023 at 03:40 PM