



## Micheal J. O'Leary

August 17, 1959 - April 27, 2022

Portsmouth - Micheal J. O'Leary, also known to many as "Mustachio," died April 27 after fiercely battling pancreatic cancer and beating the odds for over two and half years.

He was born in Rochester, NH to Della (Hatch) O'Leary and James O'Leary. He graduated from York High School, promptly joining the U.S. Coast Guard nobly serving for four years as gunner's mate receiving a sharp shooter medal and ribbon.

While employed by the City of Portsmouth he simultaneously pursued a career in the hair industry becoming a successful and well loved hairstylist for over 35 years.

He was a Harley Davidson enthusiast and later joined the brotherhood of Dust Busters who sponsor an annual Christmas toy drive for local children, of which Micheal was a proud and active participant. He enjoyed camping with his family and especially loved the lakes region. He was affectionately known by the grandchildren as Grampie-O and Captain Hook.

Micheal is survived by his loving wife Darlene. He leaves behind five children, Haley O'Leary Piazza (Chris), Kevin O'Leary, Micheal O'Leary, Katherine O'Leary and Daniel O'Leary. He was blessed with Darlene's four children,

Randee McCormack, Steven McCormack, Alicia McCormack and Madisyn McCormack. He will be missed by all of his eight grandchildren. He is further survived by his uncle, Gordon Hatch and wife Deb, cousins, Rick Carl and wife Joy, Valerie Odams and husband David, sister Linda Dunn and husband Bill, stepmother Sandy O'Leary, stepbrothers, Jason Starr ( Corinne) and Shawn Starr (Christiana) and many nephews and nieces.

He is predeceased by his parents and favorite Aunt Francine. Micheal will be remembered as a larger than life, kind, smart, caring, loving, funny (snarky) man.

He will be lovingly remembered by numerous friends and his coworkers as their favorite Gentle Giant.

A Celebration of life will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, May 12, 2022 in Staley Bar and Grill, 238 Deer Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801. A graveside service will be held at 1 PM on Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 in the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Highway, Boscawen, NH 03303.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 12. 7:00 PM (ET)

Statey Bar and Grill  
238 Deer Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

## Graveside Service

JUN 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery  
110 Daniel Webster Highway  
Boscawen, NH 03303

# Tribute Wall



“ *Micheal J. O'Leary*

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September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

LS

“Micheal’s and my path first crossed when I began working with him at Eclips in December 2014. I’ll forever remember Micheal towering over and looking down at me with a welcoming introduction. I meekly tilted my head way up and introduced myself, with a weak “Hi, I’m Liz.” We both chuckled. The kindness Micheal showed me in those early days and throughout our friendship was paramount. On reflection, Micheal was always kind. It is easily recalled and will never be forgotten. I have missed working with Micheal so much. It’s an understatement that the absence of his presence as my coworker...my friend...in the salon for the past 2 1/2+ years has been noticeable. To me, it will always be “Micheal’s station” and it will always be “Micheal’s cabinet.” In the Springs that followed my first year at the salon, I came to look forward to the rumble of motorcycle pipes, “Micheal’s here!” He was always a welcome sight. I still chuckle when I think back to his food week when he tried to transport a homemade and frosted sheet cake in his Harley’s saddlebag for the commute to the salon. Ya, it slid a little. LOL. In more recent years when the salon’s courtyard area was adorned with Spring and Summer flowers, my eyes always seem to land on the green cover/lid that he built to close off an area under the windows. It makes me always think of him. Between Summer and Christmas one year, I never would’ve learned how fabulous the Portsmouth Halloween parade was if it wasn’t for Micheal. The years that I do go now, I casually think I never would’ve known how great this was if Micheal hadn’t told me all about it, and I’m thankful he encouraged me to go. And then there was the kindness of the bike club’s annual Christmas toy drive that Micheal made available for everyone to be a part of. I was so excited to be a small part of a cause he cared deeply about. It always warmed my heart that whenever my mom came into the salon Micheal always made a point of walking over to her and greeting her with a smile and by name. He genuinely cared. She loved that so much and recognized his act of kindness. She, too, is saddened by his passing. I may not have known Micheal for as many years as others, but it took little time to discover what a decent and kind man he was. I was so happy when he found the love of his life with Darlene. Micheal

*deserved to have that one person by his side who loved him with all their heart. Darlene's love, selflessness, compassion and diligence in standing by Micheal's side never wavered. We should all be as lucky as Micheal in our time of need. Life was kind enough to give me the chance to visit with Micheal before he left us. There are so many more memories of how Micheal's life has been an important part of mine. Good moods, bad moods. Cranky moods, happy moods. They're all strung together. But above all, I'm so, so very grateful for our paths crossing; for the time I did get to spend with him; and to be on the receiving end of his kindness...his friendship. As I close out my thoughts, I hope that in the coming days those closest to Micheal will find healing and comfort in knowing that Micheal mattered...to so many. #BeLikeMicheal*

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**Liz Sygowski** - May 04, 2022 at 08:22 PM