



Michael E. O'Connell Sr.

July 5, 1953 - April 2, 2025

Michael E. O'Connell Sr, 71, of Kankakee, formerly of Chicago, passed away Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at his home.

He was born on July 5, 1953, in Chicago, the son of John and Anne Marie (Guare) O'Connell. On January 10, 2004, he married Tami VanStrydonk in Chicago. Michael was a fireman in Chicago for 27 years. He was also a member of the AA community and was proud of his 34 years of sobriety. His whole life revolved around helping others, it was truly his passion. Michael knew no strangers; he became friends with all he encountered. He enjoyed woodworking, being in the yard, and dirt-track racing. Most of all he loved spending time with his family.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife of 21 years, Tami O'Connell of Kankakee; children, Kelly (Alberto) Rodriguez of Orland Park, Mikey (Kathy) O'Connell of Palos, Patrick O'Connell of Beverly, Dale (Courtney) Meredith of Herscher, and Eric (Heather) Meredith of Bonfield; grandchildren, Dylan, Kyla, Tessa, Roxie, Mona, Cooper, Grayson, Cole, and Chase; siblings, Johnny (Vicki) O'Connell of Kansas City, Maureen (Gene) Murphy of Glen Ellyn, and Kevin (Bridgette) O'Connell of Elmhurst; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; as well as many special friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Ryan O'Connell.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 3 p.m. until the memorial service at 7 p.m. at Jensen Funeral Home, Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Uplifted Care of Bourbonnais or the St. Jude Children's Hospital. The family asks that due to allergies, please no lilies if there is a desire to send flowers. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

(Peace)

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 9. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Memorial Service

APR 9. 7:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I cannot pick any one story about Mike . It has been almost 50 years. I do recall that all my interactions with Mike were preceded with a beer most times and always led to a lot of laughs and for that I was better for knowing and having a good time with him.

john roche - August 01, 2025 at 11:08 PM

BF

“ Mike O'Connell was one of the best of the 1971 Shamrock Class/St.Pats

BRIAN FITZGERALD - April 25, 2025 at 06:34 PM



“ The Lama Family is very sad to hear of Mike's passing. My father, Rick Lama, worked with Mike on the Fire department. We spend some great times with Mike and his family when my brother Kenny and I were young kids. So fun! My dad sends his condolences and love and said Mike was such a great guy and will definitely be missed. Love, the Lama Family- Rick, (Patti sends love from heaven), Kristy, Kenny & Jessica Lama



Kristy LaFronza - April 12, 2025 at 05:13 PM

JK

“ We are so sorry to hear about Mikes passing. He was a great guy and we had alot of laughs together at work and at play. He will surley be missed. Your all in our thoughts and prayers. Love you buddy, Jerry and Linda Koch

Jerome Koch - April 10, 2025 at 02:56 PM

JO

“ Dear Awesome Brother
As God welcomes you to heaven.He might
say Michael you have done a wonderful job
while on earth. Your
Honesty, Your AwesomeNess e
,your compassion was the best. I WILL miss the Great times we had
on our travels together.You will be missed terribly. Brother Johnny
💔💔💔



Johnny O'Connell - April 09, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..



April 09, 2025 at 02:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..

April 09, 2025 at 02:29 PM



“ Over the past 54 years I've watched you grow and evolve into an **AWESOME MAN!**

You have helped so many people and your love, caring, compassion and calm was displayed daily in the so many ways. Most especially, as a spouse, father , brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend.

I will miss all the laughs and inside jokes we shared over the years, but most of all I'll miss you!

The only comfort I have now is that you are finally at peace! And that you will be with our boy!

*Love you,
Vickie (AV)*

Vickie O'Connell - April 09, 2025 at 12:54 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..*



April 09, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..*

April 08, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..*



April 08, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..*



April 07, 2025 at 04:19 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..*

April 07, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Michael E. O'Connell Sr..*



April 07, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ *Couldn't ask for a better neighbor. Made a mean patty melt 😊 See you on the other side. Mike and Barb*

Mike and Barb - April 05, 2025 at 08:46 AM