



## Mike Alex

April 14, 1960 - July 12, 2019

### MIKE ALEX

Michael T. Alex was born April 14, 1960 in Davenport, Iowa, and passed away too soon on Friday, July 12, 2019.

Mike grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, and was a football and track star at Shawnee Mission West High School, where he also met his wife, Patti Frost. He continued to play football in college, earning scholarships to Coffeyville Junior College and Montana University where he and Patti married in 1981.

Mike and Patti returned to Kansas City, where they built a life with their sons, Ryan, Bret, and James and daughter, Kelli.

Mike had a distinguished career as an Educator and All-Metro football coach at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kansas, capped by a run in the State Playoffs. He then became the Founder/President of St. James Academy in Lenexa, Kansas, as well as the Director of Development at Lourdes Central Catholic School in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Mike's life revolved around his family, the Catholic Church and the Lake of the Ozarks—often mixing all three at once. His best days were driving his family around the lake in his boat and burning any and all pieces of meat he could

find on the BBQ.

Mike had a sweet soul. We are certain he would want prayers in the Catholic tradition he believed in so fervently for his burdens lifted so that he may rest in eternal peace.

Mike is survived by his wife Patti; his mother, Janet; his children, Ryan, Kelli, Bret, and James; his siblings, Elizabeth, Mary Jane, John, and Tim; and his six grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Laurie, Missouri. Interment will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Laurie. Visitation will be from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

Memorial donations are suggested to The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, Lourdes Central Catholic School or St. James Academy.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Patrick Cemetery

800 Highway O  
Laurie, MO 65038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 16. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
176 Marian Dr.  
Gravois Mills, MO 65037  
<http://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org>

## Funeral Mass

JUL 16. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
176 Marian Dr.  
Gravois Mills, MO 65037  
<http://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org>

# Tribute Wall

BD

“ I played football and wrestled for Coach Mike Alex in the early 90s, and he was the best motivator / head coach any team could hope to have. He got everyone to play with full effort, and then dig down and give even more, and he wouldn't accept anything less. I learned a lot from Coach Alex about how hard you have to work if you want to be successful in sports and in life in general. I went on to play small college football, and the college coaches were no where close to as motivating as Coach Alex was.  
I hope the Alex family is doing as well as possible, and please know your husband / father made an extremely positive impact on the countless people he worked with during his time.

---


**Brian Dunn** - October 01, 2019 at 01:12 PM

JF

“ Thank you for always believing in me Coach even when I didn't believe in myself.

---

**John Foley** - July 16, 2019 at 11:08 PM

 Wendy Hoelting

“ Met Mike when he was a lifeguard at Shawnee Pool about 40 years ago....he always gave me trouble and tried to keep me in line...He then had my two kids at SJA....really enjoyed our conversations!  
May he RIP!

---

**Wendy Hoelting** - July 16, 2019 at 07:11 PM

BO

“ Mike was Tom’s football coach during Tom’s four years at Aquinas. My family enjoyed working with him in various fundraisers and greatly admired his coaching and mentoring skills. Tom died eight years ago from suicide. Mike was one of the few people who tried to help Tom find a job during his final year. I know Tom is celebrating with him in heaven! God bless your family.

---

**Bonnie Ondick** - July 16, 2019 at 12:43 PM

AS

“ It’s so sad to hear this news. He was involved in so much over the years and touched many lives. God bless your family during this time, and may Mike rest in peace.

*Anne (Pinkelmann) Smith - former Aquinas student and teacher at GS*

---

**Anne Smith** - July 16, 2019 at 12:24 PM

JS

“ We have known Mike and been friends for more than 25 years and now sad to have lost his presence. We were fortunate to have worked with Mike at both Aquinas and his beloved St James Academy. Mike was polite and deferential to all teachers, benefactors and collaborators. He was incredibly enthusiastic, full of energy and highly effective. Mike also had great faith and made sure it was the heart and soul of SJA. Mike will be missed by all who knew him. Please know that we are praying for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of all his family.

*John and Pat Menghini*

---

**John Menghini Sr.** - July 16, 2019 at 10:20 AM

CS

“ Patti, Ryan, Kelli, Bret, and James,  
I am sorry to hear of Mikes passing. From 1994-1997, coach Alex was my mentor at Aquinas. Some of my best memories will always come from my senior year with coach and our team. He led a senior retreat of players down to the Ozarks before that season that helped cap our semifinal playoff run. He was a tough and physical coach. The mental toughness I learned from him wouldn't pass in today's world, but it is instilled to me this day. From his love of the lake to his leadership and charity event coordination he will be deeply missed.

Coach, thanks for the push and we will forever love you.

Clint Steiner

---

Clint Steiner - July 16, 2019 at 08:28 AM

AC

“ Mr. Alex, you made learning theology fun while at STA. "Everyone should learn about their faith and how it ties into Football" was the message he so often communicated to us students. One of my most favorite classes from high school and certainly most favorite teachers while there. Mr. Alex you will be missed. The Cisper Family is so very sorry for your loss. Tell my brother and dad hello from all of us! -Amy

---

Amy Cisper - July 15, 2019 at 04:13 PM

KG

“ Patti, I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I remember your locker and my locker were next to each other at both Hillcrest Jr High and SM West, and watching your relationship with Mike go from Jr high crush, to the relationship you two shared till the end. Blessings to you and your family.

---

Karen (Frechette) Glass - July 15, 2019 at 04:06 PM

JB

*Patti and Family,  
I have such fond memories of Mike. My prayers are with your entire  
family. John Burns*

---

**John Burns** - July 15, 2019 at 06:56 PM

TR

“My name is Tim Richardson, but I’m also known as “The Hammer”. Mike was my football Coach—all the way back at the old Aquinas (St. Joe, Shawnee)—in his first job right outta college.

*I want to express my condolences to you and your family for your loss. Coach Alex was not only a terrific coach, he was very instrumental in my personal growth and development.*

*And back in 2005, when he was asked to head the newly established St. James Academy, he remembered me in a letter to his students and constituents. I’ve included it herein.*

*What that letter doesn’t tell you, is that I never would’ve become “The Hammer” without him. Nor would I have been able to achieve the life long dream I had, as a kid who grew up on the 50 yard line at St. Joe, of becoming a Varsity Blue Streak Football player. No chance.*

*He not only gave me the nickname, he really pushed for me to get the opportunity that Coach Mirocke was at least initially reluctant to let me have. He did that, I think, because he felt I’d earned it. Through the hard work he said I needed to do. He once told me, “If you’re in great shape physically, there isn’t anything you can’t accomplish”. And I really took that to heart. I went from being a 120 pound bean pole, who was getting clobbered every night in practice, to being a much larger, more capable football player, who’s confidence as a human being absolutely skyrocketed. And I, too, will be forever grateful.*

*I know this must be a difficult time. I just wanted to reach out and let you all know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Tim Richardson  
The Hammer*





---

**Tim Hammer Richardson** - July 15, 2019 at 03:42 PM

BR

*Awesome letter*

---

**Ben Reynoldson** - July 16, 2019 at 01:26 AM

TA

“ *Patty, I am so sorry for the loss of Mike. He was an icon! The stories he and my dad would tell...most of them true! I am so sorry I did not get to see him at my dad's funeral, but I saw his name in the book. May he rest in peace...*

*Trish Mulvany Arnold*

---

**Trish Arnold** - July 15, 2019 at 03:28 PM