



# Mike Szemplenski

August 11, 1942 - November 3, 2022

## MIKE SZEMLPENSKI

Theodore Martin “Mike” Szemplenski, age 80, of Camdenton, Missouri, passed away Thursday, November 3, 2022, at Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach, Missouri. He was born August 11, 1942, in Morristown, New Jersey, a son of Theodore Martin and Rose Ann (Gilligan) Szemplenski.

On October 28, 1963, he married Joyce A. Denne in Omaha, Nebraska. They raised two daughters and shared fifty-four years of marriage before her passing on August 4, 2018.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Ann Szemplenski and Susan Tubbs.

Survivors include his daughters, Ann Plaza and husband Chris of McLean, Virginia and Janet Szemplenski of Omaha, Nebraska; five grandchildren, Matthew Plaza, Katherine Plaza, Madelynn Szemplenski, Randi Szemplenski and Theodora “Teddie” Szemplenski; a brother, Tom Szemplenski of San Diego, California and many other relatives and friends.

Mike graduated high school in Parsippany, New Jersey in the class of 1960. That fall, he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha on a baseball

scholarship. After playing for one year in college, he signed a pro contract with the Boston Red Sox. In 1963, Mike was assigned to Statesville, North Carolina in the Western Carolina League. He received the Topp's "Player of the Month" award for July 1963. At the end of the season, he was assigned to Winston-Salem of the Carolina League. In 2000, Mike was inducted into the South Atlantic League Hall of Fame for his record-setting 1963 campaign.

In 1965, Mike returned to Omaha to complete both a bachelor's and master's degree in counseling the hearing impaired. He and Joyce both worked at Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs, Iowa for more than thirty years. They retired to the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri in 2000.

Mike was a member of the St. Patrick Catholic Church in Laurie and the Knights of Columbus.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, November 10, 2022, at the St. Patrick Catholic Church in Laurie with Father John Schmitz celebrating. Graveside services and interment will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Laurie. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Thursday, at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Missouri Department of Conservation.

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

# Cemetery Details

## St. Patrick Cemetery

800 Highway O  
Laurie, MO 65038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 10. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

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# Tribute Wall

RC

“ Mike and I grew up together. He lived on RT 53 Mt Tabor, and I lived in Mt Tabor NJ. We were a small bunch of kids from that area that always hung out together. We used Mikes basement for almost everything. We sure had fun back then. He played baseball with my husband Ben in Morristown NJ. Saw Mike at our 50th high school reunion. I am so so sad to hear of his passing.

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**Ruth (Zeh) Cutler** - November 11, 2023 at 06:13 PM

KD

“ Best Uncle EVER! Great memories of watching him play baseball as a kid, teaching me how to pitch a curve ball, teaching my boys how to pitch a 2 seam fastball, monkey bites, boating on the Lake...sorry about the dock...hillarious hunting stories told on Thanksgiving & Christmas, sitting around the table eating naked Jello!

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**Karen Denne** - November 09, 2022 at 03:15 PM

TE

“ I have many memories of shooting at my dad's trap range with Mike. He had many stories to tell! He took an interest in my grandsons baseball games and came to a few games. He will be missed.

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**Tenessa** - November 09, 2022 at 10:06 AM

JG

“ I first met Mike over 50 years ago at the beach at Lake Manawa. Mike was training his retriever Belle and we struck up a conversation that lasted all of these years. I was sad when Mike and Joyce retired to Missouri. Dailene and I are more sad that both are now gone. We shared many great memories that will live on. Our condolences to Anne and Janet - your parents are good people.

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**jim and dailene goodman** - November 08, 2022 at 08:16 PM

BG

“ We are sad to hear of Mike's passing. I worked with Mike at ISD traveling the state together, and had many laughs along the way. Condolences to the family.....Barry Glass

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**Barry Glass** - November 08, 2022 at 04:31 PM

NG

“ I admired Mike. For his willingness to teach others, his wit, his honesty. Mike introduced my friend Rob and I to bow hunting when I was around 14 years old. He instilled that passion into me way back then and it led to me being one of a select few to harvest all the North American game with a bow. It was great watching him teach others so many things. ISD was truly blessed to have him there. Thank you sir for what you did for me!

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**Ned Greer** - November 08, 2022 at 04:04 PM

JW

“ Mike was a great guy, I met him as a kid in our local bowhunting club. Come to find out he worked with my dad at ISD for 30 plus years. Mike took & taught me turkey hunting when I was a teenager. Mike called in my first Tom turkey I ever shot. Many turkeys later I will always remember those times & pass on the opportunity to take or share turkey hunting tips in return. I attempted to reach out & chat with Mike to tell him my daughter is a up coming trap & skeet shooter on the local school team her in CB. My friends Mark, Ned & I had breakfast a few years ago with Mike while he was visiting his family in Omaha. It was great to catch up & chat about old times. The Pollock was & always will be a great man to me. Proud to have known him .. Condolence's to his family.....Jay Wilson

Jay Wilson - November 08, 2022 at 01:45 PM

TS

“ Tony Schaffer lit a candle in memory of Mike Szemplenski



tony schaffer - November 07, 2022 at 09:26 AM

RO

“ enjoyed shooting trap with mike for many years. a turkey hunt that was fun and laughable. a lot of baseball talk also. Mike will be missed. he was a true friend.

Ronald Oldham - November 05, 2022 at 08:55 PM

KD

“ He was such a fun uncle! I have a lifetime of fond memories to cherish. His hunting stories were the best. He will be dearly missed.

Kristi Denne - November 05, 2022 at 06:36 PM

RG

“ *Mike was a great guy.and now he and Joyce will be reunited.  
May he rest in peace*

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**Roger and Carol Gibson** - November 05, 2022 at 01:35 PM