



Michael Endsley Benefiel

July 2, 1955 - September 23, 2017

Michael Endsley Benefiel, 62, of Montgomery, Texas passed away suddenly on September 23, 2017. He was born on July 2, 1955 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Michael is survived by his wife, Debra Morrow-Benefiel, sister and brother-in-law, Melinda and Ron Zorn; brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Teresa Benefiel; nieces, Whitney Atkins and Amber Rienbold, as well as, many other close family members and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Betty Benefiel.

Mike was employed by US Customs for 39 years and was looking to retire soon. He was known as "Mikey" to his close friends and family. He had a very unique sense of humor. He started every day with at least one cup of "strong" coffee. He was very outgoing and always a joy to be around. He loved to fish, boat and golf, but more than anything, he loved to sing Karaoke. Mikey was a very genuine person, whose drive, determination and compassion will live on through the lives he touched.

Thank you for all the support and love, he had a place in his heart for all of you.

A celebration of life for Michael "Mikey" Benefiel will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 20850

Eva Street in Montgomery, Texas 77356. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested any donations be made to the American Heart Association, 10060 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, Texas 77054 in the memory of Michael Benefiel.

You may leave written condolences at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

OCT **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Montgomery

10129 FM 1097 Rd W

Willis, TX 77318

(936) 890-0454

greg@shmfh.com

<https://www.shmfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Endsley Benefiel*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *JANICE BURNAMAN purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



JANICE BURNAMAN - October 21, 2017 at 02:44 AM



“ *I have been struggling to find the right words to express how saddened I am to hear that this amazing human being is no longer with us here on Earth. I am not sure there are any “right” words, or enough words. There are so many things, it is just too much to put into “words”. I just want to tell his family what a wonderful person he was, how kind and genuine he was, and how many people he helped. Just by being himself. Deb, I am forever grateful to both of you for who you both are! For your genuine kindness, friendship, and humor. You both made my life better, just being yourselves. And I will love you both forever. My true and sincere condolences to all who loved Mikey, which is everyone who knew him.*

Janice Burnaman - October 21, 2017 at 02:00 AM

CP

“ *Customs and Border Protection purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



Customs and Border Protection - October 20, 2017 at 04:20 PM

UE

“ *There are so many fond memories of our Mikey. That cute little guy that loved to be in all the pictures and movies at the family gathering. Mike Mark Melinda Gail Patty David Mary Martha and Susan, all the cousins. Then a few years after we moved to Houston Mike and Mark came also and we were so happy to have them close again. So many happy times followed. God bless you Mike. You will always be with us.*
Aunt Carol and Uncle Dave Endsley

Uncle Dave and Aunt Carol Endsley - October 20, 2017 at 11:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



October 20, 2017 at 12:37 AM

AM

“ Uncle Mike, we have so many wonderful memories together that I will always remember. Fishing, boating, swimming, and many more!! You were always smiling and a joy to be around. You always remembered to message me on my birthday, & I loved your random messages to check-in on us every so often. You will certainly be missed. Give Grandma & Grandpa our love and lots of hugs. We love you.



To Deb & all of our Family & Friends affected by his loss, you are truly in our prayers, my condolences to all of you.

The Reinbold Family

Amber - October 19, 2017 at 11:55 PM

LG

“ Love, Phillip and Gail purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.



Love, Phillip and Gail - October 19, 2017 at 11:45 PM

HT

“ In my 42 plus years of Government service, Michael Benefiel was one of the most kind, intelligent and professional persons I had the honor to know and work with. In 1996 the Houston North Belt Customs Office opened and for 2 years I worked on a Trade Team. "Mike" was a go to guy for information. Mike always had a smile and a friendly greeting and would always ask "How's the Family doing Tom". When I was reassigned to Air Cargo CET/EXODUS, I often had to return to "North Belt" on meetings and business; Mike would always smile and give me a sincere and happy greeting. We can all say that Michael was a quality and true Ambassador and representative for our agency and fellow workers. He was one of "The Good Guys". I retired from CBP on January 1, 2011. My youngest son Daniel Taylor was sworn in to CBP as a Technician in August 2011. Mike Benefiel was one of Danny's Supervisors during the past 6 years. Danny relates that he was fortunate to have Mike a one of his "Mentors" and Supervisors. RIP Mike and thank you for your friendship and service to our country. To the family and friends of "Michael Benefiel, please accept our sincere condolences. Respectfully, Harold "Tom", Marialinda, Tommy and Danny Taylor.

Harold Taylor - October 19, 2017 at 06:03 PM

CP

“ Customs and Border Protection purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.



Customs and Border Protection - October 19, 2017 at 05:21 PM

JC

“ Jerry And Sally Cecil sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael Endsley Benefiel



Jerry and Sally Cecil - October 19, 2017 at 07:35 AM

GW

“ I remember meeting Michael Endsley Benefiel when I started with CBP in July of 2009 and he made a joke to put me at ease and make me smile, because he could see how nervous I was. He had a way of doing that, “making everyone feel so relaxed.” I think it’s because he was so laid back and and you knew that he truly cared about you. Every morning when Mike would see you he would say, “Hey You!” with that big Mike smile, then he would listen to whatever issue or problem you had whether it had to do with work or personal. He would help you solve your problem or give you a little something to think about so you could figure it out. When you needed that kind caring word, he would say, “Always know what’s really important.” and “Take care of yourself and family first.” When you would walk away from him you always said, “Thanks Mike!”, but I truly hope and pray that he knew how much we all loved and appreciated him for his guidance, direction and so much more. He will be missed. We pray for the family and thank you for sharing Mike with us. God Bless and Keep You.

Gloria Walker - October 15, 2017 at 08:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



October 15, 2017 at 01:03 PM



“ *Melinda & Ronald Zorn, Mark & Teresa Benefiel purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



Melinda & Ronald Zorn, Mark & Teresa Benefiel - October 13, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ *Mike, you were an amazing person. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of you. You left in peace with everyone because you were the most peaceful person I know. You were a gentleman and an honorable person of character. I miss your jokes, your whistling, and your way of making a difficult situation seem not so difficult. Someone recently asked me, if you had children and I said YES. Yes because you were a father figure to many of use. I miss you and I love you. I hope I made you proud. I will always remember you!*

anonymous - October 13, 2017 at 12:17 PM



“ Mike was one of the first people to welcome me to Houston in 2009. Easy with a smile, a kind word or a story to illustrate a point. The light of the world is just a little bit dimmer without you in it. RIP Mike.

Joe Fernandez - October 11, 2017 at 06:22 AM

TW

“ *IN PARADISUM*
May the Angels lead you into Paradise;
may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the Holy City, the new and eternal Jerusalem.
May the Choir of Angels welcome you where Lazarus is poor no longer.
May you have eternal rest.

I am blessed by knowing Michael.

Thomas R. Wuenschel

Thomas R. Wuenschel - October 10, 2017 at 06:45 PM

CT

“ Mike was such a genuine character. Over the 15 years I have been in the business, he was invaluable to us all, and especially for young brokers starting out. To hear of his passing is truly heartbreaking. He was a good person and will truly be missed. His presence will never be forgotten, though. Prayers for his wife and family.

-Cleopatra A. Tomic, Masterpiece International

Cleopatra Tomic - October 10, 2017 at 05:34 PM

JJ

“ I was unaware of Mikes passing until last Friday, and not only am I shocked, but very sad. I had the pleasure of knowing Mike since 1985. What a great person he was, there was never a time I would call Mike and he would go out of his way to help me, even if it was some one else responsibility, Mikes voice would never change, so you never knew if he was frustrated or not. He was very knowledgeable of Customs laws and regulations. Mike will truly be missed. I send my deepest condolences to his family, and every one who worked with or knew Mike.

Jackie Jack

Jackie Jack - October 10, 2017 at 01:58 PM

MH

“ What a wonderful husband (yes Deb he loved you very much, you could see it all over his face!), friend and colleague. His warmth, smile and loving attitude will be missed by many. My deepest sympathies, condolences and prayers to his wife Deb, family, friends and colleagues. An angel just got his wings! Rest in peace Mikey!

Roger and Mona Hillman

Mona Hillman - October 10, 2017 at 01:14 PM

JA

“ Mike
Thank you for always being a kind and loving friend. You are truly missed and your Duete's with your sweet wife. Your smile and warmth when you greeted people always made everyone feel welcome and good about themselves. I can't say Goodbye so until we meet again my friend. 😊

Jackie - October 10, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



October 06, 2017 at 04:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.*



October 06, 2017 at 04:17 PM



“ *I only just learned about Michael's passing. I am so shocked, I don't know what to think. He has been my friend and professional colleague for over 20 years and always a wonderful person to know. I will always remember his sharp wit and his great sense of humor. He will be missed.*

Korrie Thomas

Korrie Thomas - October 05, 2017 at 02:37 PM



I worked with Mike for many years. Very sweet man. Rest in peace my precious friend. Linda Finnerty

Linda Finnerty - October 06, 2017 at 08:48 PM



so sorry for your loss - he was a very nice person & great to work with.

ELIZABETH BRADFORD - October 07, 2017 at 09:27 AM

RD

“ I was unaware of mikes passing until today, and not only am I shocked, but very sad. I had the pleasure of working with Mike since 1993. What a great guy, and very, very knowledgeable of Customs laws and regulations. Mike will truly be missed by all. My deepest condolences to his family, coworkers and friends. May he be resting with our lord and savior. God bless

Ruben DeLeon

Ruben DeLeon - October 05, 2017 at 12:56 PM

JB

“ *Jacqueline Baker lit a candle in memory of Michael Endsley Benefiel*



Jacqueline Baker - October 05, 2017 at 12:28 PM

JB

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday, Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Rest Chief Benefiel~

CBP,

Jacqueline Baker - October 05, 2017 at 12:56 PM

DS

“ I am so saddened to hear of the passing of this great man! My condolences to the family. Everyone at Customs Clearance International is deeply saddened by Mike's passing! He absolutely one of the finest men I have ever worked with!
Rest in Peace, My friend!



David Sudduth - October 05, 2017 at 11:16 AM

JR

“ John Rulon purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.



John Rulon - October 05, 2017 at 09:22 AM

CL

“ Mikey... Life is just too short and too precious.... you were the real deal. Billy & I only got to share 6 short years with you, but in that short time, you sure brought a lot of smiles our way. We got to have so many great conversations about life, work, retirement, the hill country, Tennessee, and so much more. We miss your contagious laugh and your quick wit. We will miss those great old songs you sang too. We always said they just don't make very many people like Mikey. You are already sorely missed. Fly high our brother, until we meet again. ❤️🙏 To Deb and the rest of Mikey's family, remember the good times and the joy you shared with him. May God comfort you and wrap his loving arms around you in this time of great sorrow.

Billy & Cathee LeRoy

Cathee & Billy LeRoy - October 05, 2017 at 08:16 AM

JB

“ Mike and I attended Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Although we went to the same high school in our home town of Sandusky, we got "re-acquainted" when we bumped into each other while waiting in line to sign up for a class at BGSU.

We did something together almost every day after that - be it playing catch with the "rock ball" (a rubber coated baseball he had), home run derby, basketball at the men's gym or watching the Three Stooges at 4 PM sharp everyday.

Being college, we were drinking buddies too. "Benny" had a wicked sense of humor and was great fun to be around.

I will miss him - hopefully he and our other BGSU buddy Greg Wyant are tipping one back in Heaven right now.

Rest in peace, Mike.

Jeff Baumeister - October 04, 2017 at 12:50 PM

JB

“ Jeff and Cindy Baumeister purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Michael Endsley Benefiel.



Jeff and Cindy Baumeister - October 04, 2017 at 09:54 AM

JL

“ To Mike's family:

I do not work with U.S. Customs but work in the Customs brokerage industry. I first met Mike in 1980 when U.S. Customs was located on San Jacinto St. Together, we learned how to work with a new Customs law called Same Condition Duty Drawback. Some people just become friends quickly, and Mike and I became friends quickly. I kept up with Mike through the years and would see him frequently when I went to the present Customs building on the Beltway. I relocated to Colorado so had not seen Mike since 2013 but thought of him often. I know Mike will be missed.

Jerry K. Lamb - October 03, 2017 at 04:51 PM

DG

“ *I've known Mike for over 20 years. He is someone who is what he appears to be, a honest, caring person who will be truly missed. I'm sorry that we never got to play golf as I live in Walden and Mike was next door in Del Lago. Mike was always mild mannered and always treated everyone fair and always did right by them. You could always learn from Mike, whether it was on the job or how to be mellow in dealing with other challenges. God Bless. Dennis Guy*

Dennis Guy - October 03, 2017 at 04:46 PM

GC

“ I met Mike back in 1988 when he transferred here to Houston, then named U.S. Customs Service. He was my supervisor for many years and was like an on the job older brother. He always had my back and taught me so much of what I know today, as well as some life topics. We were always in close working proximity whether he was my supervisor or not. He and I both worked the majority of our career here in the Entry Division of Customs & Border Protection. There are so many funny stories that I could share but I just can't pick one. Mike was so funny and always had a way of making things that were unpleasant seem a little more brighter. He was such a caring person, he would often stop by my desk before the end of the day and ask "how are you doing Gail?" Even though, I will miss Mike a great deal, I will carry his spirit in my heart forever.



My prayer is that God will spread his peace among your family now and always!

Gail Chretien

Gail Chretien - October 03, 2017 at 04:03 PM

OF

“ Mike,

I got the news and felt like my heart was broken into a million pieces.....I know you will never get to physically see this message but I wanted to let you know how you impacted my life in so many ways that you never knew.

You were one of the sweetest and most kind hearted people I had the honor to know, you had a quick wit, never judgmental of ANYONE (and God knows there are a lot of us that could be judged), always smiling (even when it was stressful around here), calm, sympathetic to everyone's issues (we have a lot of issues), fair and patient. You never, and I mean never, took yourself too serious and always took things and people in stride...Which is a rare quality that most of us do not have, but you had that and more.

You leave a huge void behind for those of us who loved you!! Life truly is short and death does not wait for us to get our lives together before our day comes. You were a rare and beautiful masterpiece and I would never expect you to be something or someone you weren't. You were LOVED by so many just the way you were!!

Here's to you and staying TRUE to who you were and making me want to be a better person in every way!!

This one's for you my Dear Friend..... Cheers!!!



One of your many friends - October 03, 2017 at 03:25 PM

DA

“ *I so enjoyed my daily work breaks with Mike. He would always make me laugh. Such a joyful spirit. He is so going to be missed. Prayers of comfort to the family, friends, loved ones. D.E. Hightower*

Danielle - October 03, 2017 at 02:46 PM