



The Canfield 4th of July Committee is proud to announce the 2023 Grand Marshal leading the Independence Day parade is Canfield native and businessman Michal Naffah.

Mike has been a life-long Canfield resident, graduating from Canfield High School in 1970. He was one of the recipients of that year's Student Council Scholarship and says that \$200 gift made it possible for him to enroll in Youngstown State University. With a major in economics and a minor in political science, Mike feels that gave him a strong foundation in business for his future as a successful entrepreneur.

After graduating from YSU, Mike was hired to help launch The Embassy Banquet Hall in Youngstown, expecting to stay for 6 months. Within a few years he purchased the business which has flourished as a premier event center for over 40 years.

Mike grew up on the township farm his Dad purchased in the 1930's, just east of the Canfield city limits. Once a popular driving range, Mike recalls retrieving golf balls, dreaming of what he could develop on the property. Those dreams have become a reality for him as President of Naffah Hospitality Group which includes the Embassy and Ironwood, a destination property with a variety of businesses including the Inner Circle Restaurant, Ironwood Assisted Living and the Hampton Inn & Suites. In addition, Naffah Hospitality group also includes the Shale Tavern & Grille and the Days Inn, both in Lisbon. As the head of Naffah Development, Mike launched Macy Lane, a premier residential villa neighborhood and welcomed Nicolinni's Chophouse to Ironwoods Commons.

Mike is a strong advocate for giving back to his community and has been involved in many fundraising projects, including St. Michael's Church, the Canfield School's Big Boosters, the new gazebo in the center of Canfield and an incredible fundraising success for the Melina Michelle Edenfield Foundation. Mike is generous in giving his time, talents and funds to help fulfill the needs of so many worthy organizations within the Mahoning Valley. Philanthropy was a big part of his young life, learning this valuable lesson from his Dad who owned a grocery store in Youngstown. During the Depression, Isaac Naffah made sure none of his customers went hungry.

Mike has been honored as Business Professional of the Year in 2006 by the Regional Chamber as well as Citizen of the Year in 2008 by Canfield Rotary. Adding to his many citations and proclamations from city and state organizations, Mike can now proudly include Grand Marshal for the Canfield 4th of July parade.

Through the Embassy, Mike met his future wife, Karen Myers, also a Canfield graduate. Members of St. Michael's Church, they are celebrating a landmark forty years together, are the parents of Mallory and her husband, Jeff Padurean and the proud grandparents of Macy Frances and Brooks Michal.

If you have a chance, thank Mike and Karen for their many generous contributions to our community.