

August 2022

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Presidents' Message



Mike was a big John Wayne fan, so I thought I would start off with a quote by John Wayne:

Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday.

Mike was born on September 29, 1949 in Centerville, Iowa to Walter and Francis Phillips. Mike was the third child of 6. He had an older brother, Ron and an older sister, Vickie. His younger siblings are Nancy, Eddie and Sandy. Mike cherished his relationships with all of his siblings. I asked Sandy about Mike and he said that he was more than a brother to him. Sandy said when he asked Mike a question or advice, you

would never receive a direct answer, Mike would guide you and help you make your own decisions. Then Mike would support what ever decision you would make. Sandy said he hopes that he could be half the man Mike was.

When Mike was nine the Philips family moved from Iowa to San Francisco. Then in 1964, when Mike was 15 the family moved again. This time they moved to South San Francisco, where he lived 10 houses down the street from his future wife.

It was not love at first sight for Mike and Alma, in fact they did not like each other at all. In fact, one time, Mike was cruising down the road in one of his many Cadillac's and Alma was walking. As Mike passed by, Alma let him know he was number one, using her middle finger. Mike stopped the car and backed up, and said "what did you do?" Alma said "you didn't see it the first time, well look" and again held

up the finger. Mike said "I thought that is what you did", and drove away. They eventually started dating, but when Mike enlisted in the Army in 1967, he told Alma that she needed to date others and that she was young, and she should go to dances, and have fun. So, Mike headed off to the Army and since Alma was still in High School, she dated, and went to dances and had fun.

When Mike was headed to Korea, he and one other soldier were handpicked for a special operation. Little did Mike know but he was about to witness a very historical moment, the capture of the USS Pueblo, a Naval intelligence ship on January 23, 1968. The Pueblo was gathering information off the coast of North Korea, in international waters.

Mike came back to South San Francisco and again lived only 10 houses away from the love of his life, Alma. However, since he told her to date, go to dances and have fun, Alma was dating another man, named Bill. Mike started to date a girl named Sharon. Then, well, they got engaged. Alma was engaged to Bill, and Mike was engaged to Sharon. Mike and Alma continued to run into each other, and would usually snub one another. One day Mike asked Alma for some help. Mike had to go into San Francisco to pick up a car. He asked Alma if she would ride with him and then drive his car home. Alma really didn't want to go, so she told Mike that she would have to ask her Dad, thinking that her Dad would say no. To Alma's surprise her Dad said, "Sure, go with Mike". Alma begrudgingly walked the 10 houses over to Mike's place and they got in the car and left. As they made small talk, Alma would look to her right and never look at Mike. Mike finally had enough and pulled the car over. He said to Alma, "Do you love Bill. If you love Bill, look at me directly in my eyes and say so". Alma turned to Mike, and looked at his chin, then his ear, then his nose, and Mike replied "I thought so". Mike told Alma that when they got back home, they both had to break up with their respective fiancés, and be together. And that is what they did. Mike and Alma fell deeply in love. They had a loves story like no other. You can see this love in the pictures that have been taken. They are always looking at each other, as if they are the only people. They married in Reno on November 29, 1969. Alma was just 17 and Mike was 19. Alma's mother didn't think the marriage would last. In fact, she made a \$500 wager with Alma that the marriage wouldn't last 6 months. The marriage lasted for over 52 years and Alma never did receive her \$500.

Angel was born in 1971, followed by Mike Jr in 1974. Angel was Daddy's little girl. They truly had a special bond. Mike coached Angel's junior softball team and then the elite Napa Valley Express Softball team. Mike eventually became president of the Softball league. Coaching young pre-teen and then teen-age girls says a lot about the kind of man Mike was. Just think about that: Coaching teen-age girls!

Angel is now married to Sean, and blessed Mike and Alma with 5 grandchildren, Austin, Colby, Travis, Holly and Benny. During Mike's illness, Angel was his ears and sometimes his voice at doctor appointments and hospital stays. In fact, at one such hospital stay, Angel was asking too many questions which made Mike uncomfortable so he called for Security!

Mike Jr is married to Marcie and they also blessed Mike and Alma with 4 grandchildren, KC, Megan, Machaela and Maddie. Mike Jr said that his Dad was his "go to" person. Mike and his Dad always had each other's back. Mike Jr remembers hunting trips with his dad, and working on cars. They always seem to have a project to work on. One such project was a VW Baja Dune Buggy. While out in the Dune Buggy they had an experience with a weird rabbit. For some reason this rabbit was hopping alongside the Dune buggy and then all of a sudden decided to get in front of the Buggy. Sadly, the rabbit was hit, and Mike looked at Jr and said "Kwazy Rabbit", and Jr replied, "Trix are for Kids!"

Mike worked as a Parts man at El Camino Auto, where he met a life-long friend and mentor, Bill Gainey. He then worked at Williams & Lane in Berkely, and his met his lifelong friend Keith Knox. Mike and Alma visited Keith and his family in Napa one day. They then went back to Pacifica, sold their home and moved to Napa. Mike eventually retired in 2016 after working for 46 years for Generator Rental Services, which supplied industrial generators to businesses all over the north bay. Mike was a highly respected and sought-after individual in his field.

In addition to coaching Napa Girls Junior Softball League, Napa Valley Express, Napa Valley College Softball, Mike was involved with his Church, Grace Church of Napa Valley, and the Napa Elks Lodge. Mike found his second family, the Napa Valley Cruisers Car Club. Mike has been the President of the Cruisers for the last seven years, and spent many more years in different board positions. Mike was also in charge of the annual Car show, Main Street Reunion, held each August in downtown Napa.

Mike loved to hunt and camp. Mike Jr and Sandy both remember deer and pheasant hunting. The hunting trips were more about spending time together than hunting. If they got a deer or came home with pheasants that was a bonus.

Mike also loved cars. He liked to fix them up, and he loved to Cruise in them. At one time Mike had a 1959 Chevy Apache Truck. A beautiful blue truck. Mike Jr. remembers going to Benicia, with his dad in this truck. They were in a parking lot and for some reason Mike got in the truck and started doing donuts in the lot. Mike Jr said he just kept doing donuts, and he thought “what in the world?” Then Mike’s door on his truck swung open. Mike slowed down and shut his door, he then parked the truck where Mike Jr was standing, got out of the truck and said “Yeah, I meant to do that”.

Last August Mike made a final trip home to Centerville, Iowa. This was a trip of a lifetime. Mike got the chance to show Angel and Mike Jr where he was born, where he played, where he went to school, the houses he lived in and those of his friends. I remember Mike talking in detail about all the family he saw. Family came from all over to see Mike. He was overjoyed. He also talked in great detail about the Pork Tenderloin sandwiches and all of the variety of pies. You could see joy and peace come over Mike, when he spoke of this trip. I believe this trip gave Mike some renewed energy.

This past April Mike attended Kool April Nights in Redding. In Alma’s Impala they cruised to Redding, along with many members of the Napa Valley Cruisers. Angel made the trip with her son Austin, and his brother Sandy came up with his family. It was a special weekend. Mike had his scooter, and was buzzing around and honking his horn for people to move out of his way, as he had a lot of cars to look at, and knew his time was short. That weekend his brother, Sandy brought out a truck he had been working on. It was a 1972, Chevy that was once Mike’s truck. In fact it was the truck that Angel and Mike Jr learned to drive in. Mike was very proud of the work his brother Sandy put into the Truck. Sandy honored Mike, as the license plate reads: My Bro 72.

Mike is going to be deeply missed. He was thoughtful, caring and wise. He had integrity. Like Sandy said, he never gave you the answers, but guided you. I am going to miss our hello hugs, and our goodbye hugs. As you received the goodbye hug, he would whisper “I love you”. One of our Cruiser friends posted on Facebook: “Mike got into his heavenly hot rod and left the earth”.

I don’t know if Mike would have approved of this long eulogy. He wouldn’t have wanted all the attention on him, as he was humble. I saw this John Wayne quote, and I can just hear Mike saying this to me: “Chris, you’re short on ears and long on mouth”

Keep the rubber side down!



Birthday Wishes for August 2022

★ ★		
★ Judy Humphrey	★ August 2	★
★ Marilyn Budde	★ August 5	★
★ Don Johnson	★ August 9	★
★ Gayle Schildt	★ August 11	★
★ Jeanne Feigel	★ August 15	★
★ Ron Morofsky	★ August 19	★
★ Sandra Hathaway	★ August 20	★
★ Jean Kelly	★ August 23	★
★ Mike Butler	★ August 24	★
★ Theresa Long	★ August 27	★
★ Tony Stoer	★ August 28	★
★ Sandy Houck	★ August 30	★
★ ★		



August Anniversaries 2022

★ ★		
★ Scott & Sandra Hathaway	★ August 15	★
★ Bill & Nancy Hogberg	★ August 18	★
★ Ron & Mary Morofsky	★ August 19	★
★ Jerry & Peggy Larghi	★ August 27	★
★ Johnny & Audra Apodaca	★ August 28	★
★ Rob & Mari Schmidt	★ August 28	★
★ ★		

This was my worst month to write this article. Sending a card to Alma and her family for the loss of Mike was the hardest. Alma we are so sorry, Mike was the best ever. Please accept our condolences.

A card was sent to Claudette as she fell and broke her hip. She is now in the Meadow's and would love to hear from her car family.

A card was sent Nancy Hogberg as she had knee surgery. Nancy would also like to hear from her car family.

In supporting our club members please send cards to the above members.

Remember if you know someone that needs some SUNSHINE please contact:
 Yvonne Westberg @ (707) 337-5532-text this number. yvonnecoho@gmail.com

Upcoming Events



Registration Is Now Open!

Car Show: Saturday, October 8, 2022

Cruise: Friday, October 7

Important Note: The start time for the Friday Night Cruise is at 5:15pm this year because it gets dark earlier in October. The staging location will be in the parking lot of Our Lady of Loretto, located at 1806 Novato Blvd in Novato, CA 94947. The driving route will be through Downtown Novato.

We've streamlined the entire process of registration.

Visit our website to download forms or easily register online and pay right away!

Please note....there are 2 steps to the online registration. First fill out the online form and the second step is to pay. REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE until the payment is completed or check is received.

www.NostalgiaDaysNovato.com

MEET ME IN THE STREET AMERICAN CANYON

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

June 8th, July 13th, and August 10th from 5:00PM-8:00PM

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**\$20- Classic Car Show Entry
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\$55- Non- Member Business Table
\$75- Food Trucks (limited space/
application required)**

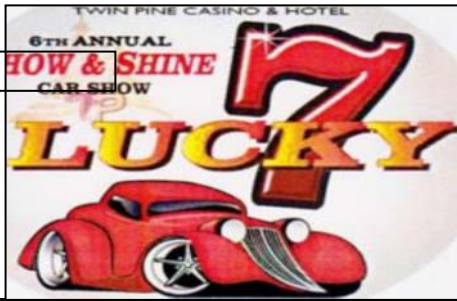


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Event Location:

On W. American Canyon Road between James Rd and Elliot Dr,
including North Hampton Park, the street will be closed to traffic

American Canyon Chamber of Commerce
3860 Broadway Street #103
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www.amcanchamber.org



SATURDAY, SEPT. 3, 2022

22223 Hwy. 29, Middletown, CA 95461

Napa Elks Car Show

And Chili Cookoff

Sunday August 7th

NVC Breakfast
Sunday August 7th
Jefferson Cafe

General Meeting
Thursday August 11th, 6:30
Napa Elks

Coffee and Cars Sunday August
14th
Brewed Coffee 8am-10am



Winners Circle

If you have won an award or you know of someone that has won an award, please let me know so we can acknowledge your accomplishment. Please send pictures. Contact Brad.



Winners at Grants Pass Oregon Car Show:

Yvonne won a merchants award!!!

Dan and Norma won a merchants award!!!

Brad and Jeanette won a merchants award for the 33 roadster!!!

Brad and Jeanette won Custom Letterman Jackets for the 33 roadster and for the 30 model a pickup!!!!



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