



Michael James Cole

April 28, 1960 - July 18, 2025

Michael James Cole, 65, a man dedicated to his family and friends, died peacefully on Friday, July 18, 2025. Mike was born April 28, 1960 in Lansing and was the son of Lawrence and Shirley (Prevost) Cole. As a young man, Mike worked for Longs of Lansing making many lifelong friends. He then joined Capital Cadillac as parts manager and worked there for over 20 years. In his retirement years, he carried his knowledge over to various automotive parts stores including Advanced Auto, and Napa.

Mike had many friends and loved hanging out, listening to music, and debating with whomever would listen. You could often find him riding his bike around town, hitting up the local food joints for their nightly specials and a few cold ones with his brother. No matter where Mike was, he carried his real passion, music, with him, his favorite music being from the 60s and 70s. Throughout the years Mike went to countless concerts. He was his happiest listening to music outdoors in the sunshine with friends and a cold beer in his hand. Much like his father, he had a lifetime interest in cars and loved watching the Detroit Lions, and Tigers. He also enjoyed snowmobiling, playing softball and volleyball in his day, and had an avid love for frogs. Above all, family meant everything to Mike.

Later in life he met the love of his life Diane. They enjoyed many years taking road trips, and spending time together. Their favorite spot to frequent was

Pere Marquette.

Mike is survived by his loving girlfriend, Diane Conner; siblings, Karen Berry and Keith Cole; nephews, Ben (Ashleigh) and Brian (Dayna) Berry; great-nephew and niece, Cole and Camryn (AKA Mug and Mini). He was predeceased by his parents and his brother-in-law, Richard Berry.

Friends are encouraged to support Mike's family by attending services or sharing memories on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., just prior to the service. Please join the family for food, fellowship and sharing memories of Mike immediately following the service at the Forty ET Eight Chateau 2949 S Waverly Hwy., Lansing, MI 48911.

The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to prayfuneral.com. Click Michael's tribute, then click on photos and videos from your device. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial

JUL 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial luncheon

JUL 30. 2:30 PM (ET)

Forty ET Eight Chateau
2949 S Waverly Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48911

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Michael James Cole



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 30, 2025 at 09:51 AM

JH

“ With heartfelt sympathy on Mike's passing. May the Lord give you peace and strength to get through this sad time.

Joanna Harrington - August 04, 2025 at 12:02 AM

DI

“ Diane purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Michael James Cole.



Diane - July 27, 2025 at 11:53 AM

HS

“ I've known Mike for almost 50 years. He was one of my closest friends when I moved back to Lansing in the late 70's. I will never forget our road trips to Daytona and Myrtle beach cruising for chicks, blasting out music from our cassette deck, and of course throwing back a few cold ones! Lots of good memories partying in his parents basement before heading out to Silver Dollar Saloon and Coral Gables. Equally good memories of his parents cottage where we spent a lot of weekends getting crazy until Shirley declared "State Law" and we had to tone it down (a bit). One of the maddest I've ever been at Mike was when he turned his musical tastes to Disco, and started going to Disco clubs including the Bus Stop with Tim. I eventually forgave him when he explained he hated the music, but loved the girls that were there. One memory I'd like to erase, but can't is the year Mike, Wiggins, Tim and I spent a week in Key West in the early 90's. Mike wore a skin tight short black speedo to the pool, and had to endure constant razzing from us for the rest of the trip. Later years when Sheri and I moved to Lake Lansing we'd have our Thursday night parties with the gang grilling, drinking, boating, and tubing. Sheri remembers whenever the "Ace of Base" song of "All That She Wants" came on, Mike would stop in his tracks and start dancing and singing. Love you man, and tell Larry and Shirley I said hey, and have a beer or three with Raatz!

Howard Soldan

Howard Soldan - July 27, 2025 at 10:33 AM

HS

“ Howard And Sheri Soldan purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Michael James Cole.



Howard And Sheri Soldan - July 27, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael James Cole.*



July 26, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ *Carol & family. Tim, Pam, Pat Bannick purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael James Cole.*



Carol & family. Tim, Pam, Pat Bannick - July 24, 2025 at 08:21 AM



“ *Michelle Kuzma and family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Michael James Cole.*



Michelle Kuzma and family - July 23, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ *Mike was the trivia king. A fountain of facts. Always liked listening to Mike. A lot of people will miss him. Dick Middaugh*

Richard middaugh - July 23, 2025 at 05:34 PM

MW

“ I lost my dear friend of 37 years last week who was like a brother to me. Mike and I had a lot of great times together. Whether it was going to the beach, going to car shows, taking road trips, gatherings with his family, or just hanging out listening to music and discussing the issues of the world, they were such wonderful memories. We learned a lot and shared a lot with each other, and he will definitely be missed. Godspeed, my friend

Mike Wiggins - July 22, 2025 at 08:34 PM

BB

“Reading “Pere Marquette” in Uncle Mike’s obituary sparked great memories, one in particular standing out. Back in the mid-to-late 2000s, we took a cruise in his latest pride-and-joy—he picked up a clean black Oldsmobile from the late ’70s, with a 350 “Rocket.” Mike insisted I take the wheel while he rode shotgun. The ride out was smooth as silk in that land yacht, but on the way back, the old girl had other ideas. It shook, stalled, and left us stranded on the side of I-96, forcing me to pull over nearly a dozen times to let it cool off. Turns out, it was just a bad fuel pump, cheap and easy to change on that car, but Mike was livid, cursing up a storm the whole way back—or as some may say, “pulling a Larry.” I’m pretty sure he put that car up for sale the moment we got home, and even years later, bringing it up would still get him riled. “POS.” When I was in my late teens and early twenties, Mike and I had a ritual of getting our hair cut together at Lynn’s every month. He’d always treat me to the local nightly special afterward—Texas burritos still come to mind. Some of my favorite moments, though, were spent sitting around his kitchen table or on his back deck, hammering beers and whiskey, solving the world’s problems one rant at a time. I’ll forever miss his cynical, but often correct, takes on cars, politics, or whatever else was on his mind. Mike always said funerals were depressing and that he wanted a party with free beer when his time came. True to his wishes, we’re honoring him with a celebration at the Forty and Eight Legion Hall after the service, complete with free beer. Here’s to you, Mike—I’ll always cherish the great times we had together.

Ben Berry - July 22, 2025 at 06:34 PM