



## Michael William Ranville

December 3, 1943 - July 19, 2025

Michael William "Mike" Ranville died on July 19, 2025. He was an author, political consultant, and historian. He was a resident of Charlotte for more than 50 years, and an active parishioner at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mike Ranville was born in Flint, Michigan on December 3, 1943, and attended St. Agnes High School in Flint where he starred on both the football and baseball teams. He graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in communications.

Mike joined the United States Air Force in 1966 and was stationed in Washington, D.C. where he was responsible for communications support for the presidential aircraft, Air Force One.

After leaving the service, Mike returned to Michigan and began a career in communications and public relations. He later served as director of the Michigan Senate Democratic Staff.

Mike then joined Karoub Associates, a leading political consulting firm in Lansing. He became a partner, and represented the interests of many clients before the state legislature. Among his clients were the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, the Michigan Trucking Association, and his favorite, the Michigan Library Association, because of their zeal in advocating for free

speech.

Mike's great passion in life, besides the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers, was writing and storytelling. He was the author of "To Strike at a King: The Turning Point in the McCarthy Witch-Hunt" (1997) and co-author of "Life to the Years: Living A Robust Life After Heart Disease" (2018). When he passed, he was working on "A Page in History," about how communication and alliances across the aisle can solve important problems, and a biography of Gregory Eaton, his close friend and colleague.

He was also the author of numerous articles concerning history, sports, and politics, with his writing appearing in various publications including The Sporting News, Michigan History Magazine, Michigan Chronicle, Reminisce, and the Charlotte Shopping Guide.

Mike was a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Historical Commission, the Michigan Political History Society, and the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, and served on the Charlotte Planning Commission and for other organizations. He was a founding member of STEWED and co-founder of FROC.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol (Schaafsma) of Charlotte, his daughter, Mara, of New York, and by seven brothers and sisters: Donald, David, Dennis, Mary, Martin, Gerard, and Laurice, and by many nieces and nephews. Mike was the son of the late Donald R. Ranville and Dorothy M. (Wallace) Ranville.

Friends are encouraged to support Mike's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). Visitation is Friday, July 25, 2025 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. with a Rosary being said at 5:30 p.m. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, July 26, 2025 at 11 a.m. at St.

Mary's Catholic Church in Charlotte with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Mike's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Memorials in lieu of flowers can be made to the Courthouse Square Association, a nonprofit in Charlotte, Michigan (<https://www.csamuseum.net/donate>) or St. Mary's Catholic Church in Charlotte (<http://osvhub.com/the-catholic-community-of/giving/funds>). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 25. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Rosary

JUL 25. 5:30 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

JUL 25. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral Mass

JUL 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Michael William Ranville



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 25, 2025 at 06:35 PM

RE

*there was no-one like Mike.. We were in a brothers 3 and brothers 4 group.. We love playing Wiffle ball and talking about the Pretty girls at last Agnes... He will be remembered and He was a WINNER. IN ALL WAYS God bless you Mike.. Love you RON Etue*

ron etue - July 29, 2025 at 11:07 PM

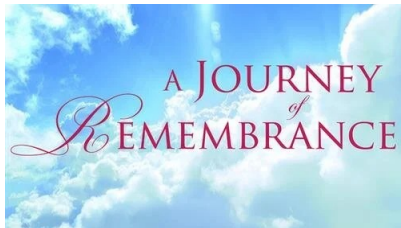
DL

*Sadly we never knew Mike but lived in a house he once owned and Mara babysat our two kids, Sara and Sean. With our deepest sympathy to Carol, Mara and the whole family, from the Leahy family*

Donna Leahy - September 24, 2025 at 12:37 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael William Ranville



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 24, 2025 at 08:45 PM

SR

“ Sorry to hear of Mike’s passing! In my 10 years of working for the Michigan State Police Troopers Association I worked with Mike and Gordy Gotts. This working relationship developed into a friendship that spanned two decades. Mikes intelligence, connections in the Legislature and State Agencies and resources lead to many successful endeavours that benefited Michigan and Michigan State Troopers! May he Rest in Eternal Peace and God Bless his family. Thank you for sharing him with us.

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**Scott Reinacher** - August 13, 2025 at 09:23 PM

MH

“ During the 20 years I served as Executive Director of the Michigan Library Association I was privileged to work with Mike as our lobbyist. His love of books and appreciation for the printed word made him an enthusiastic advocate for libraries; his knowledge and good humor earned him fans throughout libraries in Michigan. We were fortunate to have him in our corner. There is no doubt that thru his advocacy Michigan libraries - and the millions of people they serve - benefited. My sincere condolences. Mike was truly one of a kind.

*Marianne Hartzell*

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**Marianne Hartzell** - July 25, 2025 at 05:50 PM

GS

“ Carol and Mara-I will miss my occasional lunches with Mike and friends. He was always interesting to listen to, be it politics, history, the Tigers, or, my favorite topic, the Lions. He was ever the optimist, even though our boys in Honolulu blue and silver made it difficult at times.

Most recently, Mike sent me a text after he heard that I was dealing with some health issues. He wanted to organize another lunch. I texted back and told him that I was still recovering from my issues, but as soon as I was feeling better we'd get together. Sadly, that never happened. I will miss him. My deepest condolences to Carol, Mara, and the rest of the family.

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**Glenn G Smith** - July 25, 2025 at 12:29 PM

MR

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Megan Ranville** - July 24, 2025 at 10:43 PM



“ 49 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 24, 2025 at 08:40 PM

RS

“ Mike and I played football together at Flint St. Agnes and then remained good friends over the years. I treasure an autographed copy of his book "To Strike At A King". Talked to him just a week or so ago when the George Clooney broadcast on CNN was scheduled. He told me then that he had been ailing a bit, but his passing now is such a sad surprise. My condolences to Carol and the family. Mike was one great and talented man! The pride of us NorthEnd-ers from Flint.

Ronald D Smith - July 23, 2025 at 05:22 PM

DM

I loved seeing and talking with Mike at the St. Agnes alumni golf outings every first Monday of August. Always had a kind word and an interesting message during a conversation. He helped me write a ten page opinion article about MSU basketball. His knowledge and expertise was remarkable. He made me rewrite, rewrite and rewrite some more. It turned out amazing because of his ability to guide me. He fondly talked about St. Agnes football with me as we were connected in a spiritual way both being Offensive Centers for the Crusaders. He took pride in that and I felt like his brother in a way. RIP

David McCarney - July 23, 2025 at 07:08 PM

LF

*Our fond memories and prayers are with Mike's siblings and families. RIP Crusader! The St. Agnes Alumni Association, Flint MI*

**Lorene Feszczenko** - July 24, 2025 at 04:15 PM

DM

“ *My heart hurts to hear of Mike's passing. I worked with Michael on various City of Charlotte and Charlotte Public Schools volunteer committees and projects, as well as through the State of Michigan government. We were kindred Detroit Tigers fans. He asked me for a preliminary edit of his book, "To Strike at a King...", but didn't seem to like my critique of ending too many sentences with a preposition! Mike was always fun to be around, a patriot of democracy, highly intelligent, kind, thoughtful and a great friend. My deepest condolences to Carol, Mara, his entire family, former business associates and closest friends. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. Deb Moore, Florida*

**Deb Moore** - July 23, 2025 at 02:46 PM

JS

“ *Jackie Salazar lit a candle in memory of Michael William Ranville*



**Jackie Salazar** - July 23, 2025 at 01:21 PM

TE

“ *So sorry for your loss Carol. Tom Earl*

**Tom Earl** - July 23, 2025 at 08:55 AM

TD

“ The Tuesday morning senior golf league is saddened to hear of Mike's passing. The league members enjoyed Mike's funny stories and wit for many years. He was a true gentleman' and friend. Thank you Mike for being part of our golf league and touching our lives with your friendship. RIP golfer. Tom DeSantis

Tom DeSantis - July 22, 2025 at 06:04 PM

RS

Mike was one of 5 people who helped get Dad. Into the Mädchen Jam of Game in Cooperstow. The others are Nim Curran Da. Dirks, Dick Clark and Senator Joe Young. They were relentless and it only took them a year. My mother had tried for 20 years. My family and I will be forever grateful and he will always have a special place in my heart. I thank God that he was a part of our lives.

Rosilyn Stearnes-Brown - July 22, 2025 at 09:09 PM

RS

Correction: Mike was one of 5 people who helped her my dad into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown The others were Jim Curran, Dan Dirks, Dick Clark and Senator Joe Young. They were relentless and it only took them a year. Mom tried for 20 years. My family and I so be forever grateful and be will always have a special place in my heart. I thank God that he was a part of our lives.

Rosilyn Stearnes-Brown - July 22, 2025 at 09:17 PM

GS

Mike will always be remembered at the cottage on Lincoln Lake. Good neighbors, Good Friends. Rest in Peace Mike. God Bless you. Prayers for strength and Peace for Carol and Mara during this difficult time. 🙏



Gretchen "Christensen" Smilde  
and family

Gretchen Smilde - July 22, 2025 at 11:33 PM

CS

“ One of the most enjoyable rounds of golf I played was with Mike. I still owe him a round and a drink. I found Mike to be a very friendly, intelligent and interesting guy.

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**Chris Stanton** - July 22, 2025 at 08:41 AM



“ I feel incredibly lucky to have know Mr. Ranville.

*In middle school and high school, I had the opportunity to see the Ranville's every weekday to walk their beloved dog Calvin, and to help with yard work and with little projects around their gorgeous home downtown.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Ranville always showed up - for plays, musicals, my graduation party, and anything in between. Their support meant the world to me, and I'll never forget that.*

*Their 50th wedding anniversary at the courthouse stands out in my memory so vividly. It was such a beautiful celebration of their love and partnership. It also made clear just how deeply they've touched the lives of so many.*

*The Ranvilles have been a bright light in the Charlotte community for decades, and Mr. Ranville's kindness, warmth, and positive impact will never be forgotten.*

*Sending all my love to the family during this time.*

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**Jared Klann** - July 21, 2025 at 04:42 PM

CH

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Mike's passing. He and I became quite good friends during my years serving in the Legislature in the 1990s. We shared a common interest in history and I often remarked that he was one of just two lobbyists whose opinions I highly valued, respected and trusted, as he always gave me the straight story. We enjoyed many a lunch together over the years and had kept up an all-too-infrequent friendship through Facebook. The last time we connected we had talked about getting together at a common meeting point to talk history and sports. I'll hold you to that one day in Heaven, brother.

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**Clark Harder** - July 21, 2025 at 04:27 PM

AW

“ My condolences and heartfelt sympathies to Michael's family and all who had the honor and pleasure of knowing him. As for me, I knew Mike through my work in the Michigan legislature. I considered him a friend and mentor and always enjoyed whatever interaction I had with him. May his memory be a blessing.

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**Arnold Weinfeld** - July 21, 2025 at 04:15 PM

NC

“ Jim worked with Mike a lot over the years. He had nothing but good things to say about him. Though I only met him a few times, he stood out as a very special person.  
Nan Casey and Jim Dunn

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**Nan Casey** - July 21, 2025 at 11:09 AM

“As one of Mike's younger brothers, There are two unique memories I have of him that I'd like to share. When Mike was in high school, he badly wanted a car. Dad shrugged his shoulders and said, "Get a job." And so he did.

*Mike worked as a stockboy at Federal Department Store in the North Flint Plaza, about two blocks away from where we lived. He worked evenings and weekends. I'm sure he was a good worker; he never complained and never missed a day.*

*We all wondered when he'd come home with a car, but he never did. However one Saturday, he got a ride home from a friend. Once he got out of the car, he wrestled a large box out of the trunk, hauled it in the front door and pulled out the contents in the living room. It was a stereo record player, with two large speakers that each had about a six-foot cord so that it created a wall of sound wherever it was set up. Mike had brought music to our home.*

*Within weeks we had a growing record collection. Mom loved the smooth country sound of Gentleman Jim Reeves (which I never knew until the record player showed up.), and Dad loved opera (which I also had not known.) I still remember that when he got a rare Saturday off, he'd spend the afternoon flat on the floor with his head between the two speakers, listening to the opera "Carmen."*

*From then on, the music never stopped. One by one, we all started buying record albums, and Mom learned she could pile up to 10 records on the spindle and they'd drop and play one by one, all day long. I've never forgotten that it was Mike who brought music into our home.*

*A few years later, after Dad had died, things got pretty somber around the house. Don was married and had moved to the next town, Mike had joined the Air Force and David went away to college. And Mom fell into a long depression and didn't smile or*

*laugh much anymore. Mike had met Carol at Central Michigan University, and we all loved her. When Mike went to Biloxi, Mississippi for Communications training, it wasn't long before Carol joined him there, and eventually, they got married. .*

*Mike was re-assigned to Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. and completed his tour there. Life at home changed a lot. Between January and September of 1966, Dad had died, Don had moved to Clio, Mike had married and was living in Washington D.C., and David went away to College. Mom lost the four oldest men of the house and had to take on more responsibility than she ever had. The stress and sadness took a toll on her. But one thing kept her going; a couple times a year, we'd come home from school to find her happy as could be, holding a letter from Washington, D.C. and she'd announce, "Mike and Carol are coming home for a week!" And the whole mood of the house would change.*

*Within weeks, they'd drive up in their little orange VW Bug, and from the moment they arrived, there was laughter, stories, and horsing around. Mom brightened up, and it was obvious that Mike had brought laughter and joy back to our home.*

*So for me, Mike's legacy will always be music and laughter.*

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**Dennis Ranville** - July 21, 2025 at 10:31 AM

VA

*Thanks for sharing such touching memories.*

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**Valli** - July 21, 2025 at 11:26 PM

JS

*Very nice tribute Denny.*

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**Jeff Stevens** - July 23, 2025 at 02:14 PM

RS

*Beautiful story from another Crusader.*

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**Ronald D Smith** - July 23, 2025 at 05:27 PM

LH

*Thanks Denny, that was such a nice trip down memory lane. I didn't know it was Mike who bought that stereo.*

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**laurie haskett** - July 24, 2025 at 09:46 PM

BH

“I've been working on a book," Mike said when he called me, "and a friend said you might be interested in publishing it." That was 1995, my first conversation with Mike Ranville, and far from my last.

He was right. I agreed with him that journalism, the historical record, and the general public did need a well-researched, powerfully written account of one the most important events in American television history. As it turned out, "To Strike at a King" was even more than that. As the subtitle proclaimed and Mike's text confirmed, the book chronicled the turning point in the McCarthy witch-hunts, a sordid chapter in American politics that amazingly ended well.

As good books often do, Mike's opus triggered unforeseen consequences. One such was that it stimulated a creative impulse in director-actor George Clooney, who drew heavily from Mike's book for his Academy Award-winning film, "Good Night, and Good Luck."

It also forged a friendship and close working relationship for Mike with Ron Monchak, my partner at Momentum Books. Ron served as Mike's editor and the two worked intensely for almost two years to do justice to the material.

Many good things have been said about what a decent, kind, talented and generous person he was, enriching the lives of those, like me, fortunate to have found themselves in his orbit. He has left a rich legacy, not just with his impressive writings, but in the hearts of those whom he called friend.

Bill Haney,  
Founder, Momentum Books

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Bill Haney - July 20, 2025 at 10:47 PM

VH

“ Mike was such a gentle man as well as a gentleman. I love to talk with Mike about our country and our hopes of saving our democracy. He put up with me many times asking questions that sometimes even stopped him for a few minutes thinking of ways of making my craziness make sense. I will miss my calls with him. He could always help me understand our situations here in our country. Carol and Mara, Mike will be missed by family, friends and our community. ❤️🙏

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**Valli Halbeisen** - July 20, 2025 at 10:32 PM

BW

“ For many years, Mike and I had a bet on the Detroit Lions (Mike's team) and the Minnesota Vikings. Whoever team won the season (most points if they split) received a 12 pack of beer. For many years, I had Mike's beer to drink, until the last few years, since the Lions became good. He was a wonderful man and a great supporter of our community. Fortunately I delivered the beer just a week ago on Saturday. So we are square!

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**Bob Wilson** - July 20, 2025 at 08:30 PM

LP

Would that there were more people in the world of politics and government with Mike's intelligence, integrity and compassion - we'd all be so much better off.  
Lana Pollack

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**Lana Pollack** - July 21, 2025 at 04:38 PM

BM

*I've known Mike for nearly 50 years. Over that time, we worked together on many projects. Occasionally, when I was at MDOT, we were adversaries - uh, billboards. Through all the years and issues, there was no single person better to work with than Mike. I loved Mike's book, *To Strike at a King*. We had much to talk about as Milo Radulovich's father worked in a UAW plant on Detroit's Eastside. Mike writes about how our family's great friend from the UAW, Emil Mazey, took up the cause of defending Milo. Rereading page 145 of his book tells how Mazey implemented Milo's defense against the U.S. Air Force.*

*When my second book, the novel, *Secret Service Journals*, came out, Mike loved it. He sent a copy to his former colleague from his days serving as part of Air Force One's communication network in the early 1960s. His buddy, who became a respected DC attorney on national security issues, said that I had hit a home run regarding my depictions of the Secret Service. Mike's unselfish effort to reach out to his friend, made me feel so comfortable that my critical comments of the agency were spot on.*

*Mike was a great friend who strongly believed in good public policy. I know I will miss his advice and friendship.*

*Bob Morris*

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**Bob Morris** - July 21, 2025 at 07:15 PM

GO

*So very sorry to hear. My sympathies to his family. I've known Mike since I started with the Senate Fiscal Agency in 1975. He was a gentleman, scholar and true original.*

*George Orban*

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**George Orban** - July 21, 2025 at 08:04 PM

PH

*I haven't seen Mike in years but I always had admiration and respect for him, his word was his bond. My Sunday Mass will be offered up in his memory.*

*Respectfully, Phil Hoffman*

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**Phil Hoffman** - July 23, 2025 at 12:32 AM