



## Michael R. Blanksma

September 2, 1955 - January 15, 2021

Michael R. Blanksma, 65, passed away peacefully in his home on January 15, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Michael was born in Bozeman, MT to Charlotte (Stuivenga) and Peter Blanksma. He grew up on the family's farm with four brothers. During college years he moved to Michigan and obtained his degree in social work through Calvin College. Michael was active in this field within the various communities he lived including Monte Vista, CO; Grand Rapids, MI; Charlotte, MI; and Tallahassee, FL. He was a fierce advocate for his clients and had a passion for supporting those struggling with substance abuse issues. He worked his way up to a director position within Eaton County Health and was proud of the work he did there. Michael spent the last years of his life in Quincy, FL and worked at the Florida State Hospital eventually retiring in his early sixties.

Michael had a kind heart, enjoyed being outside in the sunshine, and preferred the country life over the city life. He had an easy smile and a quiet, giving spirit. He was well loved by his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

Michael is survived by his partner David Meza and his children Adam (Tawnya) Blanksma and Alyssa (Kurt) Koopman. He was a grandfather to Aurora and Oliver Koopman and Owen and Collin Blanksma. Michael is predeceased by his parents Peter and Charlotte and his grandson Collin. Michael is also survived by his brothers Rick (Carrie) Blanksma, David Blanksma, Daryl (Laura) Blanksma, and Loren (Deborah) Blanksma as well as many nieces and nephews.

# Comments

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“ I have many wonderful memories of the years I spent with Mike. I remember meeting in college at Village Inn Pizza through a mutual friend, Steve. I remember traveling across the country from Michigan to Montana during Christmas break, following a plow in a blizzard when the highway was barely passable. Mike drove most of the 32 hour straight through drive. I remember pulling a small U-Haul sized trailer to Colorado to begin our lives together in Alamosa. One day Mike came home with a small dog that had wandered into his office and made friends. We had that dog for many years. I remember the fun with friends driving up into the mountains to go cross country skiing along a ridge. I remember the move back to Michigan when my parents and grandparents came out to Colorado in the motor home to help. I remember how we found a little farm house in the country on an acre of land and bought it that very weekend because there were so many interested. Mike loved the country and planted a beautiful big vegetable garden. That summer Alyssa Nicole was born and 20 months later Adam Michael was born. Mike was a proud and loving father. I remember camping trips in a small tent trailer throughout Michigan. We also went to Montana when Alyssa was 3 months old for Loren's wedding and did some hiking in the Badlands, Mike carrying Alyssa in a front baby carrier. He was a good husband and a very hard worker in his profession. He loved his kids and will be missed greatly.

**Bonnie Trojanowski** - January 22 at 10:04 PM



“ We actually moved from Colorado to Montana and then back to Michigan. We enjoyed 2 years in Montana while Mike got his Masters degree.

**Bonnie Trojanowski** - January 22 at 11:33 PM

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“ Michael became our neighbor 13 years ago. You couldn't find better neighbors than him and Dave. Michael was a kind hearted man. He loved his country home and worked hard in his yard to make it beautiful. My family considers it an honor to have been Michael's friend and we will miss him.

Joe & Connie Rowan & Family

**Connie Rowan** - January 20 at 10:40 AM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Lifesong Funerals & Cremations - January 18 at 05:31 PM