



Michael J. Coughlan

December 27, 1957 - September 24, 2018

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Col. Michael James Coughlan, USAF (retired) passed away on September 24th, 2018 at Capital Caring's Halquist Memorial Inpatient Hospice in Arlington, VA after his courageous battle with cancer. As he did with everything in life, he fought cancer with determination and bravery, while relishing the time he had with his family.

Michael was born in Astoria , Queens, New York to Joseph and Mary Ellen Coughlan on December 27th, 1957. He was the second oldest of five children and spent most of his early life moving from base to base as his father was in the Air Force. The family finally settled down in Foxboro, MA. Michael graduated from Foxboro High School in 1975 and attended college at The University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he joined the Air Force ROTC program, and received a BS in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research in 1979. After graduation, Michael spent two years at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS and two years at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal before completing his initial full-time military service at Hanscom Air Force Base, MA. During his time in the Azores, he also completed a MA in Managements and Supervision from the University of Central Michigan. Michael remained in the Air Force as a reserve officer and began his second career at N.D. Cass company of Athol, MA. He worked for N.D. Cass for 15 years, relocating his family from Massachusetts to Alabama and was Vice President of Marketing and Sales when he left the company in 1999. Michael went back into a full-time reserve role with the Air Force after accepting a position at the Pentagon in April 1999, where he retired with honors as a Colonel in 2009, and continued to work for a government contractor, MWH, for a former mentor in the USAF. He was deployed to Iraq in 2008 and served as the Director of Military Programs for the Army Corps of Engineers in Baghdad, Iraq and received the Bronze Star for his service. Michael began his most recent career in 2014 as Director, Office of Facilities Management for Fairfax County Public Schools. He is remembered by his team as a dedicated and loyal manager, who was caring to all. He was actively involved with the community as a member of The Basilica of St. Mary's Parish in Alexandria, VA, and as a volunteer at the Carpenter Shelter. He loved spending time with his family and traveling, particularly on cruises and ski trips. He planned family

vacations for his immediate and extended family, often putting together a spread sheet so that no detail was forgotten. This exemplified his caring nature. You were never allowed to leave his house hungry and he spent years trying to master his brother Joe's tomato sauce recipe. He also had a love of sports, collecting New England sports memorabilia, attending Nationals games, and playing golf as often as he could.

Michael is survived by his loving wife, Melanie, and his children, Kelly Williams, William (Darcy) Coughlan, Joseph Coughlan, Samantha Coughlan and loved as a daughter, Michelle Istvan. Michael and Melanie were also blessed with five grandchildren, Logan Coughlan Veser, Grey Williams, Kyla Istvan, James "Jack" Coughlan and Michael "Mikey" Coughlan. He is also survived by his sisters, Barbara (Joseph) Walsh and Susan (Del) Rousseau, his brother, Steven (Susan) Coughlan, and his brother-in-law, Hal (Susie) Goldstein. In addition, he is survived by 13 nieces and nephews, all of whom had a special relationship with him. Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mary Ellen, his brother, Joseph, and his son, Bradford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Capital Caring www.capitalcaring.org.

Visiting and Mass

Visiting hours will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22315, Friday September 28th from 2-5 pm and 7-9 pm. There will be a funeral mass at The Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 South Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, on Saturday September 29th at 10:30 AM. Burial with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 1 PM.

Comments



“ Michael’s family: I’m so sorry for your loss. I went through a similar situation and I was very helped by the hope that I found in the Bible in John 5: 28, which says, "Do not amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out". I am sending you a link with more information on this hope. <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/awake-no3-2018-nov-dec/>

October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Family, I am very sorry that you are faced with this loss! Please know and understand that our Loving Creator, Jehovah God is also aware of your loss and yearns to bring back to life your dear loved one. (Jon 14:14,15; John 11:32-44; John 5:28,29) Imagine the pure joy of receiving your loved one back, alive and healthy. What an amazing promise from God, and may you find comfort, peace and hope in His promise.

September 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Peaceful White Lilies Basket - September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincerest condolences for your loss. I worked very closely with Mike while deployed overseas for many months. He was a kind caring leader who mentored and supported a great number of people during difficult times under the most stressful of conditions. Those who knew him will always fondly remember him.

September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Candle of Peace - September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sending our love and fond memories. Your old neighbors and friends. Roger and Irene Corkum. Our hearts are full of sadness

September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Written in the Stars - September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Vivid Recollections - September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Our Deepest Condolences to Michael's wife Melanie and Children, and to Our Classmate and friend Barbara Coughlin Walsh and family in their profound loss of Michael. We will keep you all in our prayers.. Kathy (Parker) Bartucca and FHS Class of 77' ����

Soft Glow - September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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America the Beautiful - September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Dear Melanie and all the Coughlan family,
I am so sorry for your loss. From all the tributes and comments on Facebook, Michael was a wonderful human being, husband, father, and grandfather and a hero for serving his country. May his memory be a blessing to all your family. He will always be with you in your hearts and mind forever. May you all find comfort and strength in his memory and each other. Warm regards, Cheryl Silverman

September 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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America the Beautiful - September 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Medium Dish Garden - September 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest condolences, I'm so sorry for your loss! I hope you receive comfort from this scripture. “He will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4

September 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Magnificent Life Spray - September 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Blooming Garden Basket - September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike was our Director of Facilities at FCPS. He was always looking for ways to improve things, by being open minded, fair and high ethical standards. My first interaction with him was prepping for a snow storm which he didn't flinch, he had my back and I had his.. .. always supportive and did the right thing.. You will be missed sir.. Rest in Peace. To Mrs. Coughlan, and the family, please accept my sincerely and deep condolences.

Brice Boyd

September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for always making me feel at home whenever I came over to babysit. Also thank you for the great turkey gravy recipe I still use today with my family. May you rest at home now in the presence of our lord.

Candle of Peace - September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Full Of Love Bouquet - September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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Country Basket Blooms - September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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We got hurt and broke a lot of bones together ! I love you my cousin Your cousin Kevin

September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



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My thoughts and prayers to the Coughlan family. Know that Mike's AF CE brothers are thinking of you in these difficult times. - Craig Johnson, CE Col, USAF (Ret)

September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM