



Michael Dennis Brown

May 18, 1951 - November 14, 2025

With deep love and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Michael Dennis Brown, age 74. Michael left us peacefully at home on Friday, November 14 surrounded by the family he adored.

He was a devoted husband, cherished father, and oh so proud grandfather.

Michael was born on May 18, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan. He was the sixth child of Robert and Margaret Brown and attended St. James High School in Ferndale where he graduated in 1970. No

matter where he roamed, his love for his native state never wavered, and he remained a true "Michigander." He was a life-long, loyal, ardent Detroit sports fan and his greatest joy was watching

the Red Wings. He loved returning to Michigan to visit family and friends and spent many happy times at his brother's orchard.

Michael moved to Germany in 1974 and spent the next few years working and traveling the world. He met his wife, Shelah, in Garmish-Partenkirchen in 1976. They were married in Glasgow,

Scotland in 1978 and shortly thereafter settled in Lake Tahoe where they

shared beautiful decades of partnership, laughter, adventure, and delight with their small family.

A dedicated father to Molly and Daniel, Michael was always their steady guide offering wisdom, encouragement, and unconditional love that shaped their lives. As a grandfather, he embraced a

newfound joy in Fiona. He took great pleasure and delight in her accomplishments, attending her games, watching her grow and become the best “wee wee” ever. They loved eating ice cream,

playing in the snow, being in nature, telling silly jokes, and sharing the simple moments that brought them so close.

Michael spent his career as a talented cabinet-maker where he was respected for his work ethic, creativity, mad measuring skills, and blasting his favorite music while he worked. He was an avid

reader and loved to camp, ski, and golf. His love for golf grew after he retired in 2016. He and Shelah spent happy years as part of the early morning group at the Incline Village Mountain Course where they made many special friends. Michael fell in love with Ireland where he and Shelah spent the last few summers working on the family cottage in Donegal. Some of his happiest days were spent there remodeling that house.

Michael will be remembered most for his gentle spirit, his steadfast loyalty, his kindness, his humor, his storytelling, and the way he made everyone feel valued and loved. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the memories (and woodwork) he leaves behind.

He is survived by his loving wife, Shelah, his children, Molly (Kevin) and Daniel (Shelby); his granddaughter, Fiona; his brothers, Terry (Dee), Dan, Kevin (Mary), and his sister, Patricia (Eric); and his many nieces and nephews. Michael is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Margaret; and brothers, Robert and Richard.

Though we grieve his loss so much, we are grateful for the years we shared and the love he gave so freely. He will be dearly missed and will live forever in our hearts.

A wake/celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, November 29 at his favorite place—his home: 565 Matchless Court, Incline Village, NV 89451 from 1:00–3:00PM.

'Tis a fearful thing
to love what death can touch.
A fearful thing
to love, to hope, to dream, to be-
to be,
And oh, to lose.
A thing for fools, this,
And a holy thing,
a holy thing
to love.
For your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was gift to me.
To remember this brings painful joy.
'Tis a human thing, love,
a holy thing, to love

what death has touched."

Judah Halevi

Tribute Wall

MF

“*Shelah, Holly and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family. I know Michael will be forever in your hearts. I will never forget the friendship he and I had going back over 50 years as we were roommates in the early 70's. He always had a way to make people laugh, and he never seemed to have a down moment, and he had an absolute passion for music and the life style of the time. When he left for Germany in the fall of 1974, we didn't speak again until sometime in the mid 1990's by phone, and didn't see each other again until 2022. Over the last couple of years we have reconnected our friendship after a very long time of not seeing each other. It will be something I will greatly treasure forever, it was like the time between never happened. That day in 2022 when he walked through my front door, after all those years, I held out my hand to shake his, instead he hugged me, thats just how he was. He truly cared about people and his family. He always had a way to make people feel like they mattered, because to him we did. I don't think he ever met a stranger. When he was here we were able to spend two or three days together talking about old times and old friends, driving around town spotting all the old haunts. I teased him about his shiny head, he teased me about my pot belly. Two 70 year old men acting like two 20 year old guys, just being goofy, which was something we did very well together. We laughed alot those couple of days. This man was my brother and I loved him dearly. He lived a truly blessed life, we talked about many things, all his travels, how he met Shelah, our shared love for woodworking, which was a suprise to both of us, our shared love of the blues, which was no suprise, but the one thing he said that really stuck with me, was that his greatest joy in life, above all the thing he did and all the places he had been to, was his family. He was very pround of his children, Molly and Daniel, and he was very much in love with his wife, and just over the moon about his grand daughter. Much like when we were in our twenties, he lived his life to the fullest his whole life. He was truly my best friend and I will miss him for the rest of my life. Although he has passed from this earth, I will always have his friendship. He will forever be my brother. Rest in peace Michael, may God bless you. Michal Finley*”

Michael Finley - November 29, 2025 at 07:55 PM

BA

“ *Barbara lit a candle in memory of Michael Dennis Brown*



Barbara - November 29, 2025 at 01:20 PM

SC

“ *One of our favorite times was getting to hang out, just the 4 of us, before we left Tahoe. Such a rare thing in our circle of friends! Everytime at your home is a great memory! So much love to all 6 of you! Hug each other tight!*



Scott & Christine - November 29, 2025 at 03:13 AM

C&

“ *Christine &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Dennis Brown.*

Christine &. - November 29, 2025 at 03:06 AM

JS

“ *Mike Brown was a classmate of mine at St. James HS in Ferndale, MI. Mike was light hearted, didn't take anything seriously & made everything a 'fun time'!! His wit & humor will be terribly missed.*

Jerry Sproul - November 28, 2025 at 08:10 PM

B&

“ Brian &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Dennis Brown.

Brian &. - November 26, 2025 at 01:26 PM

BM

“ One of my lovely memories of Michael is when we went to a Football match at Hampden Park Glasgow in May 1978. Scotland played Wales . A one each draw if I remember correctly,not the greatest sporting event to be truthful but he was great craic during the game and made me laugh a lot as we watched what was another poor Scotland performance. This was a few weeks before Mike and Shelah's wedding .

Brian McFadden - November 25, 2025 at 05:37 AM

MF

“*Shelah, Holly and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family. I know Michael will be forever in your hearts. I will never forget the friendship he and I had going back over 50 years as we were roommates in the early 70's. He always had a way to make people laugh, and he never seemed to have a down moment, and he had an absolute passion for music and the life style of the time. When he left for Germany in the fall of 1974, we didn't speak again until sometime in the mid 1990's by phone, and didn't see each other again until 2022. Over the last couple of years we have reconnected our friendship after a very long time of not seeing each other. It will be something I will greatly treasure forever, it was like the time between never happened. That day in 2022 when he walked through my front door, after all those years, I held out my hand to shake his, instead he hugged me, that's just how he was. He truly cared about people and his family. He always had a way to make people feel like they mattered, because to him we did. I don't think he ever met a stranger. When he was here we were able to spend two or three days together talking about old times and old friends, driving around town spotting all the old haunts. I teased him about his shiny head, he teased me about my pot belly. Two 70 year old men acting like two 20 year old guys, just being goofy, which was something we did very well together. We laughed a lot those couple of days. This man was my brother and I loved him dearly. He lived a truly blessed life, we talked about many things, all his travels, how he met Shelah, our shared love of woodworking, which was a surprise to both of us, our shared love of the blues, which was no surprise, but the one thing he said that really stuck with me, was that his greatest joy in life, above all the things he did and all the places he had been to, was his family. He was very proud of his children, Molly and Daniel, and he was very much in love with his wife, and just over the moon about his grand daughter. Much like when we were in our twenties, he lived his life to the fullest his whole life. He was truly my best friend and I will miss him for the rest of my life. Although he has passed from this earth, I will always have his friendship. He will forever be my brother. Rest in peace Michael, may God bless you. Michael Finley*

Michael Finley - November 24, 2025 at 10:02 PM

PL

“ *We will never forget June 7, 1997. Mike was visiting Manistee for our son's wedding. After the reception, we all watched the Redwings win their first Stanley Cup championship in 42 years and Mike had us in stitches with his iconic story about St. Peter. We will miss him.*

Pat (Brown) & Eric Lampinen - November 24, 2025 at 08:49 PM