



Mr. Michael P. Andersen

April 5, 1948 - February 7, 2024

Michael P. Andersen was born on April 5, 1948, in Brooklyn, NY, to Martin and Ruth Andersen.. Michael graduated from Roundout Valley High School, in Stoneridge, NY, where he was a football player and wrestler. After highschool, he went on to work as a head butcher at a beautiful resort in the Catskill Mountains, called Lake Minnewaska. Some of his best memories consisted of working at the resort, where he made lifelong relationships. Following in his father's steps, he later worked at various IGA's as a meat manager. At an early time in life, Michael joined the volunteer Wawarsing Fire Department, fighting forest fires in the Catskill mountains. He eventually became the fire chief.

Michael was hired as a part-time firefighter at the Cortland City Fire Department on April 11, 1988. He attended New York State Academy of Fire Science (Fire Academy) in Montour Falls, and set the running record while he was there. He became full time on July 21, 1989. Michael was promoted to captain on October 22, 1996 and retired May 28, 2010. Captain "Buzzy" was well respected, and known for his strong work ethic, excellent leadership skills, and the frequent pranks he would pull on his coworkers. During his time at the fire department he saved countless lives and received numerous awards; The City of Cortland Fire Commission CES Starmer Memorial Commissioners Award (1993), American Legion Commendation Firefighter of the Year (1993), City of Cortland Firefighter of the Year (1998), City of

Cortland Firefighter of the Year (2001), American Legion Commendation Firefighter of the Year (2006). He was a Fire Investigator for 15 years, a certified code officer, and even had his own chimney sweep business. Michael did code work for many years at various places, and most recently was Code Officer for the Village of Groton. He was an active participant with the Southern Tier Building Official Association (STBOA). Michael retired as the Code Officer from Groton in November of 2021, due to his health. If he had it his way, he would have never stopped working.

One of Michael's true passions in life was being a competitive athlete. He took Judo as a young adult, and was working on his brown belt when he moved. He was an avid runner and canoer. Michael helped coordinate and certify many races, and initiated the Cortland Pumpkin Run 5K. He ran countless races, received numerous awards, and was known for being one of the most prestigious runners in the area. He helped do the river cleanup for one of his favorite canoe races, "The Cortland Canoe Classic." Michael competed in the Great Race for 27 years, and finished in the top 20 at least nine times. He also enjoyed cross country skiing and snowshoeing through the woods behind his house. Michael loved classic cars, in particular, his 1963 Chevy Impala. He was an active member of the Seven Valley Street Rods Car Club, and was nominated Member of the Year in 2022. He volunteered at the Syracuse Nationals each year, and helped coordinate their own local car show.

Michael fought a courageous battle with cancer. He passed away peacefully in his home February 7, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. He will be remembered as being a loving and devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and friend.

Michael is survived by his wife of 18 years, Aimee (Roberts) Andersen, brother in law Jamie (Jeana) Roberts, brother Martin (Lynne) Andersen, Billy (Sheila) Andersen, Kurt Andersen, daughters Dacia Legge, Christine

Ondecko, Vanessa (Jeffrey) Fitts, Alaina (William) Denn, Ashley (Josh) Cootware, along with his grandchildren Casey, Alysah, Eliana, Jonathan, Max, Henrik, Lindsey, Christian, and Brennan, great grandchildren Emily and Lucca, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Martin and Ruth Andersen, half sisters Gloria Smally and Joan Waruch, and brother Bobby Andersen.

Michael's family will receive friends on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at Riccardi Funeral Home, 69 N. Main Street, Cortland, NY, from 4pm-6pm. A memorial service will follow, and a celebration of life at the Cortland Elks Lodge. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Lung Association and the Cortland YMCA.

Fight For Air Climb/American Lung Association

Mail Checks to:

505 Ellicott Street

#A35

Buffalo, NY 14203

*Note a Memorial Gift in his name

Or visit website:

https://action.lung.org/site/TR/Climb/ALANE_Northeast?pg=team&fr_id=25980&team_id=185536

Cortland YMCA

22 Tompkins Street

Cortland, NY 13045

Give - Cortland County Family YMCA

Or visit website:

<https://cortlandymca.org/give/>

The family would like to thank Palliative Care, Hospice Care, Upstate Oncology, and all our friends and family for their love, support, and prayers.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ Micheal was a beautiful soul we will miss him 🙏❤️ Tanya and Ron Lader

tanya - April 21, 2024 at 04:07 PM

BC

“ Dear Aimee and Family,
So sorry for your loss. Memories of Mike are strong and joyful. His passion for running was contagious and I caught it from him. He will be missed, fondly.
Sincerely,
Brian Cummins

Brian Cummins - February 26, 2024 at 05:37 PM

DR

“ I work with Mike in the meat dept of IGA of Deruyter. He was a great co-worker and enjoyed having fun while working. He always joked around and also worked hard to get the job done. Was also a very helpful person. Thoughts and prayers.

Dennis Rounsaville - February 18, 2024 at 11:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.



February 14, 2024 at 08:22 PM

MS

“ Mark and Mary Kay Sprouse planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.

Mark and Mary Kay Sprouse - February 14, 2024 at 08:22 PM

SS

“ I'm so, so sorry to hear this news. Aimee was a dear friend from the Y, and Mike worked in the community in which I live (Groton). Sending thoughts and prayers to the whole family.

shana snyder - February 14, 2024 at 08:18 PM

EC

“ On behalf of the New York State Building Officials Central Chapter, Mike was most well respected and exemplified the type of Code Official and Fireman that we all strive to be. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends. During our upcoming conference he will be remembered. Ed Cusato, NYSBOC Central Chapter President

Ed Cusato - February 13, 2024 at 06:23 PM

MW

“ Michael was my mother's brother and my "Uncle" even though we were born only 2 months apart. We grew up together, went to school together and did a lot of crazy things as kids on Grampa Andersen's chicken farm. It's a wonder we survived those early years. My family spent almost every Sunday evening at the chicken farm, including 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and any other relevant holiday. Michael I will miss you dearly. Say high to my Mom and Bobby.

Mark Andersen Waruch - February 13, 2024 at 05:17 PM

HS

“ I knew Mike from his time as code enforcement officer for the Village of Cayuga and then around the New York State Building Officials Conferences. I always enjoyed our conversations, admired his dedication to the fire service and code enforcement. My condolences to his friends and family. Sincerely, William Sherman (Assistant Director - NYS Div. of Building Standards and Codes; First Vice President of New York State Building Officials - Central Chapter; Former Mayor - Village of Cayuga.)

Hon. William Sherman - February 13, 2024 at 04:59 PM

FA

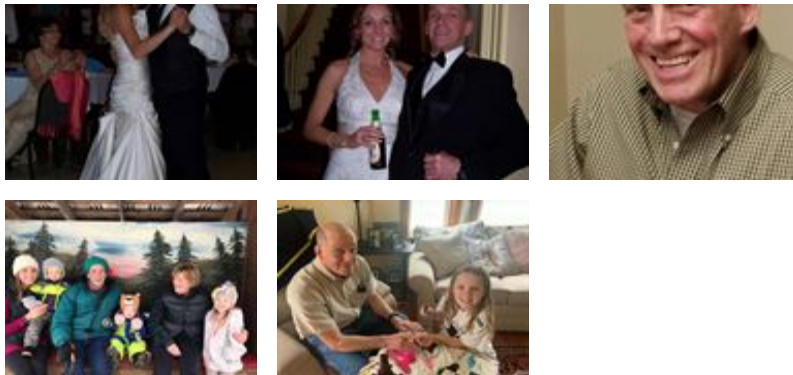
“ from the Denn Family of Albany. purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.



from the Denn Family of Albany. - February 13, 2024 at 01:12 PM



“ 88 files added to the album Life Tributes



Riccardi Funeral Home - February 13, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.*



February 12, 2024 at 01:18 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. May Michael rest in peace. Kevin, Sheila, Zack, Nathan and Maggie*



The Kevin Ossit Family - February 12, 2024 at 11:02 AM



“ *Michael it was great know ing and growing up with you in Kerhonkson. You went on to accomlish great things. Now you can move on to far greater things with your wings. You will be missed. Bea*

Beatrice Cole Haugen - February 11, 2024 at 10:53 PM



“ *Michael was my mom’s brother and my uncle. Every time he visited, my mom would smile and we all shared in his genuine goodness. He was kind and his smile was infectious. He dedicated his life to protect and serve others. My entire family will miss him greatly and we send our love and may Michael’s love shine on forever in this world. Peace and love, Kristen and Douglas Atkins*

Kristen Atkins - February 10, 2024 at 07:47 PM

CW

"Uncle" Michael was one of the most honorable, kind, hardworking, talented, and dedicated men I have ever known. Yet he was humble and a delight to be around. My mom, his sister, Joan Andersen Waruch, absolutely adored Michael. Thank you for being you, Michael. Fondly, Candace Waruch

Candace Waruch - February 12, 2024 at 01:38 AM

“ To our members today...

A Message from the President:

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of member, friend, and colleague Mike (Buzzy) Andersen. Mike died peacefully at home February 7, 2024. Mike was originally from the Ellenville area of New York State. He was an athlete, avid runner, and canoeist.

We remember Mike as a retired Captain of the Cortland Fire Department where he spent the majority of his career. When the Uniform code was first promulgated in 1984 the City of Cortland, unlike most, took unique action and charged the Fire Department with administering the Code. Mike was one of the original proponents and took a lead role in the Code Enforcement program. Mike had successes and made a positive impact in Cortland and as he gained experience, and he would guide other Firefighters in the use and enforcement of the code.

During his time off from City Fire, he worked as an inspector for Life Safety consultants and other Municipalities in the region in Code Enforcement, so, most weeks he saw very little time off. And during all of this he always found time for maintenance training. He would frequently say, if I'm available I'm going to be there and learn. Mike would normally achieve in excess of 40 hours annually. It was during this time Mike was assaulted while working for a local Town in Cortland County. More recently with Mike in mind we have been successful in gaining support of a NYS Assembly bill representing an amendment of the NYS penal law to make it a class D felony for an assault of a Code Enforcement Officer. We call it the Buzzy Bill (A06265).

When Mike retired from the Fire Department in 2009, he was quickly scooped up by the Village of Groton where he spent over a decade perfecting his craft. As he engaged with the public in code enforcement, they quickly learned that Buzzy was a no-nonsense kind of guy. He would frequently speak about experiences with enforcement, commenting about the support he had from Government, but most importantly the local Court Justice.

As a long-time member of the Southern Tier Building Officials Association we would frequently see Mike at meetings and training conferences. More locally he participated with other Code officials in Cortland and Tompkins County. Mike was quick to ask the hard question or share important information that actually made a difference.

Condolences to Mike's immediate and professional family. We will certainly miss Mike.

William Knickerbocker

Southern Tier Building Officials Association

William Knickerbocker - February 10, 2024 at 05:25 PM

FF

“ From your 3ID G2 Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.



From your 3ID G2 Family - February 10, 2024 at 03:16 PM

FF

“ From your 3ID G2 Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.

From your 3ID G2 Family - February 10, 2024 at 03:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.



February 10, 2024 at 12:15 PM

MS

“ Mira and Sophien planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Michael P. Andersen.

Mira and Sophien - February 10, 2024 at 12:15 PM