



Michael R Gardner

January 14, 1965 - April 16, 2021

Michael R Gardner, 56. Loving husband of Daniel Schafer. Beloved son of Carol and the (late) Jim Ricke.

Eldest brother of Tim Gardner, and Tracy (Mike) Scariano.

Proud Uncle of Hannah, Jenna, Madison, and Morgan, and his cherished friends, co-workers, and family.

Michael graduated with a BA in Arts and Design from Harrington Institute of Design.

Longterm employee of Haworth as Senior Workplace Design Consultant.

Member of the Chicago Architecture Foundation, and the Museum of Contemporary Arts.

Michael had a very special love for art, music, theatre, travel, fine dining, fashion, design, and so much more.

Most importantly, Michael was loved by so many and will forever be in our hearts and never forgotten!

Memorial will be Saturday April 24 1-3pm at Barr Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Michael's name to Anti Cruelty Society may be made.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR **24**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Barr Funeral Home

6222 N. Broadway

Chicago, IL 60660

(773) 743-4034

info@barrfuneralhome.com

<https://barrfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael R Gardner*

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Dan, we're so very sorry to hear of Michaels passing. We only met a couple times, but it was always a great time full of good conversation and laughter. I know he will be missed.*
Steve Ward and Dan Palma



Steve Ward - April 26, 2021 at 02:31 PM



“ *Kind soul. Funny as hell. Genuine. Sweet. Talented. Humble. I'll always remember you Michael! Rest in peace.*
David Rush

David Rush - April 26, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ *I am deeply saddened and heartbroken by this news. I loved working with him, laughing, telling stories and sharing the love of our cats. He was taken too soon. My deepest condolences to Ada and his family. Rest In Peace my friend. Until we meet again.*



Mary Beth Brudnak - April 24, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael R Gardner.*



April 23, 2021 at 05:55 PM



“ *Dan,*

Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Michael was a great, kind, loving and compassionate man who dearly loved you. I will always remember his passion for fine food, fine wine, fashion and of course his shoes. (Something he and I had in common). Traveling with you both was always some of the greatest times we had. Whether it was to Mexico, here in Denver or there in Chicago. He will be greatly missed and we will always remember that infectious laugh. I know it does not seem like it now, but there will be a time when there are memories without tears. We love you Doccy! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Michael's entire family at this extremely difficult time. Isaiah 41:10

Love, Scott & Decel



Decel Christian - April 22, 2021 at 12:04 PM

ES

Dan so sorry to learn about the death of your Husband Michael. May you find comfort in the love of his friends and how much Dan loved you. Your neighbor John Sattelmaier

E . John Sattelmaier - April 22, 2021 at 08:30 PM

KN

“ Dan, So sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ken

Ken Nagy - April 21, 2021 at 05:09 PM

BB

“ Michael is a friend who will be greatly missed. His compassion and willingness to help others shined in everything he did. I worked with Michael for 9 years and he was an icon in the Chicago showroom. He loved helping customers connect strategy and furniture, but the best way to put a big smile on his face was to ask about Dan.

My heart is heavy with this news and my thoughts are with you, Dan, and the family. Know that Michael did make a difference in the lives of so many.



Brad Burrows - April 21, 2021 at 02:48 PM

MT

“ Michael's Chicago Haworth Team purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of Michael R Gardner.



Michael's Chicago Haworth Team - April 21, 2021 at 09:30 AM

CH

“ Cheryl And Dan Hastings lit a candle in memory of Michael R Gardner



Cheryl and Dan Hastings - April 20, 2021 at 09:54 PM



Thinking of you Dan(ny). So sorry for your loss.

Cheryl Hastings - April 20, 2021 at 09:56 PM

DH

“ Dear Dan,

I am so very sorry for your loss! I know how much Michael meant to you. My deepest sympathy and condolences.

Donna Hawkins

Donna Hawkins - April 19, 2021 at 08:36 PM

LT

“ Leslie Taylor lit a candle in memory of Michael R Gardner



Leslie Taylor - April 19, 2021 at 02:51 PM

CS

“ One of my favorite moments was watching Michael aka Bobby the Elf spend time entertaining the kids who came to our Hope Ornaments events making ornaments to donate to the children's hospitals during Christmas time. He even took the time to watch the movie Elf to study the characteristics of being an Elf. It just shows the type of person Michael was to give back to those in need. His spirit will be greatly missed.



Cathy Szepanski - April 19, 2021 at 02:20 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear of Michael's untimely passing! I remember him fondly as a gifted designer and a gentle human being. May he Rest In Peace.

Jay Brand - April 18, 2021 at 11:10 PM



“ Our hearts our broken. Michael was kind, considerate and a great story teller. We enjoyed his company. The trip to Mexico was epic. Lynn and I will miss him. Dan we love you!



Edward Reinstein - April 18, 2021 at 07:38 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Michael R Gardner.*



April 18, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ *Such terribly sad news!! Michael was a beautiful, kind, gentle human being - it was a gift to know him!! A truly talented and dedicated designer, Michael was always thoughtful and cared deeply about the spaces he created and the people they were designed for. Michael's life was cut short and he will be very missed by all who knew him! Sending my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones at this sad time.*

Tracey Payne - April 18, 2021 at 12:33 PM



“ *Whenever I interacted with Michael, he always had a smile on his face. Very kind person. Very caring and compassionate person. Michael, you will be missed by your co-workers at Haworth.*

Marsha Major - April 18, 2021 at 12:08 PM



“ *My heart is broken!! I had the privilege of working with Michael over several years!! He was a delightful and inspiring designer!! I will miss his energy and passion !!❤️❤️
My sincere condolences to his family!*

ray kennedy - April 18, 2021 at 10:47 AM

NM

“ I’m so deeply saddened by the passing of my colleague and friend, Michael. He was not only a wealth of knowledge, but a kind and loving human being that from my first day at Haworth, made me feel seen and heard. He was admittedly more of an introvert than our loud and crazy sales team, which meant that he took time to observe with patience, listen with full attention and care with compassion. I could always count on Michael to have the answers, and he would never condescend to others. Rather, he would take the time to thoughtfully explain technical details and do whatever he could to help.

One of my favorite memories was seeing him dress up as Bobby the Elf for our annual Hope Ornaments event, where we would all gather to make ornaments to distribute to sick children in hospitals. I remember one specific time, he was being questioned by a young boy who had many questions about Santa. Michael took his time speaking to the boy, answering his questions with so much thought...speaking to him like he was an adult. He explained how letters get processed at the North Pole, and how the elves got to be so good at making toys. The inquisitive boy would follow up every comment with “why?” or “how?”, and Michael would give him detailed, elaborate answers...not in a theatrical way to garner attention, but in a thorough way to make the boy feel like his questions were important. He promised he would tell Santa about him. After the event, Michael even wrote the boy a letter (with crayon) addressed from the North Pole. He saw the beauty in the power of imagination, and he felt compelled to keep the magic alive for this child.

We will miss you Michael. You were one of a kind, and I’m so happy to have gotten to know you. The world lost a very special person 💔

Natalia Masiewicz - April 17, 2021 at 10:25 PM



“ *From my very first day to my last day of working with Michael at Haworth, he always inspired me with his knowledge, passion and amazing way he connected with people! You are forever in my mind and heart Michael!!*

Len Pilon

Len Pilon - April 17, 2021 at 08:28 PM

DV

“ *I don't even know where to begin. Over the years Michael became one of my best friends, and Nicole and I always looked forward to spending time with him and Dan whenever we were in Chicago. You're gone too soon, but I'm glad for the time you were here.*



Daniel Viator - April 17, 2021 at 07:25 PM

LS

“ *We were so very blessed to have him join our family! He brought the flare and the fun*

Lydia Schafer - April 17, 2021 at 04:20 PM

DR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



David Rivait - April 17, 2021 at 04:18 PM



Dinner at Casablanca in Fort Lauderdale FL 2018...

Manny Ortega - April 17, 2021 at 04:43 PM



That was a fun visit....He will be missed...

Manny Ortega - April 17, 2021 at 04:45 PM

JS

“ Michael always had a smile, positive attitude and was just fun to work with. You will be missed Micheal.

Joy Sanders - April 17, 2021 at 03:35 PM

MC

“ Michael was an incredible colleague and will remain in my heart forever. True kindness, patience and understanding were traits that made working with Michael unforgettable. The love and compassion he showed to us all will be missed. Thank you for bringing us the joy of Bobby the Elf every year. Wishing my sincere condolences to all who knew this amazing human.



Mary Basel Christopher - April 17, 2021 at 12:49 PM

TM

I recall him telling me about doing this and it's great that I got to see a photo of it! He was a great man!!

Tigh B Malone - April 18, 2021 at 03:17 PM

CA

Very sorry to hear this news. Michael was also so kind when I would see him in the Chicago showroom or at the Haworth HQ. My sincere condolences to the family.

Carole - April 19, 2021 at 09:07 AM

DT

Michael was one of the most amazing, creative and compassionate colleagues! He took pride in what he did, very methodical and it showed in his work. But, his greatest love was his husband and family. He could never say enough great things about you. From the bottom of my heart, my sincere condolences, may his memory be eternal!

Dina Tsiolis - April 21, 2021 at 11:08 AM

CR

Thank you all for sharing your time & friendship with Michael ! He has always been a very creative person, even as a young boy! I remember buying him an Erector set & he had so much fun building with it. And the Lincoln logs—he spent hours creating wonderful houses. He was always loving & cared so much for his family & made so many wonderful relationships in his lifetime. We knew how much he loved Dan & they had an amazing life together. They had many plans for the future together, & Michael wanted to travel & show Dan so many new places. My heart is broken with losing him so soon & so very sad that he & Dan couldn't complete their dreams. It's a shame that with losing Michael, we have learned so many more things about him. But the most important of all, is the dedication he had for his work & the people that surrounded his life. He was a very kind, caring man & I have lost another great love in my life. My love, as well, as his family's, will go on forever!

CAROL RICKE - April 25, 2021 at 08:44 AM