



Michael Lyn Wortham

April 30, 1956 - May 8, 2014

Michael Wortham passed away unexpectedly in Perth, Australia on May 8, 2014. Michael was born to Doris Collier Wortham and Onial Claud Wortham in Dallas, Texas on April 30, 1956. The family moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1960 where Michael graduated from Southside High School in 1974. He went on to earn a B. Sc. In Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa in 1978 and then became a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas.

Michael's career spanned extensive international leadership and executive-level project development roles with companies including BHP Billiton, Conoco Phillips, BP, ARCO, ARAMCO, and Sun Oil Company. His career led his family to live across many states in the US including Texas, Louisiana, and Alaska, along with various international locations including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela, Scotland, and Australia.

Michael married Beverly Wright in 1980. With their two sons, they enjoyed traveling God's amazing world, embracing the diversity of people and cultures from around the globe. They established lifelong friendships, always creating a close-knit community wherever their journey led them. Across his life, Michael had an immensely positive impact on the lives of the people around him, both through personal and professional relationships; he could always see the goodness in others, empowering people to grow and develop. In addition to the direct impact he had on individuals, Michael also supported

various charitable organizations focused on improving the quality of life for underprivileged children.

Michael was the most loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend and is survived by his wife Beverly, who will be moving from Australia to their retirement home on Lake Palestine near Tyler, Texas; son Justin, wife Erin, and their two children, Dylan and Kara Wortham of Haslet, Texas; son Ross and wife Elizabeth Wortham of Perth, Australia; mother Doris Collier Wortham of Van Buren, Arkansas; sister Diana and husband Steven Peer of Van Buren, Arkansas; sister-in-law Melinda and husband William Franklin of Santa Anna, Texas; and many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and colleagues.

The family will hold a visitation with relatives and friends at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler, Texas on Friday, May 30th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler, Texas on Saturday, May 31st at 1:00 p.m. with an interment to follow at the Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery.

Memorial contributions for Michael may be made to the Kampung Kids, an Indonesian charity in Jakarta that Michael and Beverly have been supporting for many years. The family has set up a website to collect donations: <http://www.gofundme.com/kampungkids>

If you are not able to attend the Celebration of Life services and would like to share a memory or condolence with the family, an online tribute wall has been set up by Stewart Family Funeral Home; please visit: <http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com/obituaries/Michael-Wortham/>

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **30**. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Dear Beverly and family*
I was deeply saddened to hear the news of Michael's death. I am so sorry that this tragedy has happened to you. I knew Michael through Beverly and the work Beverly did with Kampung Kids, he was always supportive, generous and fun to be around. After my own experience of losing my husband I can share with you that although it takes a long time to recover, you will recover and learn to be happy again. It takes time, patience and courage - these are strengths you already have.
with much love
Bernadette, Thomas and Emma.

Bernadette Whitelum - June 11, 2014 at 11:10 PM

CW

“ *Just as with many others, Kris & I met Michael and Beverly separately but have grown special admiration and friendships together. As the same for everyone, our time with Michael here in this life has been way too short... still, we look forward to the time ahead with Beverly and our time in eternity with you both. I don't think Beverly has finished helping me get my act together, yet. Michael and I shared a real pleasure in attempting to play golf though neither of us has ever been any (%#^&) good! Although we enjoyed many outings with those adorable Worthams in/around Perth, much of my time with Michael was spent hunting for golf balls in the woods. I always was amazed at how upbeat his attitude was toward the game even when struggling on the score card. How one deals with the challenges of that game says a lot about one's character. It's no wonder Michael was respected (and much more) as a leader by all who knew and served with him.*

Chuck White - June 04, 2014 at 10:21 PM

MM

“ Dear Beverly and Family,

Much too soon and much too young! Our hearts go out to you and your entire family. Both you and Michael could not have been a more perfect example of what a truly devoted and loving couple should be. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Beth Kirby & Maryanne Mahoney

Maryanne Mahoney - May 31, 2014 at 12:34 PM

GE

“ Beverly and family,

We are sharing in your sorrow during this time. When we think of 'The Wortham's' we remember warm smiles, welcoming greetings and love of life. Y'all brightened each moment of our lives be it traveling to interesting places, participating in great dinners, Chili Cook-offs, etc but most importantly, you are a model to each of us as to what a loving marriage that honors each other is made of. As we travel to Tyler today, we will continue to dedicate our prayers to your family.

Greg and Wendi Ewbank

Greg and Wendi Ewbank - May 31, 2014 at 08:06 AM

SW

“ We will never forget all of the special times we all shared in Jakarta (BOTH times we were all living there). We remember many special occasions and also the everyday ones shared with all of you. He will be missed by many! Our deepest sympathies, Larry & Sharon Watkins

Sharon & Larry Watkins - May 30, 2014 at 10:34 AM

MF

“ *melinda Franklin purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Michael Lyn Wortham.*



melinda Franklin - May 29, 2014 at 08:43 PM

KG

“ *Sweet Friend Beverly and all of the Wortham Family,*

Meeting you guys as newlyweds in Saudi Arabia 35 years ago has been, and will remain, one of our greatest blessings. While we have not been able to see each other as often as we would like, we love you all dearly. Michael and Beverly will forever be our friends. He was truly one of the kindest, most caring man Richard and I have ever had the pleasure to call "friend". And Beverly, he loved you so, so much. That was always clearly evident as his face glowed when he spoke of you. And his boys...what a great Dad he was.

Goodbye dear friend. We will see you soon.

Love,

Kathy and Richard Gordon

Kathy Gordon - May 29, 2014 at 06:40 PM

CM

“ *Dear Beverly and Family,
I have thought about you through the years. I am so sorry for your loss. God Bless you.
Charlotte McDowell*

Charlotte McDowell - May 29, 2014 at 04:45 PM

DM

“ Dear Beverly and Family,
Jakarta is long ago and far away but the wonderful memories of Michael and times spent with you and Michael, Justin, and Ross remain near and dear. The joy and appreciation of life and the forever sharing it with others was a true gift of Michael's and your family. We're so sorry for your loss.
With warmest sympathy,
Steven and Dawn Massey

Dawn Massey - May 29, 2014 at 03:08 PM



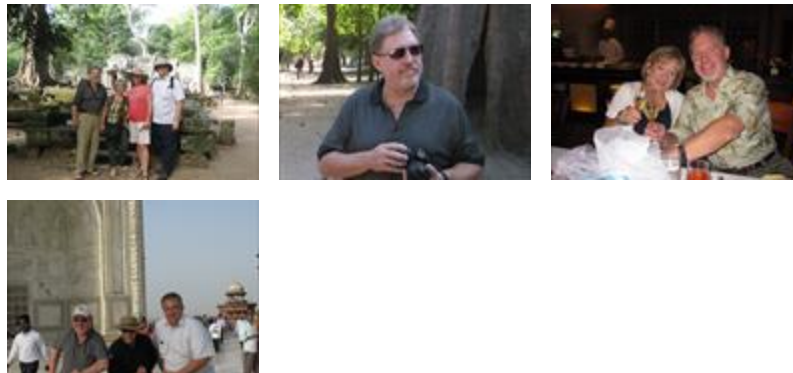
“ Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Michael Lyn Wortham.



May 29, 2014 at 07:12 AM

KB

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Kelly Bennett - May 29, 2014 at 06:57 AM

KB

Dear Beverly, Doris, Justin & Erin, Ross & Liz, Michael, beloved husband, loving son & father and dear friend! That first week in Jakarta, when Curtis and I, on the same day, came home to share we'd each made a friend--me, Beverly; Curtis, Michael--our Wortham connection began. Never one to say, "why should we" Michael motto was always "How can we!" And with that spirit--often with him as our guide-- we went adventuring. As I clicked through photos to share, from Jakarta & Bali, Cambodia & Tulsa, India & Alaska, Lake Palestine and onward, Michael's spirit shines. We join you in celebrating Michael, honoring him, and holding him in our hearts.

With love and sympathy, Kelly & Curtis Bennett

Kelly Bennett - May 29, 2014 at 08:16 AM

MU

“*Dear Beverly,
We have fond memories of you both and your family in Indonesia. IT is with heavy hearts we read about Mike's early passing. He left a kind and loving footprint behind. SUCH a joyful and giving man he was.*

We send our prayers to all of your family. May God grant you strength during this difficult and most tragic time. May you find comfort in your wonderful memories.

*With deep sympathy,
Margaret and Bob Uhar*

Margaret Uhar - May 28, 2014 at 08:41 PM

SK

“ *Michael was a good friend through junior high and high school as we worked on the newspaper together. We were both also commencement speakers at high school graduation. He was simply an all around good guy. Reading his obituary indicates he left a wonderful legacy for both his family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Sandra Curtis Kaundart

Southside High School class of 1974

Fort Smith, Arkansas

sandra kaundart - May 28, 2014 at 08:13 PM

DB

“ *Dear Beverly and Family. We will never forget our time together in Russia, from the extended stay at the Marriot to moving to be neighbors in Rosinka. Michael always carried a smile and was ever the gentleman and consummate professional, even in the most difficult and trying times of working in TNK-BP. Living in Russia was fun, we had great times, there is much beauty and special places to go, but facing the realities of some of the difficult challenges always grounded us and Michael was never one to waiver. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Beverly, Justin, Ross, Doris and all of the family. Our hope is you can take comfort and strength in the cherished memories of Michael and knowing what a wonderful man he was to all who were fortunate to cross paths with him.*

Love, Dave and Pilar Blevins

Dave Blevins - May 28, 2014 at 11:44 AM

LS

“ Dear Beverly and family, We loved getting to know you during your time in Jakarta. We laughed on many travels with you. Michael's spirit was loving and fun-loving. The world will most certainly be a sadder place without Michael's enthusiasm for life and his kindness and willingness to always help anyone who needed it. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Leks and Linda Santoso

Leks Santoso - May 28, 2014 at 08:48 AM

HK

“ Michael will always be part of our memories of Perth ...his zest and enthusiasm when he was hosting, his love of Indian food and his interest in everything and everyone. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beverly, Justin, Ross and the family.
Love, Hazel & Charlie Kocherla

What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose - Helen Keller

Hazel & Charlie Kocherla - May 28, 2014 at 07:38 AM

DK

“ Heartfelt condolences are extended to your family and we continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. We hope that you may find comfort in the many beautiful memories you hold in your hearts and this will help carry you through this very difficult time. Michael certainly touched the hearts of so many people all over the world and he will forever be remembered for his graciousness and kind heartedness. Big hugs are being sent your way.

Love,
Keith and Demi Kirk

Demi Kirk - May 28, 2014 at 04:37 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Michael Lyn Wortham.



May 27, 2014 at 01:53 PM



“ Mike and Beverly were some of our first friends in Jakarta. They showed us the ropes and how the system works. They taught me to enjoy the experience and to not sweat the small stuff. I will always treasure your friendship. We shared a lot of fun times at ARCO parties, Friday night at the American Club, and Christmas Day at their house. Mike always had a huge smile on his face and an infectious laugh. He loved his family and was a strong advocate for his boys. I can't believe he is gone. Beverly, Justin and Ross, you all are in my prayers. May you feel God's grace. Much love, Anne (Garrett) Lawrence

Anne (Garrett) Lawrence - May 27, 2014 at 01:35 PM



“ Nancy, Dustin & Debby Wortham will be praying God's will for your family. Bless you all. You will be comforted.

Dustin Wortham - May 27, 2014 at 12:26 PM

CC

“ Charles Collier, Gary & Julia Collier purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Michael Lyn Wortham.



Charles Collier, Gary & Julia Collier - May 27, 2014 at 09:12 AM

DP

“ This is just a brief video sharing photos of Michael with our immediate family. The music was written by our minister of music, Chuck King, and the lyrics are from a poem by Steven's grandmother, May Gray. The heart of the video is to share that Michael loved and was loved and that love will never pass away.
Diana



Diana (Wortham) Peer - May 26, 2014 at 11:10 AM

MS

This is a beautiful tribute to Michael... I'm just so sad for y'all!

Mary Steadman - May 27, 2014 at 08:19 PM

SM

Wonderful video...special family times with an amazing friend who will be missed. Thank you for sharing. Hugs, Suzanne

Suzanne Marquez - May 28, 2014 at 01:34 AM

DK

A lovely tribute to your dear brother, Michael, and very touching. God bless you and your family. Keith and Demi Kirk

Demi Kirk - May 28, 2014 at 04:27 AM

KG

What a wonderful memorial. Of course, Michael was smiling!

Kathy Gordon - May 29, 2014 at 06:43 PM

CW

So, wonderful tribute... thanks for the extra effort.

Chuck White - June 04, 2014 at 09:53 PM

CK

*Dear Wortham Family,
"Love's sweet song will still sing on" Thank you for re-visiting these beautiful lyrics by Jean Peer, and for using the melody in tribute to your brother. We do have hope in the eternal.
Blessings and Prayers, Chuck King*

Chuck King - June 09, 2014 at 04:18 PM

DS

“ *Dear Beverly and Family,*

We are so saddened by your loss and our hearts ache for all of you. Michael was such a genuine and gracious person. The few times that we spent with Michael we felt like we were visiting with an old friend. He had a gift for making people feel welcomed and at ease. It was inspiring to see how much he loved his family. He once told us how lucky he was to have Beverly in his life, a comment we will never forget because he said it with such warmth and tenderness.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

With love, Michael and Debra Sobolik

Debra & Michael Sobolik - May 26, 2014 at 10:13 AM

CQ

“ *Beverly and Family,*

There are people that you know for years, that have limited impact on your life and there are a few you know for a moment and they touch you deeply forever. Michael is In our hearts and is part of the heavenly stars.

The highlight for us, at Uluru Mountain, was meeting you and having dinner with you and Michael. May God Bless you and give you the strength and comfort during these difficult times.

With Love,

Carlos and Migdalia Questell



Carlos & Migdalia Questell - May 25, 2014 at 11:33 PM

LF

“ *I will remember Michael for his unfailing kindness to others - even in his very busy and senior role in BHP Billiton, he always had time to smile, say hello and ask after my family. My husband and I were thrilled to have spent a night at the football with Michael and his family and I loved seeing him enjoy a red wine with his wonderful wife Beverly and his son Ross, whom displays the same kindness as his father - what a gift.*

My thoughts are with you all at this time.

Libby Ferrari

Libby Ferrari - May 25, 2014 at 10:24 PM

LG

“ All of the Wortham family are in our thoughts. I didn't know Michael well but truly appreciated his graciousness to us and our friends on the occasions when we did meet in Perth. I hope the memory of the love you shared and the extraordinary life and adventures his career lead the family upon will hold you all up in the weeks to come. With deepest sympathy, Lyn & Mike Burns.

Lyn Gilmore - May 25, 2014 at 08:50 PM



“ Michael was a great friend and just a great friend to me. He always stood up for what's right. I came to Tulsa University from Iran and had few friends at TU and soon found Mike to be so friendly and so open to accepting and welcoming me into his circle of friends, this left a great impression in me and I would never forget his true friendship by taking me to his childhood home in Forth Smith Arkansas during thanksgiving holidays. He was a true gentleman and a man with very kind heart that always stays close to my heart. Rest in peace my friend,
Homy

Homy Maerefat - May 25, 2014 at 03:51 PM

AR

“ Michael was indeed a true gentlemen, tremendous colleague, and great friend. He and Beverly brought joy and laughter to our hearts throughout the years we worked together in Indonesia. He will be greatly missed and in our hearts forever. Alan and Dana Ramirez send our love and heartfelt sympathy to Beverly and Michael's family.

Alan Ramirez - May 25, 2014 at 01:48 PM

MC

“Michael was a true American Gentle Man. He, Beverley and the boys brought warmth, friendliness and happiness to our team in Jakarta in 1990. Michael showed his great talent from the day he arrived and was instrumental in transferring skills to our wonderful Indonesian colleagues. His passing is an absolute shock. Maureen and Malcolm send Beverley our kindest thoughts for next Friday and Saturday. We will be thinking of you all in Oxfordshire, England.



Maureen and Malcolm Corry - May 25, 2014 at 09:38 AM

FH

Mike was a friend, colleague and sometimes competitor as we pursued essentially the same career path with ARCO. From our first meetings in Jakarta, to one of our last in Venezuela and our crossings in Plano, I remember Mike as a gentleman, consummate project professional and generally all around nice guy. He and Beverly assisted my transition to mentoring Indonesian engineers and with a small taste of home with the breakfast pork sausage in this Muslim country that Beverly and Mike provided to the expat community. There should be more people in this world like Mike, but I am confident that Beverly and his children will carry on his attitudes and legacy. I am honored to have known him.
Frank Hamisch - Mansfield, Texas. (ARCO 1980 - 2000, Jakarta 1990 - 1995)

Franklin Hamisch - June 19, 2014 at 09:44 AM