



Michael Ray Hawkins

October 21, 1961 - February 26, 2016

Michael Ray Hawkins, 54, of Mt. Vernon, passed away at 1:05 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2016, at his home.

He was born October 21, 1961, in Mt. Vernon, the son of Larry D. Taylor and Wilma J. (Tinsley) (Taylor) McMahan. At the age of two, he was adopted by Larry D. Hawkins, who survives.

In addition to his mother, father, and adopted father, he is survived by two sons, Raini and Bodi Hawkins of Mesa, Arizona; one sister, Debra Margraf and husband Michael of Tempe, Arizona; one half-brother, Alan Taylor and wife Lisa; one half-sister, Jennifer Taylor; three step-brothers, Rick McMahan and wife Pam, Doug McMahan and wife Linda, and Michael McMahan; one step-sister, Cathy Owens and husband David; and several Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, and Cousins.

He was preceded in death by his step father, Louis McMahan; his grandparents, Earl and Alta Tinsley, Elmer and Ruby Hawkins, Ralph and Altha Taylor, and Andrew and Violet McMahan; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Michael loved the outdoors and nature. He enjoyed working with his hands making all types of Southwest Indian wall decor, which has sold all over the world.

In accordance with his wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and a graveside memorial service will be held at the Ebenezer Cemetery, located off the Old Centralia Lane and Hutch Road-1850N, in Jefferson County, on

Saturday, April 9, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., with Pastor Aaron Trotter officiating. Memorial gifts may be made to the Ebenezer Cemetery, and will be accepted by the Osborn Funeral Home, who has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Ebenezer Cemetery

Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Previous Events

Service

APR 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ebenezer Cemetery
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Tribute Wall



Vicki
Tinsley

“ I miss you Mike..... 😞

Vicki Tinsley - February 26, 2018 at 09:01 AM



“ My dad wasn't perfect, far from it. In my years knowing him, he honestly wasn't the greatest positive influence in my life. But he was my dad, he helped shape who I am today in many ways. From very small I remember the art my dad would make and sell, and how he patiently showed me how to make a beautiful piece of art from nature. My dad always loved the outdoors, and the places we called home always sparkled brightly with natural beauty. The first home was in Arizona, a small plot fenced off from the world, where my dad had planted bamboo, many cactus, desert sage (my middle namesake), and other desert annuals. One cactus in particular, he planted when I was 2 or 3 a barrel cactus, or so we thought, now stands many feet taller than myself as a beautiful saguaro. My dad truly sparked my love of nature. In the second home we were in, Bluford Illinois, he planted many fruit trees which we enjoyed for years while we lived there. He showed me how he trimmed trees, and could tell when they needed nurture. At our final home together, my dad painted the vision for a 5 star bbq restaurant, complete with giant bluegill and catfish pond, donkeys, chickens, geese, 300 gallon smoker, tons of western decor, and a kids playhouse to boot. Together, and fighting tooth and nail the whole way, my dad and my mom built an amazing work of art, combining natures beauty with human vision. And that is where I got to spend the best part of my childhood. Playing in the literally TONS of pine mulch, chasing chickens and geese, fishing, and finding myself. My dad wasn't around all, or even most of the time. But when he was, the few weeks of good sober

Raini Hawkins - September 18, 2017 at 02:50 PM



But when he was, the few weeks of having an awesome sober father are some of the most treasured memories of my life. And I only wish that there would be more time to make things right. I've loved you, hated you, but mostly I've just missed you, and wished nothing but for you to be the dad I know you could have been. Now that your gone, and I'm older, I think I can finally begin to see why everything happened the way it did. And I hope that you find love, peace, and completeness in the next life. Till we meet on calmer shores, your loving son.

Raini Hawkins - September 18, 2017 at 02:58 PM



This is a beautiful tribute to your dad, thank you so much for sharing these memories with us.

Vicki Tinsley - February 26, 2018 at 08:58 AM



Thinking about you today mike....rereading your son's beautiful tribute to you has tears running down my face.....like Raini, some of my best childhood memories came from you. Walking the creek at grandma and grandpa's place and you teaching me about the trees, fish, leaves, arrowheads and so on. I miss ya mike 😭

Vicki Tinsley - February 26, 2024 at 09:22 AM

MI

“What seems like a lifetime ago, Michael Ray was my boyfriend. We met in 1981 and lived in Texas for a couple years and then in Arizona for less than 1 year before we parted ways in 1984. This was during the big oil boom in Texas – the early 80’s – when jobs were plentiful and life was easy. Mike worked for Bert Johnson at Gasway Electric in Longview, TX and he loved the year ‘round outdoor work. He used to bring flowering cactus home for me in 5-gallon pails and they would thrive under his care, some of them living out on the porch for years. He loved everything about nature. Mike had many interests, but fishing was something he really loved to do. He knew how to set a trotline for catfish and how to fish for bass. The Piney Woods of East Texas was an angler’s dream so we spent a lot of time fishing up at Lake O’ the Pines. Even better, Mike knew how to cook - from fish to corned beef to pepper steak – we always ate very well. He taught me a lot about cooking and said he learned from his Mom, Grandma Alta and also an aunt? but I can’t recall her name.

One year we took a trip to Mt. Vernon and I had the opportunity to spend time with Wilma, Gene and Debbie and also had the pleasure of meeting Earl and Alta Tinsley and other relatives, out on the farm. Many fond memories of that weekend will stay with me as long as I live. Everyone was so kind to me and I could see how Michael turned out to be such a loving and kind man. I remember traipsing through the farm and fields with him and someone - ? Uncle Larry? and of course, our shoes were full of mud. We kicked them off near the front porch before we went in to have a meal that Alta had prepared. Somehow, by the time we were ready to leave, my shoes had been completely scraped and cleaned. I found out Alta had noticed the mud and just sat down and cleaned them up for me. What a selfless and loving woman she was. I’m sure you all have great memories of her.

Mike had friends who came to see him in Texas over the years. Michael Moore, James Blankenship, and Bruce – Bruce! I cannot remember your last name – I’m sorry! These were all people we enjoyed spending time with, most often with Bruce. I can just see Michael shooting the breeze and laughing with these guys and can

still clearly remember his voice. They called him Hawkeye. He was a very handsome young man.

Mike came home to Minnesota with me to meet my family. He did get to go fishing for Walleye with my Dad and spent some time at my brother's farm. My nieces and nephews thought he was a cool dude. I still have photos from that weekend.

My years with Mike include many treasured memories. I am very shocked and saddened to learn that he passed away 2 months ago and extend my sincere sympathies to you Wilma and Debbie and to his boys and all family and friends who loved him. The only reason I came across his obituary was because I met someone named Michael Ray at work so naturally I thought of him and Googled his name. Coincidentally, over the past few months I have been going through photos and found several of our time together. My youngest daughter saw the photos and commented about how happy we looked. I do have many happy memories of Michael Ray and know how much he will be missed. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Michelle - April 21, 2016 at 03:54 PM



Thank you for sharing this memory. Thinking about him, even more today...as it was 2 years ago today. I remember meeting you when you came to visit. I am Uncle George's daughter.....Mike was a beautiful soul and he is missed. Thank you again Michelle for the beautiful tribute you wrote about Mike.

Vicki Tinsley - February 26, 2018 at 08:56 AM



You're very welcome Vicki. I do remember meeting so many awesome people that weekend. I'm glad you remember me! Even though we parted 35 years ago I still get choked up knowing he is gone but am grateful for the good memories. 🙏 Till we all meet again!

Michelle Kelm - December 12, 2019 at 11:00 AM

KS

“ I just heard of Michael's passing. I had known Michael for a very long time when we were kids playing ball at the little league fields to grade school and high school. We all move away and move on, but I will never forget Michael. He was a good ball player and a fine young man. He was always nice to me and that sticks with you forever. Rest in peace and all the best to the family.

Kevin Strothmann

Kevin Strothmann - April 20, 2016 at 06:43 PM



“ Wilma, first i want to express my most sincere condolences for your loss, it must be terribly difficult to bury a child. Second, I want everyone to know that michael ray was one of the most compassionate, kind hearted, caring people whom i have had the pleasure of knowing during my lifetime. He always seemed to have something profoundly thought provoking. Michael Ray Hawkins, you will be deeply missed by all of us, and you forever have a spot reserved in my heart. Until we meet again brother.

Jason Goldberg - March 16, 2016 at 11:19 AM

JC

“ Wilma and family, we were so sorry to read about Mike. We hope you find comfort from the many sweet memories of happy days and times together. We are praying for you and your family.
*With deepest sympathy,
John and Janice Cherry*

janice cherry - February 29, 2016 at 05:41 PM