



Michael "Mike" Hernandez

June 23, 1937 - December 4, 2024

Retired MSgt Mike Hernandez took his final PCS orders on December 4, 2024, while stationed at Chandler House in Yakima. He had just received a visit from his wife and son when he departed for his new assignment.

Mike was born on June 23, 1937, in Sheridan, Wyoming. In 1942 the burgeoning Hernandez family, with Mike as the oldest child, moved to the state of Washington and eventually settled in Wapato, where he and his younger sister Esther would graduate from Wapato High School in 1956. In 1957 he joined the US Army, which took him for the first (but not the last) time to Europe, where he was able to see France and Germany. After his three years in the Army he joined the US Air Force, which he made his career for the next 25 years. While stationed in Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, he met and married the love of his life, Yoneko Hirata. Together they enjoyed the military life as they took their family to such diverse places as Ohio and California and the island of Crete, Greece. After his military retirement he worked for the City Police of both Toppenish and Yakima. Upon retiring from the City of Yakima, he enjoyed a nice, quiet, happy life with his family, including his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mike was happiest being with his family, but also enjoyed jogging, bowling, watching the Seahawks and his beloved Air Force Falcons in football, and the Mariners. One of his great joys was attending, with his son, brother, and brother-in-law, the Air Force – University of Washington game in 1999 in Seattle. (Sorry, Huskies fans, we were happy for the Air Force win.)

In 2013 Mike and his wife were able to return together to see her family back in Naha, Okinawa, his first time back there since 1974. Seeing the base once again where he did two tours of duty also meant a lot to him. It was his last big trip and his most enjoyable.

Mike is survived by his wife of 59 years, Yoneko; his son, Mike; three brothers, Manuel (Legaya), Rich (Glenda), and Robert (Barb); two sisters, Frances (Benny) Rocha and Margaret (Dick) Hansen; grandchildren Nikki and Steven; and great-grandchildren Andrew and Alex. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Manuel and Mary; his daughter, Judy; his infant son, Timothy; his sister, Esther; and his brothers, Tom and Jimmy.

Funeral Services will be held at the Colonial Funeral Home in Toppenish on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 11am with burial to follow at the Reservation Community Memorial Park cemetery. Visitation will be on Tuesday, December 10, from noon to 3 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association.
Go Air Force.

Cemetery Details

Reservation Community Memorial Park

West Wapato Road 5 miles west of Wapato
Wapato, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Funeral Service

DEC 11. 11:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Grandpa showing me the ropes at work*



Steven Harris - December 10, 2024 at 04:54 PM

CH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Chrissy Hernandez - December 10, 2024 at 10:38 AM

RF

“ *Sharing one of my favorite photos of my primo Mike with my parents, his Tia Nellie and Tio Lapo (Conrado). Rest in peace primo. 🙏*



Ramona Flores - December 09, 2024 at 01:34 PM

RF

“ Sincere and heartfelt condolences to Joanie and all of the family on my cousin Mike's passing. Raising you all in prayer for strength, peace and comfort. May my primo rest in peace. 🙏



Ramona Flores - December 09, 2024 at 01:31 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home - December 09, 2024 at 12:33 PM