



Mike Tinkham

December 14, 1949 - May 22, 2024

Merlin “Mike” Tinkham died at 1:45 a.m. on May the 22nd of complications with his heart. He was born on December 14, 1949 in Dubuque, Iowa to Betty and Merlin “Scoop” Tinkham. Mike married Cynthia M. Duke on September 24th 1985.

Mike was employed by John Deere at the plant in Waterloo, Iowa for thirty-two years. He was an avid hunter and especially loved to hunt Whitetail deer on his farm in Bloomfield, Iowa. He also enjoyed three hunting trips to Africa with Cindy, family, and friends. He was a talented softball player and later managed Vigortone Feeds located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mike and Cindy have been long term members at Mark Baptist Church in Bloomfield, Iowa since 2006. Mike and Cindy purchased three farms in Bloomfield and moved here from Janesville, Iowa in 2005. They have made many amazing friends here in the Bloomfield area.

Surviving Mike are his wife, Cindy; daughter, Tiffany and four grandchildren; sister, Susan of East Dubuque, Illinois; brother, Robert and his wife LaVonne; another brother, Mark Tinkham; mother-in-law, Jean and husband Verlyn Kraus; father-in-law, Don and wife Shirley Duke; sister-in-law, Laura Duke; sister-in-law, Wendy and Chuck Bier; sister-in-law, Mary Ellen and Cory Erickson; nieces and nephews, Josh Tinkham and family, Sara and husband Bill Kirk and family, Megan Gaines and family, Jennifer Grinage and husband

Clint, Robert Grinage and family, Steven and wife Katy Grinage and family, Brittany Bier and husband Dakota Leair and family, Courtney and husband Blake Paul and family, Faith and Emma Erickson; and many family and friends.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Merlin S. Tinkham; mother Betty J. Tinkham; daughter, Traci Lynn Tinkham; and son-in-law Dale Macke.

Mike's memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at the Mark Baptist Church in Davis County, Iowa with Pastor Gary Axtell officiating. Military rites performed by Reed-Whisler Post #78 of the American Legion will be performed at the church following the service. Visitation with family present to greet friends will be from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service on Saturday at the church. The Merlin R. Tinkham Memorial fund has been established in care of Cindy Tinkham, 14955 293rd Street, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537. Use of those funds will be determined at a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation with Family Present

MAY **25**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mark Baptist Church
16011 276th Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Memorial Service

MAY **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mark Baptist Church
16011 276th Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Tribute Wall

“ Additional Obituary for Telegraph from Mike's family of his earlier life in his hometown Dubuque, Iowa:

BLOOMFIELD, Iowa — Merlin “Mike” Tinkham was called home by his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ on May 22, 2024.

He was born on December 14, 1949 in Dubuque Iowa to Merlin S. & Betty J. Tinkham.

He married Cindy Duke on September 24, 1985.

While growing up in Dubuque, he was a member of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church where he was baptized and also confirmed.

He graduated from Dubuque Senior High School in 1968. In 1969 he enlisted in the Air Force to serve his country during the Vietnam war. He was a Helicopter Mechanic stationed in Da Nang and served 14 months, 3 tours.

He worked at John Deere in Waterloo, Iowa for 32 years.

Mike played baseball for various teams and traveled throughout the United States and when he gave it up at 39, he then got back into hunting, traveling with Cindy to Canada and Africa.

He loved the Cubs, Braves, Giants, Yankees and the Iowa Girls & Boys Basketball and Football teams with a passion.

He just loved all sports in general. Moving from Waterloo, Iowa to Bloomfield, Iowa after retiring, Mike & Cindy semi-farmed and Mike was in seventh heaven hunting on the beautiful acres of their prime hunting grounds.

Mike is survived by his wife Cindy, daughter Tiffany and four grandchildren; sister Susan (Macke) Voels of Dubuque, Iowa; 2 brothers

Robert(Bob) & LaVonne Tinkham of Freeport, Illinois and Mark Tinkham of Dubuque, Iowa; sister in law Donna Tinkham; nephew Josh Tinkham and family, nieces Sara (Bill) Kirk and family ; Meggan Gaines and family; mother in law Jean and husband Verlyn Kraus; father in law Don and wife Shirley Duke; sister in laws Laura

Duke; Wendy(Chuck) Erikson; and many beloved Tinkham, Haas, Meana, Kinley, Kelly and Kautman uncles and cousins with whom he spent so many of his early years.

We had friends of course, but all those early years were spent with our loving and large family, as they were not only OUR FAMILY but OUR BEST FRIENDS.

Mike was preceded in death by his beloved father and mother; daughter Traci Lynn Tinkham (2 1/2 years old); grandparents: Norman & Gertrude Tinkham and Lloyd & Dorothy Meana; Godparents: Bill Haas & Ethel Tinkham; brother in laws; Dale Macke (1994) and Fred Voels (2014); sister in law Mary Voels Mishler (2022) many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

If Mike was here today his greatest wish would be:

First: (and he did) Give all to the Lord Jesus Christ Our Lord & Savior and

Second: Your FAMILY. Love them today and everyday, don't wait until tomorrow what you can do today. Don't just text, pick up the phone as your voice means so much to those you call. Help all those (and he did) when you are able as the World needs more Love, Compassion and Hope.

Mike's memorial service will be held at 11:00am on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at the Mark Baptist Church in Davis County, Iowa with Pastor Gary Axtell officiating. Visitation will be from 9:00am until the time of service on Saturday.

Memorials can be sent in care of Cindy Tinkham, 14955 293rd Street, Bloomfield, Iowa. Use of those funds will be determined at a later date.

Wagler Funeral Home in Bloomfield, Iowa is in charge of arrangements and online condolences may be directed to www.waglerfuneralhome.com.



SUSAN L VOELS - May 30, 2024 at 07:17 PM

MC

“ *From Melvin & Donna Christensen To Mike & Family & to those of you whom we knew well; Bob, Mel's classmate and Susie our firewood customer. We send our condolences.*

melvin christensen - May 25, 2024 at 07:53 PM

JA

“ *My heart aches for you. I'm so sorry for your loss of such a wonderful guy.*

Josie Andrew - May 24, 2024 at 10:54 AM

RS

“ *So sorry to learn about Mike's passing. Enjoyed visiting about Mike and your hunting exploits. Love to your family.
Ron & Betty Steege*

Ron & Betty Steege - May 23, 2024 at 11:02 PM

MH

“ *Monte & Rexanna Harsch lit a candle in
memory of Mike Tinkham*



Monte & Rexanna Harsch - May 23, 2024 at 05:37 PM