



## Michael A O'Brien

January 27, 1947 - March 19, 2016

O'Brien, Michael Albert Jan. 27, 1947 Mar. 19, 2016. Michael (Mike) Albert O'Brien, 69, of Newberg passed away on March 19, 2016 after a battle with cancer. He was born January 27, 1947 in Tacoma, Washington, the son of James and Ruth O'Brien (both deceased). He was raised in Tacoma and attended Mt. Tahoma High School, Central Washington University and Chapman College from which he graduated in 1980 with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. For 49 years he was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Rosanne O'Brien. He joined the US Navy after high school and served in the Vietnam War. He developed an interest in police work while in the Navy and went on to work for the US Marshalls Service. His work with the Marshalls Service involved relocating Rosanne and his family to various parts of the country. They lived in Washington, Tennessee, Florida, and eventually settled in Oregon. The most satisfying moment in his career was leading the team of Marshalls responsible for the capture of one of the country's top fugitives – Christopher Boyce, convicted of selling national secrets to the Russians and known as "The Falcon" of "The Falcon and the Snowman." During his time as Chief Deputy of the Marshalls Service in Oregon, he held the highest US Marshall title position. He took great pride in working with a team in the design and construction of the Mark O. Hatfield Courthouse. After Mike's retirement from the Marshalls Service in 1998, he served as a mediator and worked in various safety and security positions, including Director of Community Safety at Reed College in Portland. Mike

enjoyed riding his motorcycles and spending time with Rosanne, their children and their grandchildren. He was an active member of the Catholic Church. He volunteered as a Eucharistic Minister and traveled to Medjugorje on a pilgrimage. His family and friends will remember him for his generosity, compassion and his enduring faith. Mike is survived by his wife Rosanne O'Brien; sister, Sharon Lawless; children, James O'Brien, Deanna Gieber, and Brian O'Brien; and grandchildren, Isabella, Grace and Caitlin O'Brien, Sierra and Jordyn Gieber, and ShaeLynn, Caleb and Morgan O'Brien. Their son Aaron O'Brien preceded him in death. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Newberg on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 11:00 A.M. Visit [www.attrells.com](http://www.attrells.com) for detailed service information.

# Cemetery Details

## St Anthony's Catholic Cemetery

SW 115th/Gaard St  
Tigard, OR

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

MAR 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Peter Catholic Church  
2315 N. Main Street  
Newberg, OR 97132

## Graveside Service

MAR 31. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (PT)

St Anthony's Catholic Cemetery  
SW 115th/Gaard St  
Tigard, OR

## Rosary

MAR 31. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Peter Catholic Church  
2315 N. Main Street  
Newberg, OR 97132

## Visitation

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MAR 31. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Peter Catholic Church  
2315 N. Main Street  
Newberg, OR 97132

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ I never will forget the first time I met Mike. In the beginning I was the older sister to Deanna's friends. They wanted to accompany me on a trip to Seattle. So to accomplish this I had to sit down a talk to Mike face to face. Wasn't worried till Deanna told me he had been a US Marshall. Still I think I did pretty good. (She got to go). I'm thankful everyday that our families have been combined for 29 years. I'm not just the friend, I'm family. You will be missed Mike.

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**Stephanie** - March 31, 2016 at 08:11 PM

EW

“ Mike O'Brien a true legacy for the U.S. Marshals Service and I was proud to call him my Chief. He brought so much to our agency and I am so thankful for the opportunity to have worked with him in Oregon. It was Mike that got me back home to Oregon and he provided the mentorship which has led me to the path I'm on today. To the O'Brien family, I am so sorry for your loss and please know that Mike's fellow badge carrying brothers and sisters throughout the country grieve with you, but we also celebrate the memory of a true leader and great friend.

*Eric Wahlstrom*

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**Eric Wahlstrom** - March 30, 2016 at 06:55 PM

BS

“ I Senior Inspector Ben Shapiro first met with Chief O'Brien in the old Portland Courthouse as I was trying to transfer there from Los Angeles. Chief was very welcoming to the prospect of an enthusiastic person wanting to join his team, and in the months that followed Chief assisted me in joining the U.S. Marshals Team in Portland, in the new courthouse. I had great experiences there for five years and really appreciated the wisdom Chief O'Brien imparted to us.

*Rest easily my dear departed brother, Deputy Marshals at the helm now are the better from your efforts.*

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**Ben Shapiro** - March 30, 2016 at 04:24 PM

DL

“ When we moved into our new home in March of 2013 Mike was one of the first to welcome us to the neighborhood. His positive attitude and cheerful banter will be greatly missed.

*Dave and Judy St.Lawrence*

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**Dave St Lawrence** - March 28, 2016 at 11:06 PM

DS

“ Aunt Rosanne and family,  
We will miss Uncle Mike tremendously. Our thoughts, prayers, and condolence will be with you always.

*Love always,  
Darcy and Carol Speidel*



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**Darcy Speidel** - March 26, 2016 at 10:06 PM

RF

“ *It was with great sadness that I heard this news. Chief O'Brien treated me very well as a deputy U.S. marshal in Miami during the mid-1980s while he was there. He was an inspiration to me during my formative years with the United States Marshals Service. His work as part of the team that apprehended Christopher Boyce was, perhaps, the Marshals Service's very first huge fugitive case closure. One that helped dramatically solidify the agency's position as THE federal fugitive apprehension agency. In short, Chief O'Brien was at a critical place at a critical moment in history.*

*RIP Chief.*

*Rudolf 'Rudy' Friederich*

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**Rudolf Friederich** - March 24, 2016 at 04:21 PM

JA

“ *Rosanne and family  
It has been years, and what a shock to hear of your loss. Jack & I send our prayers to all of you.  
That Marshal picture that is posted is on our wall with a constant memory of the guys. They had some wonderful memories.  
Our condolences to all of you  
Jack & Char Tait*

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**jack** - March 24, 2016 at 12:41 AM

TK

“ While we were having our home built, we rented a home in the Greens in Newberg. Every day, my then 2 and 3 year old would watch the neighbors walk past our house to get their mail. One person stood out to us every day because of the little white dog, my daughters were always so excited to see that man with his little white dog walk by. A year later we moved into our new home. About a year went by and a home had been built across the street from us. When the home sold, we finally met our new neighbors whom were out for a walk with their little white dog.

I could not place where I had seen this man and little white dog. As we got to know our neighbors a little better we realized we were neighbors in the Greens. The man that brought so much joy to my daughters when he walked to the mail box nearly every day with the little white dog, was Mike and Bailey. I believe that God puts people in our lives for a reason. I truly believe that he wanted these wonderful people to be our neighbors, if we were not going to be neighbors in The Greens any longer, then he was moving them across the street from us. And now their 3 amazing grand daughters are friends with my daughters. I love how God works!

Love and prayers always, to Rosanne and her family.

The Kirkland's  
Lance, Trisha, Jenna and Jessica



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Trisha Kirkland - March 23, 2016 at 11:03 PM

TK

“ *Trisha Kirkland lit a candle in memory of Michael A O'Brien*



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**Trisha Kirkland** - March 23, 2016 at 10:36 PM

DB

“ *Prayers and condolences to Mike's family and friends. He will be missed. He was always very nice to me when I was hired by the USMS and helped me in getting back to Oregon from Los Angeles. Always ready with some sage wisdom about life in general and the USMS in particular, a joke here and there, and talking about his career with the Marshals Service. I am so sorry for your loss of such a wonderful person.*

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**Debbie Boyd** - March 23, 2016 at 06:01 PM

LR

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Leland Rakoz** - March 23, 2016 at 03:58 PM

TV

“ Chief O'Brien as I fondly remember him. In 1993, I was fresh out of the Army, I had no degree or Law Enforcement experience, but he hired me as a guard, paving the way for me to get into law enforcement. When the Beaverton PD came calling, he gave me rave reviews; probably why they hired me. I eventually found my way back to the USMS and got to visit with him. He was proud, he knew he helped me fulfill my dream, as I am sure he helped others. He was a good man to me, and I will always be thankful for his mentorship and guidance. Chief, may you rest in peace, and my sincere condolences to his family.

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**Tito Del Valle** - March 23, 2016 at 01:43 PM

JP

“ It is with a heavy heart to lose such a wonderful neighbor and friend. There are no words that can ease the pain of the loss of a special loved one like Mike -- but if caring thoughts can help, they are with the O'Brien family now. Wishing you wonderful memories forever.  
Jack and Connie Plowman

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**Jack and Connie Plowman** - March 22, 2016 at 12:35 AM