



## Michael Crawford Gates

January 31, 1959 - December 29, 2021

Michael (Mike) Crawford Gates, of Fort Collins, died peacefully at Poudre Valley Hospital of complications of Covid-19. He was 62.

Mike was born to Melvin and Barbara Gates and was the youngest brother to sister Shelly and brother Mark. He was raised in Del Norte, Colorado and graduated from Del Norte High School in 1977. After high school Mike moved to the Denver area to continue his education and see a bit more of the world. He married Betty Buch in 1984 and adopted his first two children, Jon-Mikel and Alicia, in 1985. The birth of his daughter Whitney followed in 1986. After divorcing in 1991, he married Barbara Olson in 1995, and together they adopted two more daughters, Hannah and Makayla. Mike had an open heart and love to share with everyone he cared for. Mike worked for Otter Box for many years in information technology and was truly proud of his work and his employer; the family wishes to thank Otter for their support during this time.

Mike was a devout Christian and attended Citipointe Church in Loveland. He was also an avid Colorado Eagles fan and held season tickets since their very first season. He enjoyed getting to go to hockey games with his daughters, especially with Whitney. He also enjoyed the outdoors, and treasured many weekends spent fishing with his brother across the state. Mike loved to hike, camp, and toss around a football. He also loved tinkering with computers and other electronics. Mike loved having pets, and was pet-dad to several cats and dogs over the years. One thing that was always evident about Mike was the tremendous amount of love that he had to share, and that he shared freely and willingly.

Mike is survived by his parents, Mel and Barbara Gates, his brother Mark Gates, his sister Shelly Vanderpool, his wife Barbara and his children: Jon-Mikel Tuttle-Gates and his husband John, Alicia Guardado and her husband Andrew, Whitney Jiles and her husband Patrick, Hannah Gates and Makayla Gates; and by his grandchildren Reilly Guardado and Drew Guardado.

The family would like to thank all of the doctors and nurses at Poudre Valley Hospital for

their kindness and care, and they would like to thank all of Mike's friends, coworkers, and family for their support during this hardship.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Mike's honor at 3:00 pm on Friday, January 7th, 2022 Christ United Methodist Church in Fort Collins. It will be live streamed here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82042151907>

An additional memorial for family and friends in Del Norte will be held in the spring, date to be determined. Flowers may be sent to Goes Funeral Home in Fort Collins, and a GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/52e8b303>) has been established to help the family during this time.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 7. 3:00 PM (MT)

Christ United Methodist Church  
301 E. Drake Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
[info@goesfuneralcare.com](mailto:info@goesfuneralcare.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album Service Recording & Slideshow



**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - January 10 at 03:10 PM

MG

*Mike will always be my little brother. I guess its natural for the younger brother to look up to the older. as time went on the older brother looked up to younger bother....not gone...just gone fishing.*

*Love Mark.*

**Mark Gates** - January 14 at 07:20 PM

SW

“ *I am a cousin of Mike who also grew up in the beautiful San Luis Valley in the town of Del Norte. I have fond memories of holiday dinners and picnics at the Gates home including playing with all the Gates kids. Mike was the youngest who tagged along joining the fun and keeping out of trouble. We grew up in a time when kids were free to roam and explore our surroundings without a thought of safety or danger. Mike's upbringing made him into a special individual who will be greatly missed.*

*Sherry Frye Watkins*

**Sherry Watkins** - January 05 at 02:43 PM

KF

*I am also a cousin of Mike's, Sherry Frye Watkins brother, Ken. I also had fond memories of Mike when we were growing up in Del Norte, Co., a small town where everyone knew each other. I hadn't seen him in years, but he will be missed and many in Del Norte, where I still live, said they will miss him as well.*

**Kenneth Frye** - January 05 at 03:54 PM

WA

*Thank you for providing the pictures and the recording of the beautiful service for Mike! My heart has been filled with sorrow at the loss of our Mike, and the older photos hold my memories of him as I am another cousin - from the Gates side, the one born the same year. Together we experienced school, family events, camping trips, friends, graduations; and he has always held a special place in my heart! After watching the newer photos, I can now see why he left us here in Del Norte. He was needed to touch very precious lives up north, and I am SO PROUD of the fine job he has done!! Be comforted that he is now with the Lord and his Uncle Dell, my Dad. I know it's hard to lose your father, but some day at that heavenly reunion . . . I can only imagine!!*

*With my love, Wanda*

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**Wanda** - January 16 at 08:20 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Kathleen** - January 05 at 12:44 PM

KA

*This is Barb's 60th birthday party. Mike orchestrated this event.*

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**Kathleen** - January 06 at 04:33 PM

ER

“ *Mike is truly an inspiration for me. One of the kindest people I have ever met. Sorry for your loss.*

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**Eric** - January 05 at 10:56 AM