



Michael V. Keenan

November 13, 1939 - February 7, 2025

Michael Van Keenan age 85 of Scottville passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, February 7, 2025. Mike was born on November 13, 1939 in Summit County, Ohio, the son of Van H. and Louise (Marzo) Keenan. Mike grew up in Ohio and graduated in 1958 from Hudson High School in Hudson, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Kent State University and did graduate work at Ball State University and Central Michigan University.

Prior to teaching, he worked at General Motors Parts Division as a stock checker and shipping check for 1 year. He taught at Indian Lake High School in Lewiston, Ohio for five years and then was hired by Baldwin Community Schools where he taught from 1970 to 1972. During that time, Mike served as assistance high school wrestling coach at Mason County Central; his wife, Jan, had been hired at MCC in 1970.

In 1972, Mike was hired by MCC to teach high school earth science, biology, and environmental studies and to coach junior high and senior high wrestling and football. Mike helped develop several MCC Spartan athletes into state champion wrestlers during his tenure and was awarded Michigan Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1979. He was also the father of Grammy Award Winning artist Maynard James Keenen, a 1982 graduate of MCC. Following Mike's retirement in 1992 he continued to teach adult education for MCC.

Mike truly lived life like he believed. As his son Maynard would say "He was wild and ungovernable." Mike led an interesting life, he was passionate about everything he did and never let life slow him down. Once while driving home from a northern Michigan PowWow on a snowy winter night, Mike was hit by a train that rarely traveled through Scottville. The encounter left him with several broken ribs but he refused to seek treatment, fearing the doctor would keep him from traveling to Helsinki the next week where Mike was participating in a competitive skiing event. Needless to say, Mike made the trip. Following his educational interests – Mike was an outdoor and environmental enthusiast. You would often find him hiking, biking, skiing, keeping fit and enjoying everything nature had to offer. He was genuine to the core.

Mike will be greatly missed by all that had the privilege to know him, whether a former student, athlete, neighbor, or friend – Mike will be missed! His message to all would be: Be Ungovernable and Be Wild!

Mike will be remembered by his son Maynard and Jen Keenan of Arizona; two grandchildren; his sisters Wanda and Barbara; and many, many great friends. He was preceded in death by parents; his wives Judith, Jan and Jackie; and his brother Herbert.

Those who wish to remember Mike with a memorial donation are asked to please consider the AZ Raptor Center www.arizonaraptorcenter.org, or the Sedona Wolf Sanctuary www.sedonawolfsanctuary.org – two of Mike's favorite places to visit with his family.

Tribute Wall

LF

“ Mike was a great coach, teacher and made an impact in many kids' lives. I admired him , loved talking to him, and fondly remember ballroom dancing with him and Jan in their little studio! Wow could he dance! He had so many gift and shared them abundantly with others. May God bless you and rest in peace. And when the Great Spirit calls me home, let's have a dance. Peace to Maynard and his family. May the Perpetual light shine upon you , Mike.

letha fulton - May 26, 2025 at 08:55 PM

EF

“ Mike was step-father to my sister and I. He was a great husband and partner to my mother Jackie. Mike was by her side through a tough battle with cancer, which she ultimately lost in 2022. It felt like Mike would live forever and there was not a hurdle that he could not get over. His death was a surprise. Condolences to his family and friends. Baamaapii.
Emily Filipov

Emily Filipov - February 17, 2025 at 01:45 AM

JJ

“ I grew up with Mike he was a good friend of my brother I was 4 years younger. As a tag along I got no sympathy. It made me tough. I owed him a lot. I have been trying to contact him but couldn't catch up to him to late . Rest in peace Mike.

Jim Johnson - February 16, 2025 at 08:05 PM

MR

“ Mike could be an intimidating teacher, Coach and man. He came up and talked to me as a freshman and asked me to wrestle. I said I shared my passion of basketball with my older brother Dale. He said he would make me a state champ by my sophomore year. I still declined. I'm sure if I followed what he said I would've had a great opportunity as he was a legendary coach.He held athletes to a higher standard and told us so. He was a man that you really wanted to get to know better. He loved adventure and nature. I've heard stories of him with birds all over him in the woods. The world lost a good one!

Mark Rinkevicz - February 13, 2025 at 05:56 AM

DT

“ Aaniin, Mike one last time, aaniin. Shine eternally, friend. May your good wanderings continue without end. I'm grateful to have met you.

Dell Todd - February 12, 2025 at 04:23 PM

BT

“ *Mr Keenan was a great coach and friend, he will be fondly remembered and missed. Bill Trim*

Bill Trim - February 12, 2025 at 01:34 PM

RJ

“ *My heart is sadden of this news, he was a great assistant wrestling coach and mentor, he will be missed , blessings to the family*

Ramon Castillo Jr - February 12, 2025 at 09:07 AM

TS

“ *Theresa Stoyka lit a candle in memory of Michael V. Keenan*



Theresa Stoyka - February 12, 2025 at 05:53 AM

TS

“ *Mike was my science teacher and neighbor while I was growing up on Darr rd. One memory that never leaves is I used to tell him chewing tobacco would give him cancer. At my graduation party he gave me my very own bag of red man tobacco which of course I tried and turned a bit green from it. Thanks Mr. Keenan for being one of my best teachers ever. Condolences to all of your family and friends and past students.*

Theresa Stoyka - February 12, 2025 at 05:52 AM

JS

“ *During the Winter of 1980/81, while completing my student teaching at MCC, I first met Coach Keenan and his family. During those months, Mike provided me with the opportunity to volunteer, with his team, as an assistant wrestling coach. I had ambitions of becoming a good high school coach. I could not have found a better man to mentor and inspire me. Coach Keenan's dedication to his athletes, his competitiveness, whit and infectious smile/grin not only motivated his athletes, but taught a young-aspiring coach (me), how a great coach should act. Trust to say, during my 45 years of coaching, that followed, I have consistently tried to emulate what I saw in and learned from Coach Keenan. Mike may never have realized it, but he holds a hallowed place in my memory and heart. He will be remembered.*

Jim Stickney - February 11, 2025 at 05:18 PM

DB

“ I only met Mike last summer when he attended a sweat lodge ceremony at my place. We found out that we were tribal brothers (Sault Ste Marie). From that first meeting it was like we were old friends. Mike baa was an extraordinary human. I feel blessed to have known him and for him to sit at our table and share his life experience. RIP Nijikiwenh, we will see you in the stars.



Daniel Bissell - February 11, 2025 at 12:01 PM

EH

“ Mike will always have a special place in my heart and mind. Our paths first crossed in first grade and continued through high school graduation. Later reunions "cemented" a friendship and led to phone calls and visits (although infrequent) through the rest of the years. Mike called me just two weeks ago and we enjoyed a wonderful conversation. There was no indication it would be our last. I know he touched MANY lives throughout the years and trust all memories will be treasures in those hearts. Barbara and Maynard, may you find peace as you say your goodbye. Mike will not be forgotten.
Sue (Emrick) and Larry Huelsman

Evelyn Huelsman - February 11, 2025 at 10:34 AM

LL

“ Mike was such a mentor to me when I was in school. I was one of his class assistants when I was a senior; he made learning fun and it was a joy to see the “lightbulbs come on” with the underclassmen in his classes. He will be missed.



Linda Lawson - February 11, 2025 at 09:55 AM

DS

“ An excellent teacher, a good friend and a wicked sense of humor. Michael Van will be missed for sure.

Debby Saxton - February 10, 2025 at 08:27 PM