



Michael Sturgill

December 28, 1954 - October 15, 2019

We celebrate the life of Dr. Michael Eugene Sturgill who passed away on October 15, 2019 in Chicago. He is survived by his five children, Ryan, Eric, Kyra, Stella, and Haley; his father, Eugene; and his siblings Jerry, Rob, David, Kelly, and Julie. Michael was a father who inspired in his children a love of the American West, wild rivers, adventure, and most of all, cherishing diversity, urbanism, and caring for those who were less fortunate. He cared deeply for Chicago's poor and those who fell through the cracks of America's healthcare and social welfare system. As a leading neurosurgeon at Mount Sinai and other Chicago-area hospitals, he helped countless patients over the years recover from trauma and live full lives that otherwise would have been taken from them. He was much loved and will be missed. May his soul rest in peace. A private service will be held at a later date. If you have anecdotes about Michael's life or messages you would like to share with Michael's family, please send to Michael's personal tribute website at www.foranfuneralhome.com

Comments



“ To the Sturgill family:

I am Chris Cole and as best I can recall it was about 1973 when I met Mike. He had just arrived at BYU as a freshman and was looking for a place to live. Someone referred him to our 6-man apartment and we had an open spot for him. He and I shared one of the three bedrooms. While he was an 18-year old 'kid', the five of us were all in our early 20s and had each served an LDS mission - so you could almost call it somewhat of a generation gap. Even so, he fit in perfectly and I enjoyed him very much. Our apartment did a lot of group dating together and Mike always pushed through his shyness to participate. My stand out memory is of Mike's amazing study habits as he focused on his dream of becoming a doctor. He always seemed to be glued to the desk in our bedroom. You may recall Mike having quite the romance with a young lady in Provo named Melanie. She is my cousin and I introduced them. Some time in the 90's another cousin of mine had a dramatic head injury in Florida, close to where Mike was coincidentally doing a fellowship. He went to the hospital to do some 'recon' for us with the doctors and that was very comforting. Over the decades I probably reached out to Mike perhaps 4-5 times, just to catch up. In our latest conversation a few years ago he shared with me some of his personal issues. I adored and respected Mike and I am so sad to hear of his passing. From all accounts, his was a life filled with meaningful service and compassion. In his passing the world has truly lost an genuine impact player for good. My condolences to you and may peace and comfort soon be your gift in lieu of his physical presence.

CHRISTOPHER A COLE - December 07, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ In Chicago, where my dad stumbled into his early thirties and was out of shape (to put it kindly) it was Mike who invited him to go an and “just run a mile.” He swore he couldn't but went anyway. He ran ran the mile, and Mike took him to the lakefront trail for steadily longer runs.

In months that followed they would extend their morning runs and eventually leading to races, 5K, 10K, 10 mile, and eventually the Twin Cities marathon. After that marathon they both bought ridiculous leather jackets to celebrate. Mike was the caring older brother to my dad who never had one.

Their friendship was a gift. When I think of the joy that being outside and running brought my dad every day of his life after that I am so grateful to Mike. Their friendship didn't waver in the good memories, tough times, success, mistakes, births, and all else.

I remember Mike hiring me to babysit his kids, pulling the oars through “big mallard” rapids on the salmon river, and I remember the look on his face when he came to hug me after my dad's memorial. He was a towering figure at every age I knew him and cannot think of our family history without him.

For all of us that knew and cared for Mike this is a brutal interruption of the story we thought we had. Wishing comfort and a flood of our best memories of Mike.

Jeffrey Rugh - November 11, 2019 at 08:17 AM



“ I had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Sturgill while working at Mt. Sinai. Since I worked in Risk Management, he told me he always dreaded to hear from me. But if I called, he never failed to call me back. We had many long discussions which I thoroughly enjoyed.

He was a very intelligent, witty and kind man. I am so saddened to hear of his passing and want to convey my deepest sympathy to his family. He will be missed.

Bob Tarver

Bob Tarver - October 27, 2019 at 11:03 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends. I have wonderful memories of working with Mike in the early 90's at the University of Chicago when he flew on UCAN helicopter. He was smart, calm and exhibited a joyful, adventurous spirit. Rest in peace.

Mary Maloney - October 27, 2019 at 10:53 PM



“ This is sad news. As an Emergency physician at Mt Sinai, I often consulted with him. He would despite being overworked always took care of those patients. I had often spoken with him about coming out to Ski / Board at Snowbird with me. He would say he was going to make time. We never got the chance to do so because of his dedication to caring for his patients and his overbooked schedule. There is now a void in the force for good.

Thom Widell

Thomas Widell MD - October 25, 2019 at 09:53 PM



“ I echo my colleagues statement.....dr. Sturgill was so hard working. I enjoyed catching up in the doctors lounge, he spoke so much about all his kids. He will be missed.

Fernando Orellana - October 26, 2019 at 12:00 PM



“ Great doctor and father. Always rushing to see next case or next consult. Spoke of his twins and children fondly. Really cared for his patients. Great loss to Sinai family.

Mary Pat Becker NP - October 27, 2019 at 01:48 AM



“ I'll remember Mike as always quick witted and kind. He played a major role in my father's life development as an adult and I'll always be grateful for that. River trips and Chicago sledding are just two of the many memorable moments with Mike. I went on to river guide for a short time thanks to my childhood trip down the main salmon with Mike and his wonderful family.

I'm very saddened by his passing and pray for comfort for those most closely effected.

Pete Rugh - October 25, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ For years I enjoyed providing and training neuromonitoring for Dr.Sturgill and his very ill and complex underprivileged patients. Every interaction I ever had with him, he was so gentle and caring, often very tired but yet he persisted. Always spoke with us with great respect and patience , even under some very difficult circumstances. With all honesty I can say he was one of the hundreds of doctors I have worked with over the years that I truly appreciated the most. Such a gentle, caring, hardworking man. So incredibly sorry to learn the world has lost him :(

Mark Peters - October 24, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ Dr. Sturgill was a pleasure to scrub with. He always kept me updated on what was going on with his kids and I could tell he loved them a ton. I still tell people to this day that I don't like scrubbing neuro unless it's with him. He was kind, caring, and happy to teach anyone willing to learn. I am deeply saddened by this news and my condolences to his family and friends.

Dane Matthews - October 24, 2019 at 03:51 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Ryan Sturgill - October 24, 2019 at 12:54 AM



“ I’m so sorry for your loss! I had the honor and pleasure of working with Dr Sturgill since I started working at Sinai, at the beginning of his tenure there. He was not only a pleasure to work with but had such a caring gentle heart. I don’t think I ever saw him get frustrated or angry at anyone. He had an uncanny ability for a tension breaking anecdote at the perfect time. To say I am saddened to hear this news of his passing is an understatement. Dr Sturgill you will be missed! I’ll never hear a Dave Mathews song and not think of you, nor a Kanye song for that matter! Wishing your family strength and peace through this awfully hard time.

Jenny Silasiri Handa - October 23, 2019 at 08:28 PM



“ Thank you so much, Jenny, for your kind words and inside knowledge on our dad’s OR music tastes. We loved all the Sinai staff and know he loved all of you all. Thank you for sharing your memories with our family in this tough time.

Ryan Sturgill - October 24, 2019 at 12:58 AM



“ Hello. First of all I would just like to express my deepest sympathies to all of Dr. Sturgill’s family. I am a nurse anesthetist who worked with Dr. Sturgill for many years at Mount Sinai. Neurosurgery patients are complex and providing anesthesia for them is rarely easy. Nevertheless, working with Dr. Sturgill was always the upside to the rest of the challenges of any case. In all the time I knew him I don’t think I ever heard him yell or even raise his voice. He was a dedicated surgeon, and a gentle soul, who always spoke so proudly about his children. It was obvious that he loved them very much. I am so saddened to hear of his untimely passing, as I know my coworkers are as well. I will keep with me many fond memories and many laughs I had working with Dr. Sturgill. I know he will be greatly missed.

Dawn Fiali - October 23, 2019 at 07:34 PM