



## Mr. Michael Bernard Dickens

October 17, 1952 - August 6, 2025

Michael Bernard Dickens was born into a loving, close-knit family in Washington, DC, on October 17, 1952. Many of those family members influenced his development into the man he became.

Michael was an “out of the womb” sports fan. He participated in youth athletic programs in his neighborhood in Seat Pleasant, MD, and was a valuable team member on the football team at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, MD. At Monmouth College, Michael was exceptional as a safety on their football team.

Also, at Monmouth, Mike (or “Dick”, as many of his East Coast and college friends called him) met Debra, married Debra and within their 51-year marriage, raised Asha and Jabari (Jay), the loves of their lives. His Afrocentricity was piqued at Monmouth. He absorbed everything “Black Power” and brought it home to Chicago on school breaks, indoctrinating his nieces and nephews, and later his children and their friends and whoever else would listen.

Dad, Uncle Mike, or Mike, as he was affectionately known, was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His journey on this earth was one marked by love, compassion, humor and wisdom. His passing leaves a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and many more whose lives

were touched by him. We ask that you remember Michael, not for the way his life ended, but for the way that it was lived, and for the profound impact it had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing him. Outside of his family and professional life, Michael found joy in gardening, stand up and improv comedy, playing tennis, football, pickleball and cooking.

We suddenly and unexpectedly lost the privilege of Michael's presence on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Although he's not physically with us, his spirit lives on in the memories of those who love him: Debra, his wife, Eleanor, his mom, Asha, his daughter, Jabari, his son and siblings Darius, Kevin and April (Kenneth) Prophet. In addition, he had a cherished relationship with his sister's-in-law. There was no shortage of nieces and nephews (including greats) who lovingly hung onto his every word. All his East Coast cousins were special to him, and he enjoyed our annual visits to spend time with them, his mom and sister. Friends? He had many. Good friends? Yes, and they were great! We all miss Michael, the husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and brother-in-law!

Those who knew Michael will remember him for always knowing what to say to make people laugh, his revolutionary spirit, being present when needed, providing advice in moments when you had nowhere to turn - and didn't even ask LOL!

As you have become an ancestor, dear Michael, your light will forever shine brightly in our hearts.

We love you

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG **22**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center  
7046 S. Halsted  
Chicago, IL 60621

## Visitation

AUG **23**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center  
7046 S. Halsted  
Chicago, IL 60621

## Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center  
7046 S. Halsted  
Chicago, IL 60621

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ I’m forever grateful to have been at Monmouth College with Michael and Debra and to still be in touch after all these years. Michael was a force to be reckoned with on the football field then and all his life he was a solid for real kind of guy. My condolences to your family, sending much love. Kim Holland



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**Kim Holland** - September 03, 2025 at 10:23 AM

RR

“ Dearest Debra and Family~ The Calvin-Rutlin Family in St. Louis sends prayers to you all at this time. Sweet memories of Michael remain in our hearts that brings a smile and he will always be remembered for his kind heart and his big spirit! May all of the sweet memories that touched your lives throughout the years remain with you always~ Kyle & Robin Calvin-Rutlin & Family

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**Robin Rutlin** - August 24, 2025 at 06:52 PM

KW

“ It’s incredibly hard to put into words what I’m feeling right now. Losing someone like him—a true father figure in my life—is heartbreaking. He was one of a kind. Honest, direct, and always real with me, even when the truth was tough to hear. That kind of presence is rare, and I was lucky to have it.

*I always knew where I stood with him, and I always knew he cared. His strength, his wisdom, and his impact on my life will stay with me forever.*

*It’s deeply unfortunate he’s gone, but I’ll carry his voice with me, always. Rest in peace to a man who meant more to me than he probably ever knew.*

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**Keith Wallace** - August 24, 2025 at 10:11 AM

KY

“ It’s really hard to describe what an impact uncle (UNC Mike) had on me. He’s been with me my entire LIFE! I’ll always appreciate the time, the laughs, and conversations we had. As a kid he took me to see the late great Ben Wilson play at DeLaSalle HS. I can definitely say he poured into me & the cousins and I’m forever thankful for that. Thank you UNK! Till we meet again. Love you UNK!



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**kyle** - August 23, 2025 at 01:40 PM

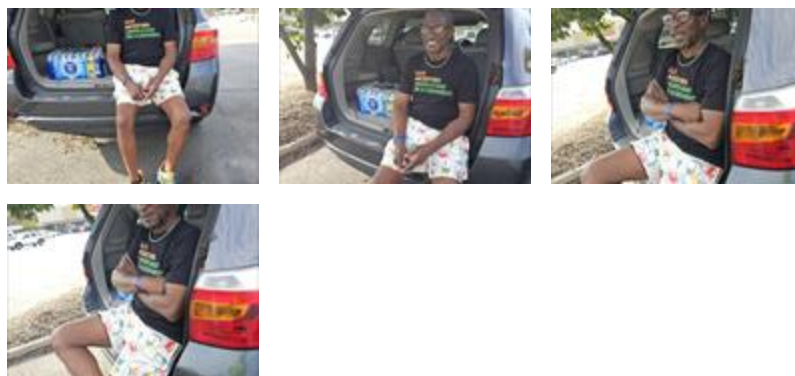
VM

“ I remember on one family get together when Michael showed he had a big sense of humor when he and one of his late brothers inlaw performed a duet song of Patti Labelle and Michae McDonald "on my own" that I laughed so hard. My prayers are with you Debra, Asha, Jabari and your entire family on this special day of celebrating the life of Michael a one of a kind man who loved his beautiful family!!

Violet Jean Martin - August 23, 2025 at 01:31 PM

HG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Hiawatha Gibbs - August 23, 2025 at 01:08 PM

DD

Truly will be missed 💙

D'Juana Dickens - August 23, 2025 at 02:08 PM

TD

“ Thaddeus D Dickens sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael Bernard Dickens



Thaddeus D Dickens - August 23, 2025 at 08:44 AM

CD

“ Carol Dixon

Carol Dixon - August 23, 2025 at 12:30 AM

CD

*Dear Michael, I like everyone else will miss you. Just seeing you enter a room with your beautiful smile and wit could lift anyone's heart. I know there is a big void in Cousin Eleanor 's heart, as well as Debra, Asha, Jabari and your brothers and sister. I was hoping that I would begin to see more of you. However it did not work out that way. Our loss is Heaven's gain. Now the angels have the chance to laugh at your sense of humor. Again, I will miss you. You will forever be in my heart .God Bless you. Love Cousin Carol.*

Carol Dixon - August 23, 2025 at 01:09 AM

KM

“ Michael we will truly miss your wicked sense of humor that kept us laughing at Dan Ryan Home Depot. It was such a pleasure to work alongside you. May the Lord keep & comfort your family, friends & loved ones. Until we meet again rest in peace



Kim Moore - August 22, 2025 at 10:11 PM

KL

“ Oh Mike I'm Gonna Miss You Sooo Much Friend You Know You Was My Buddy At 1914 I Miss Sneak Dissing The Customers With You And Making Me Laugh.... Rest Well My Friend ☐■

khadijah lewis - August 22, 2025 at 07:49 PM

JG

“ Mike was a colleague of mine @ Home Depot store #1914, we had a good rapport & he was a cool individual my deepest condolences goes out to his friends & family, he will be truly be missed.



James Gilmore - August 22, 2025 at 05:10 PM

KI

“ Praying for the family



Kimmie - August 22, 2025 at 05:09 PM

LA

“ Such a wonderful person to work with. Thanks for all the info you shared with me about Millwork. Really gonna miss you Mike!

Laurie - August 22, 2025 at 05:08 PM

CM

“ Michael You Were So Cool & Funny, I'm Gonna Miss Your Jokes At The Store. Michael Was An Amazing Co-Worker & Friend, We Will Definitely Miss You At The Dan Ryan Home Depot - Store 1914.



Prayers To The Dickens Family & Friends From Cedric Moore - Dept. Supervisor At The Dan Ryan Home Depot - Store 1914.

Cedric Moore - August 22, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Matthew Strauss - August 22, 2025 at 02:26 PM

RC

“ Wow, Deb! ...look at your loving, handsome husband.... What a joy he was! A beautiful picture of him in his element! Such a wonderful man... such a wonderful person~  
Robin Calvin-Rutlin

Robin Calvin-Rutlin - August 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM

CR

Debra,  
Steve and I are praying for your family due to Michael's passing. I remember the two of you at Monmouth being inseparable. I'm happy that you both shared a special love and that love will give you strength in the days ahead. Love and Blessings, Steve and Cynthia (Mickey)  
Rowan

Cynthia (Mickey) Rowan - August 22, 2025 at 05:54 PM

KF

“ Keith & Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Mr. Michael Bernard Dickens.



Keith & Family - August 22, 2025 at 07:45 AM

AC

“ Mike your Pickelball family will miss you! We are keeping your family and friends in prayer!

Angela Cain - August 21, 2025 at 06:34 PM

VB

I remember Michael had a funny sense of humor singing with his late brother inlaw Charles a Patti Labelle duet song. Debra, Asha and Jabari all of you were greatest the love and joy of his life and it was evident when I saw you all together. My prayers are with you all on this day of celebration of his life.

Violet Brady - August 23, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JC

“ John & Yvonne Carter purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Michael Bernard Dickens.



John & Yvonne Carter - August 21, 2025 at 03:29 PM

CW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Carling Wilson - August 21, 2025 at 10:31 AM

JH

“ *Missing you, cousin and wish we had more time to create more family memories. You set a wonderful example of husband, father, cousin and friend to many. I’ll always remember your laid back and gentle smile & humor. Rest til we meet again. Joy 🌸*



**Joy Harrison** - August 21, 2025 at 07:42 AM

AR

“ *Ayn, Jackie, Cynthia, Claudia, Robin purchased the Memories to Treasure for the family of Mr. Michael Bernard Dickens.*



**Ayn, Jackie, Cynthia, Claudia, Robin** - August 20, 2025 at 05:52 PM

HG

“ *Dickens,*

*Being the newcomer at Illinois Bell in 1995, I perceived you as that arrogant, Mr. no it all coworker for a good while. You always gave your opinion about something when I or someone didn't ask. Most of the time you were right. Even with your special choice of words, you always treated people with kindness, dignity, and respect. Your humor or course made coming to work more bearable, while your constructive criticism left people in a better headspace. You are a pillar of strength and a source of encouragement my friend. Thank you for the wisdom and kindness that touched many souls. You will always be remembered Dickens. Miss you my friend 🙏..*

*Hiawatha,*

**Hiawatha Gibbs** - August 19, 2025 at 10:56 PM

PJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Dickens Jones - August 19, 2025 at 09:53 PM

PJ

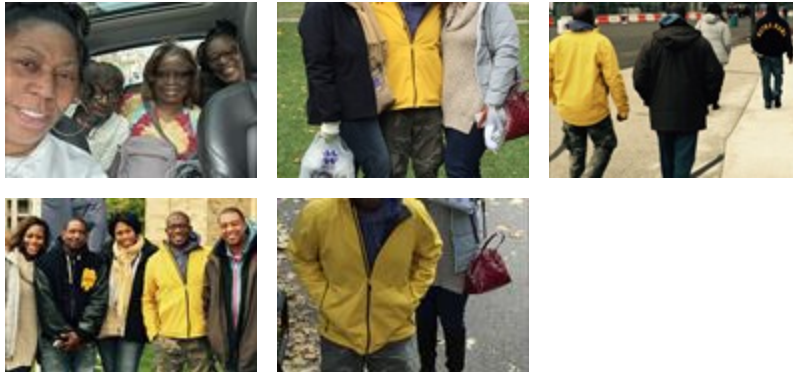
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Dickens Jones - August 19, 2025 at 09:51 PM

PJ

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Dickens Jones - August 19, 2025 at 09:42 PM

KD

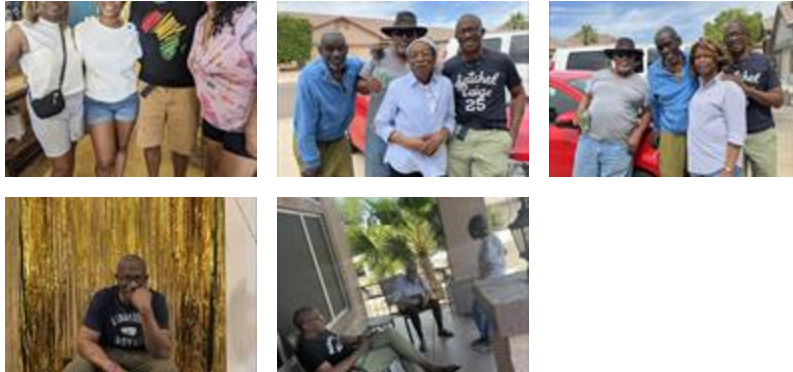
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kim Dickens - August 19, 2025 at 07:05 PM

AD

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Asha Dickens - August 19, 2025 at 06:42 PM

AD

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Asha Dickens - August 19, 2025 at 06:27 PM

AD

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall

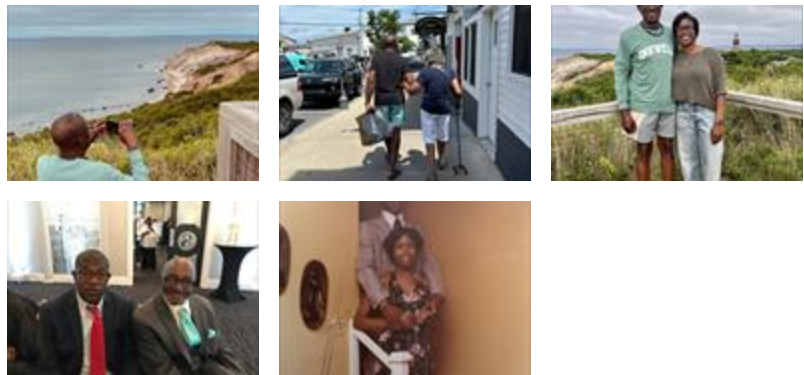


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**Asha Dickens** - August 19, 2025 at 06:13 PM

AD

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Asha Dickens** - August 19, 2025 at 06:11 PM

AY

“ 4 files added to the album MIKE



Ayn - August 19, 2025 at 11:36 AM

PA

“ This man Loved his family first. Michael was kind to everyone he met. Mike took distractions that always come in life no... matter the circumstances and used humor to overcome them. Michael was a blessing and a treasure to his Home Depot Family, this man left an example to his coworkers "BE KIND". Sincerely, Ms Pat...Millwork Dept.

Patricia O Alexander - August 19, 2025 at 07:07 AM

AF

“ I met Michael at Monmouth College in 1971. He was quick-witted and always had jokes which never failed to crack me up. He was also a fan of Gil Scott-Heron as am I. The plants in his house and the plants and flowers on his patio were a testament to his green thumb and talent for nurturing beautiful things. You will be missed Michael.



Ayn Farmer - August 18, 2025 at 08:17 PM

SB

“ Uncle Michael you were one of a kind hilarious,laid back and you had absolutely no filter but in a good way. Even before all of this every time I would hear a Frankie Beverly and Maze song or Bob Marley I would always think of you. You were a very good Uncle and an all around GREAT man. I Love you Uncle Michael and will miss you forever 😭😭

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**Shannon Beamon** - August 18, 2025 at 06:55 PM

TF

“ To Debra, Asha, Jay, Aunt Eleanor and the entire Dickens Family, Our condolences to you on the passing of our beloved Michael Bernard Dickens. He was truly a staple in our family. Michael would always say something that would make you laugh and or put a smile on your face. He will truly be missed. His memory will forever be etched in our hearts and mind.

*May God give you strength, comfort and peace as you are guided by his spirit.*

*Love Always,*

*Dolly, Tramaine, Helena, Michael and Tamela*

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**Tramaine E Feaster** - August 18, 2025 at 11:58 AM

ZJ

“ Michael,

*I remember you from Monmouth College, and my heart breaks for when I think of your passing. I remember when you and Debra invited me to your home and I was sitting on the back porch looking around at someone who had created such beauty. Who, I wondered, had created this beauty? Someone sitting there noticed the puzzled expression on my face and asked if there were something wrong. When I mentioned the beauty all around me, she said, “Mike created this.” I was amazed! Mike, you are tending grounds somewhere, creating the beauty that God has placed inside of you. I will always miss you,*

*Zenobia*



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**Zenobia N Jefferson** - August 18, 2025 at 09:55 AM

MM

“ Mr. Mike was/is the epitome of a cool dad! He was easy going, fun to be around, caring and stayed active! My last memory of him was going to the movies and briefly talking about his fight with cancer. Fast forward a few months later he won his war with cancer. He was a fighter and a blessed man to have so many that loved him. He'll always be remembered and celebrated on my end!

*- Philly Mike*

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**Michael Morrow** - August 18, 2025 at 09:21 AM

KB

“ Mike & I played on the football team and I enjoyed working with him in football & school. We had so much fun with the 1970 DeMatha Class! I even saw him a few years ago in Maryland. it was a very nice visit with Him & Mike White!  
My condolences and prayers for the Family.  
Love you Mike Dickens!

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**Kevin Broadus** - August 14, 2025 at 03:36 PM

SC

Micke and I were in the same class at DeMatha for all 4 years and played football together. Being class mates and playing football helped us establish a special friendship, a DeMatha brotherhood. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mikes family. Rest in peace my friend . Steve Costa

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**Steve Costa** - August 15, 2025 at 07:16 AM

DH

To Debra & Family  
As a Freshman entering the Monmouth College campus back in the early seventies I was the novice trying to find my way thanks to Mike I had to get it right! No half stepping..... Be a strong Black Man take no wooden nickels be confident in all that you do. This was the path Mike set us on as neophyte entering the world. Rest my brother we are blessed for having you in our lives.

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**Douglas M Hughes** - August 18, 2025 at 03:52 PM

EM

Mike was my friend. We had a revolutionary friendship while at Monmouth College. We were students of Malcolm X teachings. Mike was a good football player. He started on the varsity team as a freshman. He was awesome!  
Mike was a great person in this world, and will be a great person in Heaven. Dear Lord, bless the entire Dickens family.

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**Epluribus K. Mays** - August 18, 2025 at 05:58 PM

KA

*For Michael*

*I missed so much  
not staying in touch  
So my memories, though few,  
will just have do  
The concerts, the cookouts  
the funny stories he told  
His laughter infectious  
was great to behold  
His love of his Debra and his Mom  
was really so sweet  
Thanks Michael for the memories  
I'll treasure and keep*

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**Karen** - August 20, 2025 at 10:55 PM