



## Michael Linkowski

January 14, 1966 - March 17, 2018

Michael Linkowski, aged 52, passed on March 17, 2018. Michael leaves behind his wife Tracy after nearly 23 years of marriage, and three grown sons - Max, Bram and Sawyer.

Much beloved in his hometown of Cardiff By The Sea/Encinitas, CA as a tile contractor and devoted friend, he touched the lives of many, not just through his work but also his great humor and outsized personality. Recently moved to the beautiful Heber Valley in Utah, Michael and Tracy realized a life-long dream of building their own home, and where they had time to get to know some of the members of their church and community. Michael and Tracy were blessed to be much comforted by their new friends in Heber and old friends from California as Michael's cancer returned last June.

Bubba, Moose, Log, Big Mike, The Rock, Linkity - these are just a few of the nicknames Michael answered to proudly throughout his 52 years. More important than his nicknames, though, were his titles: Father, Husband, Son, Brother, Friend.

Michael was born in Akron, Ohio in 1966 to Michael Regis and Diane Antal Linkowski. An idyllic midwestern childhood amongst the cornfields and streams was interrupted by the untimely death of Michael, Sr. in 1974. Diane had the great fortune to move with Michael and his older sister Michelle and younger brother Rick, to California shortly after their father's death, settling in Del Mar. A lifelong love of the ocean and music were Michael's passions as a boy. He always had a song at the ready and could make up rhymes on the spot, something he continued to do even in his last days. He never strayed from the coast for much of his life. He raised his family in Cardiff By The Sea along the San Diego coastline, mere miles from where his sister Michelle and brother Rick raised their families in Encinitas and La Costa.

Michael's early years were filled with adventures, some of which he was lucky to survive, like the time he broke through the ice on a pond near his house and fell in up to his neck; or when he cut a 220 volt electrical supply line with scissors and was blown across the yard, spending several weeks recovering with burned hands, only to break his fingers

immediately afterwards in an unfortunate sledding incident. Michael's "luck" (or divine providence as he would acknowledge) extended throughout his life though he never struck it rich in the lottery which he played often. Michael struck it rich in other ways, with many talents, a larger-than-life personality, and a love for God, family, friends and food, not necessarily in that order.

Michael met his wife Tracy Fuller at the Pannikin cafe in Del Mar, California, where he worked after high school. They dated briefly until Michael took Tracy, a novice skier, on a skiing date where, impatient to enjoy his first snowboard run, left Tracy to fend for herself on a black diamond run. Years later, Michael would look up from his drum set while playing with Randy Fontaine and The Swingers at the Mandarin Coast restaurant in Solana Beach to see Tracy in the audience. Michael was a true romantic and loved grand gestures, so he called upon Randy Fontaine (Chuck Gross) and Tommy Ajax (Adam Kaye) to serenade Tracy at work on Valentine's Day. That sealed the deal and they married on May 6, 1995. Michael became an instant dad to Maxwell Berlyn Cook Linkowski, and he and Tracy had two more sons, Bram Fuller Linkowski and Sawyer Michael Linkowski. His sons were his everything, making him coin the phrase, "How you feel is who I am." His special talent was making his wife and sons laugh and giving them bear hugs, which he always said were the best part of his day.

Michael excelled at personal relationships. The friends he made in junior high are still his friends today. Never one to shy away from his inner emotional self, Michael had more than one BFF, who really have been and will be his best friends forever. His adventures took him to Europe with his friend Joe Spaid, where they traveled for several months storing up enough memories for a lifetime, which were shared liberally with all who would listen. Lake Tahoe was next where he lived with his friend Todd Finney, breaking ground as some of the first snowboarders on the local mountains. He helped his friend Travis Cary build a house on San Juan Island, eating copious amounts of fresh crab and oysters.

If eating is a talent, Michael had it in spades. Michael loved to eat and enjoyed everything from street tacos to sushi, with a special place in his food heart for Cardiff Crack, a burgundy pepper tri-tip steak, and VGs Donuts, both local specialties in Cardiff By The Sea.

Michael lived his life guided by a few simple principles: Work hard, play hard, serve others, and be grateful in all things. He cultivated friendships throughout his lifetime. He volunteered first whenever someone needed help. He served at his church callings. He always said thank you. He loved his Savior and his baptism in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on 12/12/08 was a date he never forgot. In later years Michael's

passions were his love of family and God. He loved his church and found renewed meaning in life through service to his ward and community.

Pancreatic cancer crystallized these principles in Michael's life, first in 2012 and again in 2017. He fought a hard and lengthy battle against pancreatic cancer with many setbacks and it is a true testament to his strength and the love of his family that he won against the disease for as long as he did.

Surrounded by his three sons and his mother, and with his wife at his side, Michael's last few weeks were filled with the beauty and humility that came from his complete faith in knowing that after his death, he would see his family again. Michael was grateful, even to the last, that he could build his dream home in the Heber Valley and look out his bedroom window at the magnificent Timpanogos mountains, a view he thought looked like heaven.

Michael is reunited with his father, Michael Regis Linkowski, his grandparents Steve and Sophia Antal and Valentine and Lucille Linkowski, other family members, and his dog, Buddy the Beagle, who waited eagerly to welcome him home. Michael will be watching over his wife Tracy, his sons Max, Bram and Sawyer, his mother Diane, his sister Michelle and her husband Mike, his brother Rick and his wife Lynn, and his nieces and nephews, when he is not working and playing hard and serving others in heaven.

Many thanks for the loving care given to Michael by the nurses at Intermountain Homecare & Hospice, who treated him with tenderness and love and who became part of our family.

In lieu of gifting flowers, the family encourages donations to the LDS Humanitarian Fund (<https://www.ldsphilanthropies.org/humanitarian-services/funds/humanitarian-general-fund>), or to a charity of your choice.

Memorial services will be held in Heber City, Utah and Encinitas, California:

Heber City, UT Services - Saturday, March 24, 2018

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Heber East Stake Center  
2395 South Mill Road, Heber City, UT 84032

A receiving line to greet the family will be held from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.  
Services will start at 11:00 a.m.

Encinitas, CA Services - Saturday, April 7, 2018

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

1444 Lake Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

A receiving line to greet the family will be held from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

Services will start at 11:00 a.m.

# Events

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**MAR** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

**24**

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Heber East Stake Center

2395 South Mill Road, Heber City, UT, US, 84032

**MAR** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**24**

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Heber East Stake Center

2395 South Mill Road, Heber City, UT, US, 84032

**APR** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

**7**

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1444 Lake Drive, Encinitas, CA, US, 92024

**APR** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**7**

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1444 Lake Drive, Encinitas, CA, US, 92024

# Comments

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“ I'm sorry to just learn of Mike's passing. He did a great job of renovating my bathroom in Del Mar in 2011 for the house I was selling after a recommendation by my next door neighbors, the Cary family. I put a nice review with photos on Angie's List which I think might have gotten him some inquiries for business. He was a nice guy and I used to call him The Big Linkowski after the similarly named movie by the Coen Brothers. He had a big character like the guy in the movie.

I then hired him again in November 2012 to renovate the bathroom in a rundown condo I bought in Solana Beach which was a vacation home. He did a nice job then too. He mentioned that he had a bit of a possible cancer scare and was waiting for tests to come back. He finished the job and I then went back to London before I heard about test results. I'm sorry to learn it was bad news though he clearly fought a good fight and lived for many years after the diagnosis.

Deepest belated condolences to Mike's family and friends. If the measure of how much a man is loved is how many affectionate nicknames he has, then Mike was truly loved and I'm sure he's still missed by so many.

**John De Masi** - January 30, 2019 at 08:40 PM

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“ Ah Mike,

I am so sorry to hear. Thank you for your gracious, funny sense of humor that made me smile. Thank you for your insights and perspectives that made me re-think situations. Thank you for your generous kindness.

A favorite memory was dropping in on you and Tracy in Cardiff, way too late on the way home from a meeting. You stole off to put the boys to bed, and soon were asleep yourself. True to your boys, your family and thus yourself you were peacefully done for the day.

You will be missed.

**Mark T Guithues** - June 05, 2018 at 03:54 PM

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“ I just heard, and am so saddened. I'm so glad I found this tribute, what a guy. Mike was one of the most genuine, caring people even as a teenager. He reminded me of a big, goofy, reliable puppy dog. Even though I haven't seen you in years, Mike, I'll miss the knowing you're out there. Thank goodness energy lives on.



**Kim (Terauds) McGinty** - May 08, 2018 at 02:53 PM

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“ What a beautiful tribute to a larger than life figure from my youth. Mike's personality filled a room with laughter and his jokes were always good hearted. I remember him as Bubba and will always smile when I think of him during those crazy high school times. My condolences to his wife, sons and all his family.

**shannon (maloney) gonzalez** - April 09, 2018 at 08:14 AM

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“ I have tried to temper my sadness by reflecting on the good times, the things Michael did that made me smile. There were so, so many.

The year was 1978. Mike and I were seventh-graders at Earl Warren Junior High School. We were in the same pre-algebra class, with Mrs. Jennings. Our bonding began over linear equations.

But it really took hold on the school's rough-and-tumble quad, hallways and locker room.

You would never call Earl Warren a place of sensitivity, inclusion or embracing differences.

Mike was a good friend to have. You felt safe with Mike. Michael offered his protection.

In one scuffle, he vanquished a notorious bully. A big, scary kid. I did not see the fight, but I will never forget what ha gruff PE coach said later about Mike: "I'd like to have him for my bodyguard!"

We blew off a lot of steam with our music.

Michael was one of my first collaborators. My mom would drive me and my guitar to Michael's house on Via de la Valle. We didn't know many songs. That didn't matter. We had these long, stream-of-consciousness jams, where my guitar and Michael's drums just seemed to talk to each other. We knew so little, but together we created so much.

We matured, slowly, and so did our music.

Chuck and Travis joined us. The Realm was born.

The electronic music of the 1980s intrigued Mike. Eager to expand his musical expression, Michael acquired a digital keyboard and recording equipment. He wrote a song for his grandmother. I can't recall the tune, but I remember it started with the words, "I love you, Grandma. And I miss you, too."

Mike was a friend you could bring home to your parents. My mom and dad loved him and that went both ways. And it wasn't just because Michael loved my mom's cooking.

Michael expressed more of his great, creative talents in the kitchen.

The things Michael could make with his hands. His creativity as a tile-setter and concrete mason. The way he solved problems when setting pavers or pouring a walkway would be as if he were playing drums. A tasty little fill. Problem solved.



“ On Mike and Tracy’s wedding day, I’ll never forget Mike’s talking about his longtime interest in Tracy, and finally getting to know her. It was charming, and so generous, funny Mike.

With appreciation to MiChelle, I got to know the Linkowskis in the early 1980s and your family is among my most cherished memories. You are all in my heart and thoughts. May that loving beat go on...RIP Michael good man.

Mark Smith

Mark Smith - April 03, 2018 at 07:00 PM

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“ We are so sad to hear of the loss of Mike. He was kind, funny, a great friend, and so much fun to be around. I know how happy we were when Mike found Tracy because we were all very protective of Mike and wanted him to have the best! We knew he had so much love in him and it would take someone special to measure up to that. I am still looking for my photos from the silly old days of the Swingers, BBQs at Shady Estates, and all those good times, but just wanted to send this note that he left a huge impression on everyone in his life. We take comfort in our memories, and we send you all our best at this difficult time.

Love,

Katrina and Chris Goldsmith



Katrina Goldsmith - April 03, 2018 at 05:58 PM

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“ Gonna miss you Moose, Commodore, Nick Bowelini. Thanks for being such a kind soul.

Chris Robson - March 31, 2018 at 06:02 PM

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“ Uncle Mike is amazing! He is the most caring person I know, and I'm never surprised to hear the many stories of him going out of his way to help people. Though I only saw him sometimes 5 times a year, he taught me so much. He was funny, caring, and always willing to listen. He was someone who allowed Jesus to really change him and hearing him share his hopes and testimony with me and my family at his last months really impacted me. I love you, Uncle Michael!

Also, thank you for taking me and Bowen on those trips! Those were some of the most fun times of my life.

Love, Collin

**Collin Fuller** - March 23, 2018 at 01:08 AM

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“ So sorry to hear that Michael has passed. Much love and prayers for his family.

Lauren & Bill Leaver

**Lauren Leaver** - March 22, 2018 at 04:03 PM

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“ Mike was unfailingly kind and generous to me and my family. I met him in my teenage years, and he always had a knack for making me feel loved and valued. Whenever I visited my home ward, he'd always greet me warmly and engage me in sincere and open conversation. I can only hope to one day be as bright and caring a presence as he.

**James Perkins** - March 22, 2018 at 03:47 PM

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“ I love Mike, such a great guy! He was wonderful to be around, always so positive and kind. He offered me excellent counsel on multiple occasions and provided significant help in my efforts to develop a stronger testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is a blessing to all those who've known him, I'm so thankful for every opportunity I've had to be around him.

**Matt Kelsay** - March 22, 2018 at 11:39 AM

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“ Mike was truly a great man, kind, humble, funny, and always optimistic even through his illness. He had a fervent testimony of the Savior and wanted to share it wherever he went. We will ALL miss him until we meet again.

Anne Jacinto

Anne Jacinto - March 22, 2018 at 01:38 AM

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“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Tracy Linkowski - March 21, 2018 at 11:02 PM

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“ He was such a kind, kind man. As a hometeacher, he really seemed to care for our family. We only have positive memories of that gentle giant. We will pray for you to have comfort during this difficult time.

Natalie Rumsey - March 21, 2018 at 08:12 PM

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“ I had so many photos of Mike as he was growing up. He often came to my house to visit my son Travis. And, of course, the camera was handy. I sorted Mikes' photos, spanning 30 years of memories, and gave them to Mike. There must have been 50 photos!

Another memory of Mike was when he was a teenager and asked me, 'Now that summer is here and I'll be spending more time with Travis & you, may I call you Jill instead of Mrs. Cary?' He was ever polite!

He traveled to the Northwest with us and helped to build houses in the rain & cold. Mike never complained. In fact, he had the energy to go crabbing & fishing no matter what the weather!

I enjoyed Mike - he made everything merrier. Mike was a Joy.

Jill Cary - March 21, 2018 at 07:28 PM