



## Thomas "Mike" Wolven

August 16, 1948 - April 19, 2015

Thomas "Mike" Wolven of Grand Ledge passed away April 19, 2015. Mike was born August 16, 1948 in Lansing Michigan to the late Thomas and Madeline (O'Conner) Wolven. He graduated from Easter High School, received a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and went to obtain his Law Degree. Mike was retired from the Army/Michigan Army National Guard and from the State of Michigan. He is survived by wife, Janeen (Taylor) Sanchez and son, Gabriel. According to Mike's wishes cremation has taken place. A military graveside service will be held at a later date at Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Michigan. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.

# Tribute Wall



Shailesh  
Saigal

“ I have a photo album with the Barnicle/O'Connor/Connors and Wolven family. I obtained it from a colectibles shop. i am from Michigan. It does contain photos of Thomas and his father THomas C. , Mary Barnicle, Patrick Connors, Madeline O'Connor Wolven and many more. Even have a photo of Thomas C. Wolvens Brother Shelby.

*contact me if you are a living relative or I can add some images if you already have a tree on ancestry or online*

*cnet(at)comast(dot)net*

*fyi thomas hasd an email that seems to zstill be active  
wolventn(at)comcast(dot)net  
you guys might want to see if you can access this.*

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**Shailesh Saigal** - November 17, 2016 at 11:13 PM

EH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing . He was my long lost cousin and I am so glad to have known him . Elaine Houde.

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**Elaine Houde** - September 23, 2016 at 06:55 AM

FI

“ This is such sad news. I had lost touch with Mike and it was only today that I learned of his passing away. I never met Mike personally, but we first contacted each other over the internet while we were searching for information about our family and we discovered that we are related. For quite a while we communicated via email. His grandfather, John O'Connor, was the youngest brother of my Great-Grandmother (Catherine Connors Igoe). Mike and I shared our knowledge of family history and we managed to put together a sizeable bit of information regarding our "Connors" relatives. Mike was very knowledgeable about so many things and I thoroughly enjoyed our communications. I had hoped to get to meet him someday and now I regret my not taking that action.

Mike was also very kind and thoughtful, he sent a lovely floral tribute to my family when my mother passed away. Though I never met him in person I miss him and my belated wishes go out to his family. We have all lost a truly wonderful person.

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Frank Igoe - September 23, 2016 at 12:07 AM

JM

“ Mike was a fellow military collector, and we enjoyed many a military show and lots of talking and "show and tell".  
Jim and Kathy MacDonald, Lansing

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jim/kathy macdonald - May 19, 2015 at 04:35 PM

TA

“ Teri Austin lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Mike" Wolven



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Teri Austin - May 03, 2015 at 08:50 AM

TA

*I worked with Mike for many years. We had some fun times and some not so fun times. It was prison life and we made the best of it. He was knowledgeable on many subjects and had some good insight. He will be missed.*

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**Teri Austin** - May 03, 2015 at 08:53 AM

PZ

“*Mike you will be missed, I know his Obit doesn't mention it but he was also a U.S. Marine.*

*Semper Fi  
Phil & Wendy Zamora  
Marine Corps League*



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**Phil Zamora** - April 23, 2015 at 09:14 PM

JF

“ I met Mike several years ago, during Boy Scout Troop activities. His son Gabe is a year younger than our oldest, so the boys often ended up at activities and camp-outs together--and, of course, so did the parents! I remember especially a very, very cold fall camp-out in Charlotte several years ago, lot's of volunteer activities, and of course, whitewater rafting trips.

*When Gabe volunteered for the Grand Ledge Area District Library (where I work) for a scout project, I had a chance to work with him. Gabe was excellent in working with children and guiding them in library activities. The staff appreciated his work ethic and helpful attitude. Mike was very proud of him.*

*Mike was deeply committed to Gabe and his success in both school and scouting. I often encountered them at the library as they worked together on a school or scout project.*

*I will miss how much fun Mike was to talk with, his dry humor and droll observations, and his deep and wide-ranging interests--including, but not limited to, history (military and otherwise) and genealogy. Whether it was a few comments during a meeting or a hilarious story at a party, Mike was the guy to sit next to!*

*I am deeply grateful for the help he volunteered when I needed it on so many occasions-- Christmas Cookie Delivery (ok, he actually volunteered Gabe to be sure to show up for the delivery, but still!), Fish Fry, Memorial Day, just to name a few. He researched some interesting military history for our Troop Memorial Day Veterans project and some on a family member for me as well. And I still have the diagram he drew on how the "button arrangement on British military uniforms relates to how long the unit has been in existence". Who knew that was a thing? Mike did.*

*I knew Mike as a friend, a gracious man, and a devoted father. Though I realized he was not in good health, I was still shocked to hear he had passed away. I cannot fathom that I will not see him*

*walk in the door again and I am deeply saddened by that.*

*Jean Fellows*

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**Jean Fellows** - April 23, 2015 at 01:14 PM

MF

“*Mike was a devoted father to Gabe first and foremost, and an active and dedicated volunteer for BSA Troop 70. I'll miss our discussions about history and world affairs. I think his life experiences, intellect and broad interests informed his views with great personal authenticity and keen insight. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Mark Fellows** - April 23, 2015 at 08:57 AM

SU

“*Mike was a friend of mine through scouting. He was a great supporter of his son, Gabe, and wanted the best for him. Mike worked hard to encourage and support his son to succeed. I will always remember his love for sweets and pastries. I always made sure he got several sticks of Banket each Christmas season.*

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**Susen** - April 23, 2015 at 06:39 AM

AR

“*Will miss Mike and all the knowledge he was able to share with us. He always had a story to tell. He was a valuable member of our community and our Scout Troop. Your family is in our hearts.*

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**Ariana** - April 23, 2015 at 05:52 AM

FW

“ We worked with Mike at various prisons. My best memories of Mike were when he talked about his pets. His pets were his family (as are mine) and he enjoyed talking about them. Another memory is when he was learning to speak German. He used to talk with Gerda O'Brien Marutiak and I enjoyed listening to their banter. Mike was a nice guy and will be missed by all who knew him.

Frank and Beverly Williams - April 22, 2015 at 09:53 AM

DZ

“ Mike and I walked to school every day from 1960 thru middle and high school and then on to MSU. We tramped through Europe for three months while we sorted out our life paths. We made a pact: "If you will, I will." He joined the army and I didn't. In 1969, the Lansing State Journal ran a headline reading "Local Boy Has Diplomatic Job." It described his service on the DMZ in Korea as diplomatic liason between the North and South. He was justifiably proud. Upon his return, a year behind me at MSU, he still managed to graduate ahead of me. He started law school at Wayne State, and when I graduated I joined him in Detroit, where we shared a shabby slum while I attended The Detroit College of Law. Through ups and downs, ins and outs, we ended our careers at the Michigan DOC, sharing the same offices while he body slammed intransigent convicts and I, of course, coddled them. I will treasure our memories. Rest in peace my friend. David W. Zarka

David W. Zarka - April 22, 2015 at 09:28 AM

SD

“ Sharon Duncan lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Mike" Wolven



Sharon Duncan - April 22, 2015 at 08:48 AM

DI

“ Don Israel lit a candle in memory of Thomas  
"Mike" Wolven



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**Don Israel** - April 22, 2015 at 07:41 AM

DI

“ Mike and I were colleagues for 21 years working in the prisons as well as friends. He liked to "test" the quality of other hearings officers decisions by scrutinizing, and occasionally, mocking them, often to the delight of those not being challenged!

*I remember Mike fondly as being a reliable friend and at his best when he allowed his humor to take center stage. But, you better have a thick skin!*

*Mike, may God hold you in his arms until we meet again!*

*Don Israel*

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**Don Israel** - April 22, 2015 at 07:37 AM

KH

“ We worked with Mike in the prison system. What a great guy! Our sympathies to his family. Don and Kris Ham, Portland, MI

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**Kris Ham** - April 22, 2015 at 07:33 AM