



Michael A. "Big Mike" Goss

MAY 21, 1953 - OCT 3, 2013



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Michael A. "Big Mike" Goss

MAY 21, 1953 - OCT 3, 2013

Michael A. Goss (Big Mike), 60 of Syracuse, peacefully passed away Thursday at home and is onto Heaven to make more people laugh and smile. He was born in Syracuse and received his BA from Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University. Mike touched lives everywhere he went. As an entertainer for over 20 years, he made thousands of people laugh until it hurt. Mike retired from the City of Syracuse after over 30 years of service. He was a dedicated youth football, baseball and softball coach. Mike was an avid member of the Olympic Pin Club and enjoyed attending Olympics and memorabilia shows. He loved traveling, going to hockey games, being surrounded by nature, chicken barbecues and diners. Nothing was more important to Mike than enjoying a good meal surrounded by his family, which included his cats, Jazz and Spazz and his grand-dog, Nutmeg. Mike lived life to the fullest, enjoyed every day and always lived by the mantra of "The show must go on."

He was predeceased by his father, Mason Goss and his mother, Antonetta (Toni) Goss.

Mike is survived by his loving wife and partner in crime of 42 years, Jessa (DeJulio) Goss; his pride and joy, daughter, Kimberly Berger and husband, Jeffrey Berger— who was much more than a son-in-law; his hard rocking brother, Christopher Goss who he was always proud of and his wife, Cynthia Goss; his favorite aunts, Mary and Angie Modafferi, (Mom #2 and #3).

Mike's family would like to express a special thank you to the Palliative Care Department and to the nurses on 3-1 at St. Joseph's Hospital for their excellent care of Michael during his stay at the hospital.

A funeral mass in celebration of Michael's life will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 12:10 pm at St. Daniel Church, 3004 Court Street, Syracuse, NY. Family and friends may call at the THOMAS



Obituary

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J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse, NY on Monday from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

At Mike's request, please join us for a Celebration of Life Party from 8:00 to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 8th at Barbagallo's Restaurant, 6344 East Molloy Rd., East Syracuse, NY 13057.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mike's name to the SPCA, 5878 East Molloy Rd., Syracuse, NY 13211 or Multiple Sclerosis Resources of CNY, P.O. Box 237, East Syracuse, NY 13057.



Events


Michael A. "Big Mike" Goss

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Visitation

 **Monday**, October 7, 2013


 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

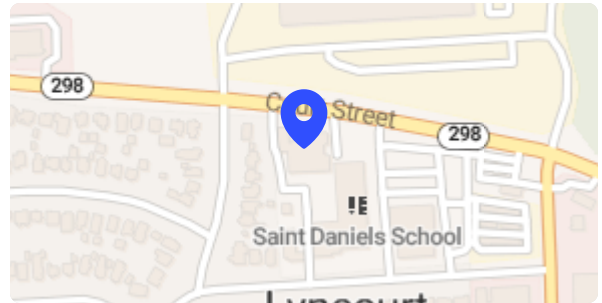


Funeral Mass

 **Tuesday**, October 8, 2013

 12:10 PM ET

 **St. Daniel's Church**
3004 Court St., Syracuse NY 13208





Tribute Wall

Michael A. "Big Mike" Goss

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.



October 2 at 8:00 PM



Sammy D'agostino posted:

TO JESS & CHRIS, WHERE DOES ONE BEGIN AT A TIME LIKE THIS... I FIRST MET MIKE IN 1967 THROUGH DONNIE BUSH... THE THREE OF US BECAME INSTANT FRIENDS... AND WHAT A FRIENDSHIP THAT WAS... THE HUMOR NEVER STOPPED... THE LAUGHS LASTED FOREVER... BACK THEN LYN COURT WAS THE PLACE TO GROW UP ESPECIALLY WITH REAL FRIENDS LIKE DON & MIKE... EVEN BACK THEN DON AND I PULLED SOME GREAT PRANKS ON MIKE... AND HE TOOK THEM, OH SO WELL... THE PLACES WE WENT TO AND THE RESTAURANTS WE ATE AT HOLD WONDERFUL MEMORIES TO THIS DAY... MIKE WILL BE MISSED BY SO MANY PEOPLE HE KNEW... AND I'M ONE OF THEM... MAY HE REST IN PAIN FREE PEACE... YOUR FRIEND ALWAYS, "SAMMY D'AGOSTINO"

October 10 at 8:10 AM



Le Moyne College, Office Of Alumni posted:

Please accept the sympathy of Le Moyne College on the occasion of the death of your loved one. Be assured of our prayers for him, for you and for your family.

October 9 at 5:31 AM



Ann posted:

Jess & Kimberlyl just picked up the paper tonight Oct. 8th and was so sad when I saw Mike's obituary. I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. I will never forget the time he came to my house on Merrill St. and asked if I could fix Kimberly's hair her way to school because Jess was away on a business trip and he didn't know what he was doing. I have so many wonderful memories of him when his daughter and mine went to school together. He was one of the kindest and warmest people I know. Once again Jess and Kimberly I want to offer my sincerest sympathy's . I will keep you in my prayer's Ann Perez

October 8 at 2:15 PM



Tribute Wall

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Chris Suchomski Farrick lit a candle in honor of Michael .

Although it's been many, many years since I last saw Mike, his family (including his Mom, Toni, aunts Mary and Angie, uncle Kelly, and brother Chris) was a big part of my life growing up. Lots of fun times together when we were all kids. My deepest condolences to his whole family.... I'm sure there is a "Big" hole in all of your hearts.Chris (Suchomski) Farrick



October 8 at 1:06 PM



John Pitonzo posted:

It was ages and ages ago when Mike, Jess and Baby Kimberly lived upstairs on Harford Rd., but the memories will never fade, Mike producing the laughter, Jess shaking her head, and especially that one special evening when Mike was bouncing Kimberly up and down and she spit up all her milk in her father's mouth! My deepest condolences go out to Jess and Kimberly.John PitonzoFlorence Italy

October 8 at 10:22 AM



Julie posted:

To Mike's Family,I am shocked to hear of Mike's passing. He was one of the best people I have ever known. Always had a smile and a laugh for everyone he met. May you be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding you from those lives Mike has touched.-Julie Shannon

October 8 at 7:03 AM



Cheryl Rocco Bilbo lit a candle in honor of Michael .

October 7 at 6:47 PM



Cheryl Rocco Bilbo October 7 at 6:49 PM

Mike...you always had a smile on your face and loved everyone. I know the Lord welcomed you with open arms. Heaven just gained a gift!



Tribute Wall

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JS

Jamieson Steele posted:

Big Mike, I knew him in all of his talents, city worker, comic, and friend. The 'friend' was the best. Jamieson Steele, Syracuse, now Ogdensburg.

October 7 at 4:18 PM

GA

Gailcook posted:

Sending my sympathy and prayers to the family ..Mike was always so much fun. My daughters still remember him throwing the pizza dough at Waynes house ...we loved it when we saw Mike...just a wonderful, wonderful person..Gail and Larry Cook

October 7 at 4:06 PM

LE

Lee posted:

Jessa, Kimberly & Jeffrey,I am so sorry to hear about Mike. One thing that can not be taken away, our memories and all the fun we had with you, Mike & all our family camping days together. We had a lot of laughs & good times. Jessa I am so sorry I can't be there with you, but know my thoughts, prayers & love are with you all.Love Always,Aunt Leonora

October 7 at 1:05 PM

JE

Jennifer posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. He could put a smile on anyone's face and made so many people laugh. I still remember when he came to Lemoyne College and did a show! So many happy memories you will have to cherish forever.-Jennifer & Michael Kent-Isaacs

October 7 at 10:07 AM

TL

Tom Lippert posted:

As another Olympin member...we share in the feelings that you have today. We were blessed and honored to have crossed paths and our world was brighter because of him.To paraphrase from the Salt Lake Games.....he was able to "light the fire within" for many of us.Be kind to yourself. It's a lasting gift from him.God bless.Tom Lippert

October 7 at 9:48 AM



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SA

Sarah posted:

Kim and family, Extending deepest sympathy for the loss of "dad" and hoping too that comfort and peace may come to you. "I'll take a walk down memory lane because I know I'll run into him there"! Heartfelt sympathy to you and your family, The Cowles Family (Sarah, Jeff, Becca and JJ)

October 7 at 9:12 AM

SR

Sharon Reilley posted:

Dear Kim, So very sorry for the loss of your Dad, what a wonderful man and what a wonderful father....he certainly will be missed as heaven gains another angel with a big heart. Our deepest sympathies, as life moves on for you, though difficult, you have so many around you who love you and will support you and dad will live on in your heart.. With sympathy & prayers, to you and your Mom, Love Dennis & Sharon Reilley

October 7 at 6:57 AM

GS

Gail Swistak posted:

Kim, I am so sorry for your loss. Mike will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, and your family. Gail S.

October 7 at 5:39 AM

KJ

Kim Jackson posted:

I thought of him often, and he will be missed terribly. I will never forget the night he sang with the seniors and had them out of their seats dancing to Frank Sinatra, New York, New York... You are the King of Hill....Kim J.

October 7 at 5:18 AM

JC

Jodie Costa posted:

Im am saddened to hear the passing of Mike. I knew him through my father as they were great friends since high school. Everytime i was around him he always had a smile on his face and of course made me laugh. Mike will be missed he was a wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

October 7 at 5:16 AM



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SN

Sandy And Heather Nelepovitz posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Goss family.

October 7 at 4:21 AM

SJ

Susan Juliano October 12 at 5:39 AM

Chris We are sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you. Jules and Sue

ST

Sam Terrinoni posted:

So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God Bless Big Mike.

October 7 at 4:00 AM

MG

Mary Jo Gehm October 17 at 8:56 AM

My family and I enjoyed Mike's visit to our hotel while we were in Wildwood during our summer vacations. God sometimes puts angels on earth for a reason. We were blest to have met one. Thinking of all of you. Mary Jo Gehm (Lore) and Family

CS

Cindy Slifka posted:

So Sorry for your loss. Heaven will be even greater with Mike there to lighten things up. He will live on in the hearts of all the people that knew him. Cindy and Pete Slifka

October 6 at 9:29 PM

PA

Paul posted:

Could take them as well as he gave them out. Always putting a smile on your face. Paul Gomez

October 6 at 7:17 PM

JM

Jill Mayorga posted:

I will always remember the special times away from LeMoyne at the Goss household, eating monkey bread, singing songs, and Mr. Goss making everyone laugh like crazy! These were great times that will forever be cherished. -Jill Mayorga

October 6 at 2:12 PM



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NT

Nancy Todero posted:

Prayers, love, hugs & smiles to Jess, Kim, Jeff, Chris & His beloved Aunts. Nancy & Rich Todero & family

October 6 at 12:32 PM

KW

Katie Winchek posted:

Mr. Goss was my softball coach for Lemoyne girls softball over 20 yrs ago.. Such a great guy. Always kept a smile on his face. He was the best coach a kid could have! Your family is in my thought and prayers.Katie Winchek

October 6 at 7:19 AM

MD

Melanie Dunn posted:

Chris and the Goss Family: Mike was such a wonderful person who touched many lives and will be remembered always. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Al & Melanie Dunn

October 6 at 6:14 AM

SH

Sherry posted:

Jess, Kim, Jeff, Goss family, I am so sorry for your sadness. Mike, Big in life, Big in sharing.. When the gates of heaven opened to greet your love.. The heavens knew they were getting someone Big! Be comforted by the love of life you shared... Prayers for you all in this difficult time. Ericka's Mom....

October 6 at 4:48 AM

AN

B lit a candle in honor of Michael .



October 6 at 4:44 AM

PB

Peggy Baroni October 6 at 6:53 PM

My love and prayers go out to all of Mike's family - Jess, Kim, Jeff, Chris, Mary and Angie. Mike touched so many lives and was a part of mine since we were 14! I am so sorry for this loss and please know that my thoughts are with all of you.



Tribute Wall

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Bimbo Perta posted:

Jess, Kim & Jeff: So sorry for your loss. I will never forget the man who put a smile back on my face. During a difficult time in my life, he showed me I can still laugh. Thanks for the memories "Big Mike". Rest in peace. Bimbo aka Bimmers

October 6 at 4:04 AM



Lonnie Fay Postol posted:

Jess and family, I was shocked when I saw his obituary on channel 3 news and remembered Mike at many of my dad's, Rowan Fay, Olympic pin shows. Many great memories. Sorry for your loss.

October 6 at 2:27 AM



Robbiewells/Lasvegas lit a candle in honor of Michael .

Jess & Kim & Family, My heartfelt condolences go out to you all during this trying time. Mike and I go a long way back and he was always the life of the party. Last time I saw him in Syracuse we shared a Hot Dog at Louie's across from the State Tower Bldg and he always had that smile on his face. His humor was his trademark too and he brought smile to everyone. He will be missed by those that knew him too. Rest In Peace My Friend Mike and God Bless You and the Family Too.



October 5 at 11:39 PM



Joe lit a candle in honor of Michael .

Thank you Mr Mike & family for the many happy laughing moments. Will never forget the beautiful times at the comedy club at the Hotel Syracuse. May God Bless you all. Joe Ovalle & Veronica



October 5 at 6:28 PM



Candy Laning posted:

I am so sorry for your loss... Mike will be greatly missed by many.... He touched so many and I personally love to see him, He always made me laugh no matter what . The world lost a great man..Candy Laning

October 5 at 5:29 PM



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SP

Susann H Panek posted:

I am so very sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I never saw him without a broad smile. What a genuinely wonderful gentleman. Never did we speak when he didn't speak fondly of his loving family. You are in my prayers.Susann H Panek

October 5 at 4:20 PM

DB

Dave And Mary Boots posted:

Jess & Kim, Thoughts and prayers to you and the rest of your family. Mike's humor and friendly manner endeared him to everyone he met. He will be missed and remembered by all.Dave and Mary Boots

October 5 at 2:16 PM

JH

Joan Heagle posted:

Jess & Kimberly I was so sad to hear about Mike's passing today. It has been a long time since we've all seen each other. I think about you guys over the years remembering all the fun we all had in the good old days. I lost Gordie this passed January too and it was a long year in the hospital with all his medical problems and his long fight trying to get back up. I have you both in our families prayers in this most difficult time. There are so many of our old friends up there now and knowingly they met Mike with open arms. If you ever want to talk call me at 216-6907. Know you're not alone getting through all of this Jess. Love Joni and all her girls

October 5 at 1:38 PM

JG

James Greensfelder sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Goss family.



October 5 at 11:37 AM



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BC

Barbara Carfagno posted:

Jessa, Kimberly and Jeff my deepest sympathy on the loss of Mike. Everyone who knew and loved Mike is devastated by his loss. Mike was the heart of Martin St., The memories of our years there with Mike as our neighbor will forever be in my memory and my heart. He was the best, the kindest, sweetest man that I have ever known. Mike's friendship was a gift to anyone who knew him. Al and I are in Florida and we cannot be there to say goodbye to our dear friend, but our thoughts and prayers are with you all and we will always cherish the thought that we had "Big Mike" as a friend. We will always love and miss you Mike. "Thanks for the Martin St. memories". Al and Barbara Carfagno

October 5 at 11:05 AM

KK

Kathleen Kottage posted:

Jess, Kim and family, I am so very sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Although I have not seen you or Mike in recent years I have thought of you all often. May God comfort you and grant you peace during this very difficult time. Please forgive me for not being at Mike's memorial - I am in California visiting my son - but my thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Kathy Kottage

October 5 at 8:01 AM

DF

Diane Pilon Ferri posted:

Jess- I was just thinking of the 2 of you the other day, and am so very saddened to hear of Mike's passing. Know you are in my thoughts and prayers, and my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I still remember coming to SUNY Oswego with Mike to visit you and those crazy pictures he took. I still have one of them, it's one of my husband's favorite photos. Diane (Pilon) Ferri

October 5 at 7:26 AM



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JG

James Greensfelder posted:

We have lost one of the nicest people I have ever known. I met him almost 30 years ago when I started collecting Olympic memorabilia. He was well known in central New York as a great club comedian. He entertained us at Olympic functions. Along with Ron Friday we shared an apartment in Calgary in 1988. He told the story about how I went to pick him up at the airport in the small car I rented. He stripped off the door molding trying to get into the car. That was in his large body days. He called it my clown car. His picture was on the front page of the Calgary newspaper with a USA flag around his neck. He was the best known visitor at the Calgary Olympics. I talked to him about two weeks ago and even after his time in the hospital his humor was still there! Mike, I know god is laughing right now as you open your performance in your new venue. I (we) will miss you.

October 5 at 5:45 AM

RM

Rowena Malamud posted:

Kim and Jess I was devastated when I heard on the news that Mike was gone. He was such a wonderful man and friend. While I only knew him for a relatively short time (and only on Sundays) he leaves this huge hole in my life. Anyone who knew him was better for it. His humor, huge heart, humanity will be sorely missed. Love, Rocki Malamud

October 5 at 5:05 AM

RS

Reggie Seigler posted:

I am so saddened to hear of Mike's passing. By chance we met at a function for the Illion, NY Police Department. Mike made 'em laugh and we made 'em dance. I remember his sense of humor and his humanity. I'm sure he'll be forever missed by many. May God keep all that he loved and loved him. Sincerely, Reggie Seigler Soft Spoken Band

October 5 at 4:32 AM

JS

Jeff Silino posted:

Kim and Jess, The smiles and laughter Mike brought to Martin St. will be missed dearly. After all the laughs and stories though, Mike always found a way to be genuinely interested in us and how we were doing. He always took the time to talk to us kids and make sure we were doing ok. When a problem had to be solved or decision had to be made, he always offered advice that left you walking away feeling better. We'll miss everything he gave to Martin St. and will always remember the laughs, stories and perspective that helped us through our days. Love, Jeff Silino

October 5 at 4:30 AM



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MJ

Mel Joss posted:

Jess and Kim,I was saddened to hear about Mike's passing. For sure, he lived life to the fullest.I have so many memories from 'The Great Click' get togethers. The click wouldn't have even existed if it were't for Mike. Memories of Nick's Lake, Oneida Shore's, Road Rally's, Lake Placid...you name it, Mike made it the time of our lives! He had a heart as big as his sense of humor.I pray the peace of God will be with you during this time.Love,Mel Joss

October 5 at 3:29 AM

KF

Kitty Falco posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with Mikes family. Mike was a man who made so many people smile and laugh including myself. I will miss his great big smile and the hug he would always greet me with! He is now at peace with God in heaven and I am sure was greeted with that same embrace from our heavenly Father. Rest in Peace my friend.....

October 5 at 3:11 AM

BG

Bonnie Goodale posted:

Jessa & Kimberly, I'm so sorry for your loss he touched so many lives with such passion to make us all laugh, smile and take in the moment. Special he was... his... and always will be... to so many who not only knew him professionally but personally as well. A Celebration party of his life is perfect to honor such an amazing man and for you to be surrounded by all who support and care for your family during this very difficult time.Bonnie Goodale

October 5 at 3:04 AM

SL

Sue Lombardo posted:

Kim, Jeff, & Jessa, you are all in my thoughts and prayers thru this most difficult time. I am so very sorry for your loss

October 4 at 6:46 PM

MC

Mike Cackett posted:

Jessa, I am so very sorry for your loss. No doubt you and your daughter were blessed by Michael's presence in your lives. My thoughts and prayers go out to you both.

October 4 at 1:43 PM



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Joann Clarkin posted:

Jess and Kimberly, I just got an e-mail from Don giving me the news of Mike's death. I know Jim was there to greet him with open arms. My thoughts and prayers are with you and as you, I have many wonderful memories of our times with the three of you. Miss you and think of you often.
Love, JoAnn Clarkin

October 4 at 12:30 PM



Mattydale Fire Department lit a candle in honor of Michael .

Although no words of sympathy
Can ease the loss you bear,
Still may you find some comfort
In the thought That others care.
The Officers and Members of
the Mattydale Fire Department
Mattydale, NY



October 4 at 11:00 AM



Monica Frank Byrne posted:

I am so sorry for your loss Jessa and Kimberly (and family). I loved Mike and have so many good memories of time spent with him and you. He is so greatly missed already. I've been reading the comments everywhere and it's clear-if you knew him, you loved him. I'll be thinking of and praying for you during this difficult time.

October 4 at 10:58 AM



Mattydale Fire Department lit a candle in honor of Michael .

The Management and Staff of Dee's Diner
join in extending Heartfelt Sympathy
to you and your family at this
Time of Sorrow.
Dee's Diner
Mattydale, NY



October 4 at 10:57 AM



Tribute Wall

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PB

Patty Frio Becher posted:

Jessa and Kimberly, so sorry to hear about Mike. My thoughts and prayers to you and your entire family.

October 4 at 10:50 AM

CV

Carolyn Vickery October 4 at 2:35 PM

Jessa I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dear husband. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers

FN

Francine Napolitano posted:

My dear friends I am deeply saddened by Mikes passing. We shared many years of laughter & good times. There are so many memories and special times, like when we baptized my Danny or your wedding when Gramma thought I was a Japanese girl. Im laughing as I write this but Jess will remember. Kimberly, you were the apple of your fathers eye, remember all the good days and know he is at peace now. I love you all, Francine Napolitano

October 4 at 10:41 AM

CM

Cindy Mondo October 4 at 1:14 PM

I am so sorry for the loss of your husband and father and my friend, Mike. He really was one of the sweetest men I have ever met. He was sort of like an ambassador at dialysis...going around and introducing himself and other patients at dialysis. I'll never forget my first day when this big lovable guy came over to my cubicle. We've been friends ever since. The nurses named our little group the cuckoo's nest because of our antics...including singing Christmas carols...forgetting words and singing off-key. I'll miss him. Cindy Mondo



Media

Michael A. "Big Mike" Goss

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.

October 2 at 8:00 PM

TRIBUTE VIDEO

A JOURNEY
of
REMEMBRANCE



SCAN TO WATCH



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

