



Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis

July 23, 1954 - October 24, 2019

Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis, 65, of Peoria, IL peacefully transitioned from this life at 8:15 PM on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at Kindred Hospital in Peoria, IL, surrounded by his beloved family.

Big Mike was born on July 23, 1954 in Peoria, IL to Donna Davis and Walter Johnson. In his youth, he attended Webster Grade School. In 1972, he graduated from Manual High School where he was a star basketball player under the tutelage of Coach Dick Van Scyoc. Big Mike played basketball for Peoria's own Bradley University and was a member of the 1975 Missouri Valley Conference Championship team. Mike was voted Bradley Braves' Most Valuable Player in 1975, and again in 1976. Upon graduating in 1976 with his Bachelor's Degree, Big Mike was drafted by the NBA's Kansas City Omaha Kings. He later played for the Washington DC Metros of the Eastern Professional Basketball Association before signing with the Wilkes-Barre Barons, which was also a member of the Eastern Basketball Association (EBL) and the American Basketball League (ABL). Big Mike was a starter, leading scorer and Most Valuable Player of the 1977/1978 Wilkes-Barre Barons Championship team.

Big Mike dedicated his life's work to improving the lives of Peoria's youth. His career path included the Youth Farm, Boys and Girls Club of America and Peoria District 150 at Blaine Sumner School.

Big Mike leaves his family to cherish many precious memories, especially his daughter, April Williams of Peoria, IL; his sister, Charisse Davis of Peoria; four grandchildren, Ky, Nia, Jameela, and Niam "CeJay" all of Peoria, IL; three nephews Joshua, Jermaine and D'Andre Davis, for whom he was not only an uncle but a wonderful role model; and a host of nieces and nephews, six aunts, three uncles and other relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents and one son, Saavon Davis.

A Memorial Service/Celebration of Life will be held at 11 AM, Saturday, November 16, 2019 at New Morning Star M.B. Church, in the Calvin Hightower Youth Center with a visitation beginning at 10:30 AM. Pastor Cleveland Thomas, Sr., will officiate, and Bishop Leroy Smith will render special remarks. Big Mike donated his body to medical science.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **16**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Memorial Service

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Simons Mortuary - January 08, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ *Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *My Sincerest sympathies to the family. I hadn't known Big Mike for that long but what I had learned about him... it was definitely my pleasure to have been able to talk to him about family and how we were tied into the tree. He will be greatly missed.*



Angela Smith - December 12, 2019 at 11:58 AM

LW

“ Linda Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis



Linda Walters - November 15, 2019 at 06:31 PM

KR

“ I went to Bradley during the time Big Mike was there playing Basketball. Blessings and prayers to all Family and friends. He will be missed greatly. Karen Burton, formerly from 805 W 5th St. Peoria, Il. Bradley Class of 1977, Nursing Degree

Karen Burton RN - November 15, 2019 at 03:40 PM

AN

“ AnnetteLucy sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis



AnnetteLucy - November 15, 2019 at 01:49 PM

CS

“ Mike put the Gentle in Gentlemen. We worked together at The YWCA Homeless Shelter where he was respect and Loved by his coworkers and the families we served, especially the children. He always made us laugh and smile even in those hard circumstances. I can still smile knowing he and his Special Son Saavon can finally walk together. Peace be with you Gentle Giant ! To the Family please accept my sincerest condolences. I hope the memories you have of Mike bring you comfort.

Celise Shockley - November 14, 2019 at 10:23 PM

BB

*Graduated with Mike at Manual. Always a great guy on and off the court. Even in death you thought of others and donated his body to science. God bless you, Mike and RIP.
Becky Burton Class of '72*

Becky Burton - November 16, 2019 at 11:18 PM

ED

“ *Big Mike you will be truly missed my friend!!!
Sending condolences to your family.*



Euzetta Durlinger - November 14, 2019 at 09:48 PM

CF

“ *Carmen Foster-Hines sent a virtual gift in
memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Carmen Foster-Hines - November 14, 2019 at 09:16 PM

PC

“ To the family of Mr. Michael Duane Davis:

The pastors and members of the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ would like to extend to you and your entire family our sincere condolences in the death of your loved one.

Although our hearts are saddened, we pray that the Lord will comfort your hearts and bless you with precious memories that you will always treasure. He is with you even this time of sorrow too deep for words.

God be with you,

*Pastor Henry L. Bolden II
Lady Marcia J. Bolden
and the PCJC Church Family*

Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ - November 14, 2019 at 02:44 PM

CH

“ *Michael was a warm, gentle, humorous, sometimes stubborn but heartfelt man! I will forever hold dear our conversations that we shared for the past 40 years! To him I was always “Moe” the stooge in me as he would say! I have been so Blessed to share a part of his life and I will forever hold my Love for him close to my Heart! Having come to the end of his earthly journey he yet shares himself with the world of medical science! Such a beautiful person. You now have entered into eternity and I can hear the voice of Versie June Moore who loved you till the end fussing at you with the infamous “popcorn” story! Until we meet again!*



Carole Hatter - November 10, 2019 at 05:06 PM

AI

“ *Annette Irby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Annette Irby - November 06, 2019 at 01:17 PM

GR

“ *Gregg Randle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Gregg Randle - November 04, 2019 at 10:20 PM

RS

“ *Rita Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Rita Smith - November 04, 2019 at 01:35 PM

EC

“ *Condolences to the family. I've known most of his families for years & were neighbors for a while. Enjoyed his antics on Facebook. Big Mike take your rest because the suffering of this old world is over*



evelyn tate clayton - November 01, 2019 at 07:37 PM

LK

“ *Lura Kramer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Lura Kramer - October 31, 2019 at 10:21 PM

PC

“ *To the family of Mr. Michael Duane Davis:*

The pastor and members of the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ would like to extend to you and your entire family our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one.

Even though our hearts are saddened, we pray that the Lord comfort you in your time of sorrow. We also pray that the Lord comfort your hearts and bless you with endearing memories that you will always treasure.

He is with you even in this time of sadness too deep for words.

God be with you,

*Pastor Henry L. Bolden II
Lady Marcia J. Bolden
and the PCJC Church Family*

Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ - October 31, 2019 at 03:55 PM

MF

“ *"Big Mike Davis Was Good People..."*

Max Faulkner - October 31, 2019 at 02:28 PM

T(

My condolences to his family i didn't no this he was so COOL i liked him

Tonya (Lewis)Venable - November 01, 2019 at 06:02 AM

RS

“ *Richard Zakeaauss Samuels sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Richard Zakeaauss Samuels - October 31, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ *Lisa Cameron lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Lisa Cameron - October 31, 2019 at 05:44 AM

RS

“ *Richard Zakeaauss Samuels lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Richard Zakeaauss Samuels - October 31, 2019 at 01:38 AM

RS

“ One of the best of a gentle giant. Big Mike was just that a good guy and a great friend. If you played ball you knew him; if you attended Manual you knew him. Basketball did not change him. He was a temporary gift to us all. I'll miss him on Facebook , because I waited on his typical BS. To his family crying is apart of loss, but our hearts and minds will heal and laugh just because we remember BIG MIKE. REST MY FRIEND.

Richard Zakeauss Samuels - October 30, 2019 at 04:29 PM

LC

“ Laverne Clayborn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis



Laverne Clayborn - October 30, 2019 at 02:33 PM

DW

“ Donna Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis



Donna Wilson - October 30, 2019 at 01:40 PM

DW

“ Will miss his antics on Facebook. He could get a conversation going. RIH Big Mike. My deepest condolences to the family. I know he will be missed by you all.

Donna Wilson - October 30, 2019 at 01:40 PM

RW

“ *R. Norris Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



R. Norris Watson - October 30, 2019 at 10:54 AM

CC

“ *Crystal Compton-mann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



crystal compton-mann - October 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM

SC

“ *My Condolences to Mike Davis Family my Prayers are with you all. Big Mike was Truly a great Person I would call him Mr. Tupperware Man because he always wanted his food in Tupperware he asked me to make him a Strawberry Short Cake and said make sure you put it in some Tupperware that is one of my many memories of him Rest In Peace Big Mike Davis my (Mr. Tupperware Man)*

Sherry Collins - October 29, 2019 at 10:40 PM

LS

I will always remember Big Mike as a very good player at Bradley and had great sense of humor good person. I fondly remember in high school Mike receiving those great assist from another Manual high school great the late coach Wayne McClain. May they be reunited on the other side. Peace and blessings to his family.

*Lyle Smith
Lad Vegas NV*

Lyle Smith - October 30, 2019 at 03:42 PM

JB

“ WE SURE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU OUR FOREVER BUDDY (BIGMIKE) Mr Michael Davis. YOU ALWAYS MADE ME SMILE AT THE END OF A BAD DAY. YOU COULD BRIGHTEN UP A CLOUDY DAY WITH A STORY ONLY YOU COULD TELL YOUR WAY. NOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR HEAVENLY WINGS THEY THAT HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL WILL BE READY TO RECEIVE YOUR BEAUTIFUL GIFT THAT WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU LEFT US WITH...LOVE , LIFE , LAUGHTER AND A BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT SEALED WITH A FOREVER SMILE. FLY HIGH...UNTIL WE MEET ON THE OTHER SIDE 🕊️🕊️🕊️❤️💕💕📍 RIH GBNF

Joanie Brown - October 29, 2019 at 10:06 PM

JB

“ Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis



Joanie Brown - October 29, 2019 at 09:53 PM

CF

“ May the Lord be with the Family of Big Mike Davis. Father God keep your loving arms around each and everyone of them be their comforter and guidance. Rest in Heaven and in Peace Big Mike Davis.
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN YOU WILL BE MISSED.



Sweet Blessings of Love from Us
Darrie & Constance Faulkner

Constance /Darrie Faulkner - October 29, 2019 at 01:47 PM

CS

“ *Curtis Shumate lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Curtis Shumate - October 29, 2019 at 12:50 PM



“ *Jetuan Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis*



Jetuan Norris - October 29, 2019 at 12:16 PM

DH

“ *To the Family of Mike Davis, so sorry for your loss, Mike and I went to high school together, we were friends back in the day, like most people we lost touch, and then Facebook came along and we re-connected. I will truly miss his humor and reading all the fun things he always posted. Rest now my friend.
Diane Dotson-Herron
Bloomington, IL*

DIANE D HERRON - October 29, 2019 at 10:01 AM

CD

“ *Will forever miss that "hey cuz" and a smile. I know you and Duane are having a good time up there.
Rest in peace Cuz ❤️*

Celina Davis - October 28, 2019 at 11:39 PM

FW

“ I remember the first time I met Mike. It was like 1988 or 1989 my first day going to talk to him at the women shelter at the YWCA. I was with my sister we was waiting in the lobby then we start this voice with all this bass on the elevator singing MC Hammer don't remember the song. But me and my sister turn to each other and like who is that, then the elevator door opens and I'm like wow, he is tall and from then on we have been buddies from Facebook buddies to food pantry he was a sweetheart a big teddy bear and I will miss him 🥺💕🥺



Fannetta Wells - October 28, 2019 at 10:23 PM

KA

“ Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Michael "Big Mike" Duane Davis



Karen Ashby - October 28, 2019 at 06:19 PM