



## Michael Henley

February 28, 1941 - September 3, 2023

MICHAEL E. "MIKE" HENLEY, AGE 82

And a longtime resident of Franklinton passed away Sunday night September 3, 2023 at Lakeview Regional Medical Center after a lengthy illness. He was born in Bogalusa in February 28, 1941 and was a graduate of Bogalusa High School and Southeastern Louisiana University with advanced degrees in Educational Administration and supervision. He began a teaching career at Mt. Hermon High School then served well over 20 years as principal at Varando High School, Franklinton High School and Bowling Green School. Mike actively participated in sports activities locally and statewide such as the Southeast Louisiana Sports Officials Association, serving as President for seven years, and Louisiana High School Athletic Association, serving on several classification committees.

Mike also was involved in several professional and civic organizations including serving as President of the Franklinton Rotary Club, establishing the Rotary sponsored Interact Clubs at Franklinton High School and Bowling Green School. He served as Chairman of the Washington Parish Service Center of the Southeast Chapter of the American Red Cross and he chaired the Education Committee of the Franklinton Chamber of Commerce. Mike helped Col, Robert Miller with the many activities of Explorer Post 313, serving as bus driver and pancake breakfast cook. In 1974, he became

involved with the Washington Parish Fair Association as a member of the Board of Directors for 9 years. He later became Chairman of the Mystery Person Committee, even playing the role of mystery person himself in 2016. Mike served as Fair Vice- President then he was elected President in 1984 and 1985. Among many much needed construction projects and accomplishments with the Fair, he designed the Fair Flag and served as Flag Chairman for many years. He most recently served as Chairman for many years on the Hospitality Committee.

Mike served his community and country for 23 years in the Louisiana Army National, before retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant. He was a member of the local chapter of The Forty and Eight organization, serving in leadership roles and even a statewide role as Chef de Train for one year. For the last 12 years, Mike was active in the American Legion Magic City Post 24, serving as 1st Vice-Commander, 2nd Vice-Commander and Commander. He was a member of the Post 24 Honor Guard, which provides military funeral honors for veterans locally and throughout Louisiana. The Legion also performed honors at patriotic events on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, flag raising ceremonies and maintained the veteran section of Ponemah Cemetery in Bogalusa and provided American flags for graves throughout the area.

Mike always enjoyed fishing and spending time in the outdoors. He was a member of Mount Hermon Baptist Church that loved to serve others, whether it was countless young students, the vast number of volunteers and attendees at the Fair, or to grieving families. Mike will be forever missed by all those that knew him.

Survived by:

Wife: Jo Ann McElveen Henley of Franklinton

Children and Spouses: Lelan and Monica Henley of Covington,  
Sara Henley of Franklinton,  
Sandi and Mark Davis of Covington,  
Scott Schilling of Franklinton

Daughter in law: Regina Henley

Grandchildren: Reese Henley,  
Ava Henley,  
Toni Henley,  
April and Christian Brown,  
Dylan Varnado,  
Brody Schilling,  
Allie Schilling,  
Kate Schilling

Great-grandchildren: Braxton and Lily

Sisters in law and Brothers in law: Ruth Horning,  
Jo and Murray Duncan,  
Leroy and Emelda McElveen,  
Debbie Frazier,  
Annie Ruth McElveen

Also numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and many friends

He was preceded in death by his son Bud Toney Henley, parents Leland Wilmer "Bud" Henley and Eula Pettitt Henley, an infant sister Liza Henley, brother in law Dale McElveen and other family members.

Visitation will be at Crain Funeral Home Friday September 8th from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm and after 9:00 am on Saturday. A funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 1:00 pm Saturday with Rev. Ray Wuerzer and Chaplain Paul Corse officiating. Burial with military honors, provided by American Legion Post 24, will follow in Ponemah Cemetery. Members of the Post Honor Guard will serve as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers are Major W.E. Simmons, III and the men of his Sunday school class at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church Raymond Cade, Michael Sanders, Matthew Lea.

# Tribute Wall



“ *miss micheal henley blue candle miss spinnerbait guy that was the best ever*



-----  
kamden - September 06, 2023 at 10:21 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Michael Henley.*

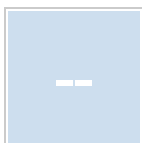


-----  
September 05, 2023 at 11:18 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Henley.*

-----  
September 05, 2023 at 11:18 AM



“ *-- purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Henley.*



-----  
-- - September 05, 2023 at 11:07 AM

CF

“ It is with a sad heart that I express my condolences to his wife, JoAnn and the family of Mike Henley. Mike Henley has been a friend for over 50 years. He was my principal at Varnado High School and a co- member of many activities throughout the community. He let a five year old Rusty sit on his lap and help him drive the Colonel Miller’s bus while Grace and Abbi paddled canoes with the Explorers. Buddy and I spent many hours Playing cards together at the camp while our children played along the river bank. He was a good man and he will be greatly missed.

---

**Charlette Fornea** - September 05, 2023 at 09:15 AM

CL

“ Memories of Love for OUR principal Mr. Henley.  
Cherylon Lewis  
VHS Class of 1983

---

**Cherylon E. Lewis** - September 04, 2023 at 07:32 PM

MM

“ Mike was a very kind soft spoken man and always a gentleman. He will be missed by all who knew him. Prayers for his family.

---

**Maria Magee** - September 04, 2023 at 03:47 PM