



Michael W. Bennett

October 8, 1949 - October 5, 2020

Michael W. Bennett, age 70, went to be with the Lord on October 5, 2020. He was a beloved dentist, friend and devoted family man who will long be remembered for his affable personality and incredible determination. Mike loved life and these past few years fought hard to sustain it. Throughout his life he faced numerous "against all odds" challenges and did so with true grit, faith in God and an indomitable spirit. He was an inspiration!

Michael was the oldest child born to Wayne and Helen Bennett in Chillicothe, Missouri on October 8, 1949. He grew up on the family farm and attended grades 1-12 at Breckenridge School, where he participated in sports, music, and graduated valedictorian of his class in 1967.

He attended the University of Missouri where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He credited much of his success to the friendship, help and influence of these goal minded young men. While at Mizzou, Mike "walked on" the MU football team. He quickly earned a starting position as defensive end for Coach Dan Devine and a full-ride football scholarship. Some of the many highlights of his playing years include winning the Big-Eight Conference Championship; playing Penn State in the Orange Bowl; and his favorite memory, beating Bear Bryant's Alabama to win the Gator Bowl. Mike was named All-American, honorable mention; First Team All-Conference and was named to the All-Bowl Team. Academically Mike was tapped in the QEBH

National Honorary and named an MU Pacesetter, recognizing MU's top 12 graduates. He received his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1972.

In 1971, Mike married his college sweetheart, the former Gwen Lampitt. They were blessed with 49 years together. She survives along with Mike's pride and joy, his children: Gwenda (Shaun) Hawk, Michelle (Eric) Hardesty, Ross (Jocelyn) Bennett, Patricia (Russ) Mothershead II and thirteen cherished grandchildren! Mike was delighted to welcome each new spouse to the family and had a special relationship with each one. Mike, a man who understood the blessing of being a father, raised his children with a balance of love and discipline, giving them the gift of time and sharing with them his faith in Jesus Christ.

Upon graduation from Mizzou, Mike was signed by the Buffalo Bills. After being placed on injury waiver, Mike focused on dentistry and graduated with honors from University of Missouri School of Dentistry in Kansas City. He chose Cape Girardeau as his "adopted" hometown and began his career as an associate of Dr. G. Keith Deimund. Together with the Jaycees, they established the East Perry County Dental Clinic in Altenburg-Frohna. One day a week, for ten years, Dr. Bennett served those patients and was grateful to have been a small part of those communities. In 1977, Mike established Bennett Family Dentistry and soon thereafter renovated and relocated to the original Cape Bible Chapel Building at 1200 N. Cape Rock Drive. In 2007, Dr. Ross Bennett joined the practice. Father and son were blessed to work side by side for almost 9 years. In 2017, Bennett Family Dentistry was honored to receive the Small Business of the Year awarded by the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce. Professionally, Dr. Mike was blessed to work with wonderful employees. He valued his relationships with fellow colleagues and was committed to the Southeast Missouri District Dental Society. In 2001 he was inducted as a Fellow into the International College of Dentists.

Mike served his Lord and Savior actively at St. Andrew Lutheran Church as an Elder, President of the congregation, and by holding numerous offices and positions on the Board of Directors. Although Mike was active in Bible study and many aspects of church life, he was not a pious Bible scholar. His was a simple but abiding faith. Following his stroke in 2015, Mike discovered a new way to serve with Jim Hicks (former lay minister), where he was privileged to visit and minister to the homebound members of his church. His favorite Bible verse was Psalm 118:24, "This is the day has the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

To know Mike was to know how he loved music, not as a polished professional, but as his heartfelt outward expression of joy. He played a mean rag-time piano and was an enthusiastic free-style dancer. He faithfully sang in the church choir and often hummed while he worked on patients. Mike loved coaching because he believed in the values that sports can teach. He coached both girls' and boys' youth sports, rotating between softball, baseball, basketball, soccer and football. He was an avid sports enthusiast-participating, watching, and analyzing all athletic endeavors. He himself, was a fierce competitor! Ever the nice guy off the field, he was a force to be reckoned with on the field! He battled the game of golf most of his adult life, never quite attaining the handicap he envisioned, but able to record a hole in one, win the Senior Club Championship and share many an afternoon with his daughters, son, sons-in-law, and many friends.

Mike was a positive influence everywhere he went. He was an active member of the Lions Club International. He held several offices, directed both their March Madness competition and annual golf tournament for many years and enjoyed flipping pancakes every spring. He was recognized by his fellow Lions receiving the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for distinguished service. Mike served on the Board at Montgomery Bank and in 2013, was selected to the

Prestigious Missouri 100 for service to his Alma Mater, the University of Missouri. He was also a lifetime member of the Executive Council of Cape Girardeau County.

Michael Bennett was a big guy with a big smile and a big heart! He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Additional family survivors include sisters, Debra Stout and Ellen (Rob) Robson; stepmother, Jo Bennett; in-laws, Dr. Randy and Trisha Stahly, Katie Lampitt, and Tom and Donna Lampitt. He also leaves a large family of uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews, cousins, and grandchildren: Harper and Emmeline Hawk, Lily, Elyse, and Karis Hardesty, Caroline, Michael, John, Clark and Claire Bennett, and Amelia, Michelle and Cilicia Mothershead. Preceding Michael in death were his parents and grandparents; brother, David and his wife, Kay Bennett; nephew, Bryce Bennett; and brothers-in law, JD Stout and Dr. Ed Lampitt.

A special thanks to his doctors, nurses, therapists and caregivers for their expert and compassionate care.

Due to the pandemic there will be no visitation, but the funeral service, with the Rev. John Dehne officiating will be available through a live stream link online at www.lglomd.org on October 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Memory video will begin at 12:45 pm.

The family requests no flowers. If you would like to honor Mike's memory, please consider a contribution to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Kanakuk Christian Sports Kamps, or Breckenridge High School in Breckenridge, Missouri.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home, Cape Girardeau is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

RC

“ I was saddened to hear of Dr. Bennett's passing. He was always so kind and a wonderful dentist. My heartfelt sympathy to the Bennett family.

Ron Clifton

Ron Clifton - October 21, 2020 at 10:17 PM

JB

“ I was so sorry to hear of Dr. Mike's passing but knew he had big health challenges in his later years. My deepest sympathy to his family and to his "work" family as well. I too was one of his early patients who didn't like dentists but came to his practice probably in 1981 and never left it, regardless of where I may have been living. That legacy certainly is in good hands as everyone at the dental practice carries on exactly as he would have. Even though I hadn't seen him in years, I will miss knowing he was in this world. He was one of the nicest people I ever met.

Janet Bollinger

Janet Bollinger - October 20, 2020 at 07:20 PM

CB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Christy Bollinger - October 17, 2020 at 06:43 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shep Cooper - October 13, 2020 at 08:49 PM

SC

My father, the late Clay Cooper, coached at Mizzou for 38 years. I vividly recall those years Mike competed at Mizzou, and I can tell you that Clay and Mike's position coach, Al Onofrio, deeply respected Mike. Not only as a football player, but as a team leader, both on the field and in the classroom. Mike epitomized the term "student-athlete." I was in junior high school when Mike attended MU and I served as the ball boy for home games during those years. I recall Mike's actions in a game during the 1969 season, specifically the epic 44-10 dismantling of the Oklahoma Sooners. Mike had collided head-to-head with Steve Owens, OU's Heisman Trophy winner. Mike's helmet was driven into his face and opened a nasty gash between his eyebrows, causing blood to stream down his face. He reluctantly left the game, but not for long. Team physician Dr. Jim Baker quickly stitched up the wound and Mike only missed one series. Mike's grit and determination were manifest. But in reading his obituary, Mike was much more than a great college football player. He was a person of faith who truly cared about his fellow man and his community. But, most importantly, he was a great father--the most important role a man can fill in life. God speed Mike Bennett. My heartfelt condolences to his family. I know that he will be deeply missed.

Shep Cooper - October 13, 2020 at 09:43 PM

FJ

I was sitting here thinking about MIZZOU Football and I just Googled Dr Bennett's name. I am very saddened by Dr. Bennetts Passing. I was a Freshmen Student at SEMO in the Fall of 1978. I enrolled after be done with my Military Commitment. Being new in Cape Girardeau I was in need of a Dentist. My Supervisor at the Cellar in Towers recommended Dr. Bennett. It's not that my Teeth were in Horrible Shape but while Stationed in Germany seeing a Dentist was not high on the list of Priorities for the Army.

I remember my first Visit with Dr Bennett. He was real easy to talk to and I was in Awe when he was telling me MIZZOU Stories. I loved the story how he told me he got Drafted by the Buffalo Bills I think he said 1972. He further told me he went on to be a Dentist and OJ went on to play Foot Ball.

Turns out Dr Bennett evaluated my dental needs besides cleaning and X-rays. He found a number of problems that needed to be fixed.

He sent all his recommendations to the VA in Poplar Bluff.

With all this in play I had probably had at least 6 appointments in my first 2 Months in Cape with the Dr.'s evaluations being approved. After the first few appointments The Doctor and I usually Spent a few minutes chatting talking about anything and since I was somewhat a joke teller we would exchange Jokes. Before the jokes went flying not that they were real bad the Assistants were not privy to the Jokes We were just a couple guys getting a few chuckles. After the talking the Dental Assistants would come in.

This might Sound Crazy but I always looked forward to my Appointments.

I continued to come back a few years after leaving Cape until my time commitments going to school I just went back occasionally just to say hi.

I was very Fortunate that I was able to be under the Care of Dr. Bennett.

I know I missed this Sad Time but I will always Remember the Friendship. And Care I was Shown by Dr. Bennett.

Many Prayers for Family and Friends.

Frank M. Severino, Jr.

Frank M. Severino, Jr. - December 25, 2022 at 12:07 AM

DB

“ So very sad to hear of Mike's passing. He was my dentist for many years and such a wonderful person. My deepest sympathy to his entire family.

Donna Burke - October 13, 2020 at 01:17 PM

PG

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. We shared a lot of great times together and always appreciated his positive attitude and that big smile. We had some great times on golf trips and I still remember in Biloxi when Mike hit five balls out of bounds on the first hole but somehow said he found his first one in bounds! Only in Biloxi. We always joked about that round. I’m sure Mike is smiling now as he reads this.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and all of us who have lost a great man.

Sincerely Nancy and Pat Godwin

Pat Godwin - October 12, 2020 at 02:41 PM

DS

“ We are deeply saddened by the loss of Mike Bennett, but we rejoice with the sure knowledge that he is healed and making music in heaven. Our prayers for his family and many friends who grieve his loss.

John and Dianne Shafer

Dianne Deavours Shafer - October 11, 2020 at 05:26 PM

SS

“ We wish to express our sincere sympathy and condolences on the passing of Dr. Mike Bennett. He was both a great dentist and, more importantly, a special human being. He will be missed by all who came into contact with him.

Mike was one of the first people we met when arriving in Cape Girardeau in 1987. We attended a party and Mike was the first one to greet us at the door. He introduced himself in a happy and enthusiastic manner and welcomed us to Cape. He also told us about his dental practice and we were sold on becoming his patients. We have remained patients at the practice for 33 years to-date. A great guy who will always be remembered.

Stan and Jane Stough

Stan & Jane Stough - October 10, 2020 at 01:41 PM

JC

“ Mike was a great athlete and earned a scholarship at Missouri after walking on as a freshman .

Mike could of played many positions but became a starter at left defensive end early in his career ! Mike played on some of Missouri's greatest teams and played on a defensive that led College Football statistically in many categories ! Mike played in the Gator Bowl , Orange Bowl , and was on the 1969 Big 8 Championship Team .

Mike was a stalwart at his position , impossible to block and was incredible at his ability to block kicks .

Personally Mike was as genuine a person as you could know , whether you were his soulmate , teammate , neighbor , or friend he was a loyal supporter wanting only the best for you .

A great player , a genuine friend , a model of great character !

Until we meet again !

john cowan

john cowan - October 10, 2020 at 12:43 PM

DM

“ I was blessed to have him as my roommate in the Beta Annex during one summer session at Mizzou. I grew to love and respect him in so many ways. His smile, his laugh, and his fun-loving spirit were contagious, but at the same time, tenacity and fortitude gushed out of him! I am inspired and challenged by how he loved and served his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He was a giant of a man; heaven's gain, our loss.

David May
Mizzou '70

David May - October 10, 2020 at 10:42 AM

JB

“ Gwen and Family. Joyce and I like so many are so sorry about our beloved Mike. He worked so hard to improve to be an outstanding football player. He was very humble about his deserving honors. No one could desire a better teammate. And Gwen you were the best of caring wives for Mike. Your love was so inspiring. May the Lord bless you and your wonderful family. John and Joyce Burns

John and Joyce Burns - October 10, 2020 at 09:43 AM

JB

“ On a fall Saturday, like today, I was sitting with the other freshman football players in the south end bleachers and watched in awe as Mike lined up in defensive end position standing up right with one arm cocked and then would attack like none other. He was bigger than life for me as a football player - but his stature as person was even bigger with a persona of intelligent kindness. Praise the Lord Mike as you spend eternity in paradise with Him!

Jack Bastable

Jack Bastable - October 10, 2020 at 09:29 AM

DM

“ Over the past 50 years, I regrettably had only seen Mike a handful of times, yet each occasion his charismatic presence signaled the constancy of friendship, goodwill and shared memories. My youthful memories of Mike are clear and crisp. As a member and leader of the University of Missouri's football team, Mike epitomized hard work, teamwork, and servant leadership. On the field, going up against Mike was the same as ramming against an oak tree...as he seemed anchored by roots to discard any offensive threat...this served him well as a force and mainstay of some of Mizzou's greatest teams and successes. Mike carried this same sturdiness to all life challenges. As a true leader, Mike brought vision to every condition, but he approached all with humbleness and an open hand—he served from the heart. As I met Mike last year at the Orange Bowl reunion he attended proudly with his family by his side, and with pride in the team mates of his youth...armed with that comforting smile. It was easy to see that he had been true to his integrity throughout his life, always applying the best of himself. A good man. We are all better that he crossed our path.

Dan McDonough

Dan McDonough - October 10, 2020 at 03:51 AM

SC

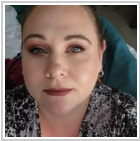
Well said, Dan. What a wonderful tribute, from one great Tiger to another.

Shep Cooper - October 13, 2020 at 09:53 PM

SS

“ As a sophomore on the Mizzou football team, you had a handful of seniors you looked up to. Mike was definitely one of those we all tried to mimic. The All-Big Eight defensive end was a humble, Christian model to all of us. His smile was constant and contagious! Our condolences to the Bennett family.
Scott Sodergren

Scott Sodergren - October 10, 2020 at 12:13 AM



“ My condolences to Ross and the rest of the family. Dr Bennett was my dentist since childhood. Wonderful man. He will truly be missed by so many. Prayers for the family.

Amanda Bellefeuille - October 09, 2020 at 09:44 PM

RG

“ Dr. Bennett always asked me how my golf game was, we will miss him he was a great person

Richard D. Groves - October 09, 2020 at 06:02 PM

CJ

“Gwen and Family, Our hearts are full of love and gratitude that we got to know Mike so many years ago and experience the joy he brought to everyone he touched. As a first year teacher at Breckenridge H.S., I was fortunate to be his teacher, asst football coach and head basketball coach. Under his leadership and joined by his brother David, this amazing team went 27-4 that season and to Sub-State. The team Members remember that David accidentally shut Mike’s shooting hand in the car door as we were leaving for the division finals. Mike, pulled through the intense pain (as he did many times later in life) and brought us to victory from a 15 point deficit in the last 3 minutes of the game. The students and team called him with the greatest respect, The Chairman, which was quite an amazing early recognition of his innate leadership and relationship building. Mike graduated and I left the school at the end of the year, but that’s not the end of the story. I taught and coached over 5000 students in the following 27 years, but in all that time Mike was the standard I held in my mind against which I compared all who followed and the role model of servant leadership, I conveyed to our own son, Jeff. In all those years, Mike was the finest athlete and most honorable man I ever coached. He was one of a kind.

Even as we grieve with the family in their loss, we rejoice in the gift of Michael’s life.

Much love to all,

Coach Carl and Jackie Henningsen



Coach Carl and Jackie - October 09, 2020 at 03:47 PM

JL

“ *What a wonderful man, Dr Bennett was. Always a kind smile and joyful conversation, no matter the day. He leaves a beautiful legacy that, I’m sure, his wonderful family will be forever proud of. My deepest sympathy and prayers for his wife, children and grandchildren.*

*With Love to the Bennett family,
Jill LeGrand*

Jill LeGrand - October 09, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Michael W. Bennett.*



October 09, 2020 at 12:12 PM

DS

“ *Prayers for peace and happiness. Certainly one of a kind!*

Debra Smith - October 09, 2020 at 08:54 AM

KH

“ *Great man great legacy.*

Kaye Huebel - October 09, 2020 at 06:01 AM

JB

“ Saddened to hear the passing of Dr. Mike. I like many feared going to get my teeth checked out, until I stumbled on the world’s most affable dentist more than 25 years ago. What a gift he was to Cape Girardeau and all who knew him. He would always talk sports with me and I enjoyed him sharing his passion. He was a humble, warm, caring man who lived life to the fullest. My thoughts with the family.
Jeff Breer

Jeff Breer - October 09, 2020 at 01:26 AM

DM

“ Our sincere condolences to Michael Bennett’s family. Dr. Bennett was our dentist and also a friend. We will always remember his great smile. Such a loss for the Cape community. David and Betty Michel

David Michel - October 08, 2020 at 05:28 PM

JG

“ Dear Gwen, Ross and family,
I had a great fear of dentists when I was growing up. I came to see Dr. Mike when he was beginning his career with Dr. Deimund. Since then I no longer dread seeing the dentist. I used to tease Dr. Mike that I was a ‘charter member’ of his practice. He will be greatly missed and my prayers and thoughts are with you all.
In Christ,
Jane Grear

Jane Grear - October 08, 2020 at 05:22 PM

WM

“ Gwen, Ross and family. I had a fear of dentist's early in life and it wasn't until mu wife convinced me to go to Dr. Bennett. That was thirty years ago when I started to go to him and he always asked how my family and I were doing. So patient and kind. To know that he is now with the maker is truly a blessing. He will be missed.

Wesley Mangels - October 08, 2020 at 03:43 PM

MM

“ Mike was a great player and a terrific defensive end at Missouri. Plus he was a lovely person. Always had a smile on his face. What a great picture of him as well. Great smile. All of my best wishes.
Mike McKee

Mike McKee - October 08, 2020 at 03:38 PM

DS

“ Dear Gwen, Ross, family and staff, so very sad to hear of Dr Mike's passing. He was our dentist for over 20 years and we first met through the Cape Jaycees. He was truly a man of faith, compassion, kindness, love, and respect for all people. May God surround you all with His healing angels as you walk down this sad path.

Dan/Mary Seyer - October 08, 2020 at 02:18 PM

LP

“ Mike Bennett joined our freshman football team at Mizzou as a quiet, reserved walk on from Breckenridge, MO. He was determined to make his niche. He did that and whole lot more. I remember going home with Mike one weekend to the family farm to help throw bales. I learned about his humble upbringing, his hard working family, and his hero status in the local community. He was a treasured fraternity brother, running mate, and true friend. I delighted in learning of his accolades and accomplishments through the years following college. I have only good memories of Mike and Gwen.

God speed Mike Bennett!!

Larry Pirotte - October 08, 2020 at 11:11 AM

ND

“ I read Mike’s obituary today. I can’t say that I knew about all of the athletic, professional, and community accolades he had received, but I also can’t say I was at all surprised. He was a wonderful teammate and friend. What I remember most about him was his big smile, his warm demeanor, and his way of always making me feel welcome in his life. His was a life well lived. One we should all emulate. I miss him. Neal Dawson

Neal Dawson - October 08, 2020 at 10:20 AM

CL

“ Gwen & Family- Mike was such a wonderful Christian man. A mentor to many! We will miss him and were blessed to call him friend! We love your entire family and will continue to hold you all in prayer.

*God's Blessings, peace, comfort & strength,
Luke and Cheri Landgraf*

Cheri Landgraf - October 08, 2020 at 06:58 AM

WD

“ I tried this before but something happened and it didn't post.

In reading what others have said about Mike I see my level of respect was shared by many and justly so. Mike was my rock that I could always count on to say what I needed to hear. In 1988 after finding out my dad had terminal cancer I called Mike. I just needed to talk and Mike was there listen and then provided me with words that ushered in comfort and peace. I have never forgotten what it felt like hearing Mike's words that day. His words, actions, persona, and presence said that he cared. Such a great man! And yes, I'd get the shoulder pat, the handshake, and a genuine smile at each visit to his office and in the Northex of our church.

Mike will be missed and we will be praying for Gwen and the Bennett family.

Wayne and Becky Daume

Wayne and Becky Daume - October 07, 2020 at 10:04 PM

DB

“ *What a great tribute to a great man. I knew Mike during my college years. He was loved by everyone and I see that he never changed. I enjoyed all of the kind and caring comments and to see how much he accomplished. I am proud to have known him. My heart goes out to Gwen and the Bennett family.*

Donna Chandler Burke

Donna Chandler Burke - October 07, 2020 at 07:58 PM

WD

In reading what others have said about Mike, I see my level of respect was shared by many and justly so. Mike was my rock that I could always count on to say what I needed to hear. In 1988 after finding out my dad had terminal cancer I called Mike. I just needed to talk and Mike was there providing me with words that ushered in comfort and peace. I have never forgotten what it felt like hearing Mike's words that day. His words, actions, persona, and presence said that he cared. Such a great man! And yes, I'd get the shoulder pat, the handshake and a genuine smile with each visit to his office and in the Northex of our church.

Mike will be missed and we will be praying for Gwen and Bennett family.

Wayne and Becky Daume

Wayne and Becky Daume - October 07, 2020 at 09:38 PM

MS

Mike Bennett was a high-achiever who remained refreshingly humble. I met him when he became my dentist in 1980 and we became good friends over the years. He always took a genuine interest in what was going on in my life and made going to the dentist fun a social event. He lived his life as a model of a life well lived. What a great man!

Morley Swingle - October 09, 2020 at 08:09 PM

LH

“ *Best dentist ever!* ”

Lisa Hill - October 07, 2020 at 04:16 PM

TL

“ I was a patient, but always looked forward to my visits to the dentist if you can believe that! Doc B was always so friendly, courteous, and humble. He always asked details about our family and how they were doing—remembering everything you had told him in the past about family. He would always put us at ease with his conversation and would immediately pat our shoulder when he greeted—just like his son Ross does now. Always, always greeted us when we were out in public as well. We will miss that brilliant smile. May he Rest In Peace. †

Tammy Lueders - October 07, 2020 at 04:10 PM

RC

“ What an absolutely beautiful tribute to a wonderful man. That winning smile and kind nature is what I will remember. I enjoy reading the football stories.
Our prayers are with Gwen and family at this time.
Richard & Jeanne Cavender

Richard & Jeanne Cavender - October 07, 2020 at 03:52 PM

DP

“ My condolences to Gwen and the Bennett family. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Mike and I were football teammates at Mizzou where he was the epitome of a student-athlete, one who excelled on the field and in the classroom. He was also one of the “good ones,” one who was admired and respected and a person who you were proud to call your friend.

I was fortunate to have had a long conversation with Mike and Gwen during one of our team reunions, when we not only recalled the “good old days,” but we talked about what was important in our lives – our faith, family and friends.

Rest in peace Mike. You had a life well-lived, and we all will miss seeing you and your big smile.

Dennis Poppe

Dennis Poppe - October 07, 2020 at 01:04 PM

DS

“ Mrs Bennett , Dr Ross and family, so very sorry to hear of your loss . Dr Bennett was my Dr for so many years, such a sweet , gentle,caring person . Prayers to all of his family in your time of loss.

Donna Story - October 07, 2020 at 12:29 PM

WL

“ To Gwen and all,

I was terribly saddened when I received a call yesterday that Mike had left us all. It just doesn't seem possible. I look at that photo of him and it embodies all that he was: Happy, kind good-natured, bright and loving. I always enjoyed so much the conversations I had with him over many years on a variety of subjects. He was such a positive person. I know Mike was also a very spiritual, so what I say is something you already know: Mike is not really gone. He has simply gone ahead.

In sympathy,

Walter Lamkin

Walter Lamkin - October 07, 2020 at 12:20 PM

DW

“ Dr. Ross,

We are so saddened to hear of the loss of your dad. We will be praying for you and your family during this difficult time and the upcoming days, weeks, and months.

Randy, Debbie, Chris, & Sheryl Wunderlich

Debbie Wunderlich - October 07, 2020 at 10:39 AM

LP

“ *Gwen and family, so sorry for your loss, the wonderful memories you have made are a true gift to last a lifetime, love and prayers from all your friends at Schnucks.*

Laurie Powers - October 07, 2020 at 10:36 AM

JB

“ Our hearts are so saddened with his passing, but we rejoice with the family knowing he’s in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. He was the most wonderful dentist. Always caring of that you were never in pain and yes, always humming. Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies because we know he will be missed by all who knew him and were lucky enough to share his love light that always shown through. God grant you peace and courage to sustain you through these days of sorrow but rest in the assurance of meeting again in heaven. 🙏💖

Jean and Melvin Barks - October 07, 2020 at 09:41 AM

DE

“ Dear Gwen and family,

*My heart is with all of you in the loss of your husband and father.
Please know that I will keep each of you in my prayers.*

*Much affection,
Donna J. Essner*

donna essner - October 07, 2020 at 09:25 AM

KJ

“ Mrs. Bennett, Gwenda, Ross, et al:

I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Dr. Bennett was ALWAYS such a wonderful person to be around. I have many fond memories of him as Gwenda and I made our way through the high school years and as I umpired many, many games for Ross and "his brother", Tatum Kitchen.

God certainly blessed us all with his time, compassion, and service exemplified through the impact made throughout our region.

Your family is in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I pray that God provides each of you with comfort, peace, and understanding.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth C. Pemberton, Jr.
CHS Class of 1992*

Ken Pemberton, Jr. - October 07, 2020 at 08:50 AM

TM

“ *Dr. Bennett is the first dental assisting job i had after I graduated from school. He was the kindest, most gentle man. I enjoyed working with him and truly appreciated the knowledge he shared with me. I know his family and friends will miss him terribly. Prayers for you. Im so sorry for your loss. Tami Mayo*

Tami Mayo - October 06, 2020 at 09:38 PM

TK

“ *Michael and I were teammates at the University of Missouri. We were both incoming freshman in 1967 and started on the freshman team at defensive end. We were both Walk-Ons and received scholarships after our freshman year but that is where the comparison ends. Mike went on to stardom but he always stayed humble and my friend. His tribute details do not surprise me. At every reunion he was the same genuine down to earth fun loving kid that I met and got to know that freshman year at Mizzou. The one time I was able to visit him in Cape Girardeau after his stroke he was the same upbeat positive person that I remembered over the years.*

His loving family meant so much to him and I remember how he really liked to talk about them whenever we were together at various times over the years.

In the end celebrate the time he was here amongst us and be consoled that he is in the place he always knew by his faith would be his ultimate destination.

Rest in peace Mike you were very much loved by all those who met and knew you.

Tim Kelley - October 06, 2020 at 07:08 PM

GN

“ What a moving tribute to a great man. I had the privilege of being considered a friend of Mikes and was a better person for our friendship. I have always thought that Mike might be the only person I have ever known that not one person ever said anything negative about him. Well I take that back, when he blew by an outmanned Franco Harris, twice and sacked the penn state quarterback in the orange bowl, Franco probably wasn't saying nice things. Oh yeah and there was the game in the big house that mike blocked a punt, I'm pretty sure Bo Schembechler probably had some negative things to say. Everything about Mike was impressive but The most impressive to me was his unwavering faith. Through all of the difficult time Mike always turned to God. Mike will be missed by everyone that knew him-I know I feel a huge loss. My prayers and deepest sympathy are with Gwen and the rest of his family.

greg neihart - October 06, 2020 at 04:32 PM

JD

Dr. Michael Bennett was a great Dentist and a wonderful person. God bless his soul rest in peace.

Jai N. Dahiya

JAI NARAIN DAHIYA - October 09, 2020 at 01:08 PM

GC

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Michael Bennett who provided our family with great professional dental care and warm, friendly attention reflective of his personal character. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Ross, his family, and all of "Dr. Mike's" former colleagues at his Cape practice. He will long be remembered by us with great fondness, and we are grateful for having had the privilege of knowing and interacting with him over the years.

Gary and Simin Cwick

Gary Cwick - October 09, 2020 at 02:59 PM

DK

Mike was an Outstanding Defensive End at Mizzou, he was one of the best in the country. I remember during those marathon spring scrimmages as an offensive lineman we had to pull and block the defensive end. One did not relish the thought, knowing that Mike was there and you had to try and block him. He was extremely quick, very strong and he read the play so well. What I really remember so well is that I had a serious knee injury and Mike showed a deep concern for me about the injury and my well being. A great teammate. He was an outstanding football player but more importantly he was an outstanding person.

Dan Kelley

Dan Kelley - October 10, 2020 at 01:55 PM

SB

I had the wonderful honor of babysitting for the Bennett Four in the early 1980's. What an adorable family - driven by love & faith! The generosity and community commitment that Dr & Mrs Bennett believed in is what I will remember most and still carry with me to this day, and their balanced parenting style left an impact on me as I raised my own kids. I was so blessed to know them and think of all the Bennetts often.

Stephanie Daniel Bunton

Stephanie Daniel Bunton - October 11, 2020 at 04:37 PM