



Mitchell Ray Shelby

February 1, 1946 - September 30, 2023

Mitchell Ray Shelby, 77, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died peacefully on Saturday, September 30, 2023 surrounded by his family at Missouri Veterans Home.

He was born February 1, 1946 in Sikeston, Missouri to Cecil and Violet Nelson Shelby. He grew up in New Madrid, Missouri and graduated from New Madrid High School in 1964, where he excelled in basketball, track and baseball.

Mitch served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968. He fought in Vietnam in 1967 and was in the First Infantry Division (Big Red One). He was awarded the Bronze Star, and Combat Infantry Badge among other medals and awards. He later worked at the Pentagon several summers with the Army Reserves.

After the Army, he enrolled at Southeast Missouri State University, where he met his future wife, Karen Wilmsmeyer. They were married on August 21, 1971. After graduating from Southeast Missouri State University, Mitch and Karen moved to Salem, Missouri where they began their teaching careers in 1972. Mitch was a PE teacher and basketball and baseball coach there. He then went on to become a State Farm Insurance agent in Houston, Missouri in 1976. After four years as an agent, he went into management and moved back to Cape Girardeau in 1981. He hired many of the present State Farm agents serving Southeast Missouri. Mitch had a very successful career with

State Farm and retired in 2010 after 34 years.

Mitch and Karen were blessed with two children, Jodie and Justin. Many years were spent together at Kentucky Lake. They enjoyed fishing, boating and water skiing. Mitch taught many people to ski behind his boat. He loved coaching children in Little League baseball and basketball. In his later years, he found great joy in watching his grandchildren participate in sports and activities. He couldn't brag enough about them.

He and his wife, Karen loved traveling and were thankful to have seen different countries and places throughout the world on State Farm trips. He enjoyed hunting and fishing as evidenced by the trophy mounts hanging in his basement. He also enjoyed golfing with his buddies and grilling on his deck for family and friends. He was a great all around cook and loved making big breakfasts.

He was usually the life of the party and loved telling stories and jokes, which sometimes got him into trouble. He was witty and funny right up until the very end, even keeping the Veterans Home staff laughing. He had a big heart and was loved by so many.

Survivors include wife, Karen Shelby of Cape Girardeau; daughter, Jodie (Eric) Ticer of Jackson, Missouri; son, Justin (Britt) Shelby of Houston, Missouri; sister, Sherry (Leland) Phillips of New Madrid, Missouri; brother, Terry (Kay) Shelby of Sikeston, Missouri; sister-in-law, Doris Conn of O'Fallon, Missouri; five grandchildren, Lawson and Landon Ticer, Cannon Monroe, Ford and Forrester Shelby; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Violet Shelby; brother-in-law, John Conn; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation will be 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday, October 6, 2023 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow 1:00 pm Friday at the funeral home with the Rev. Brett Cheek officiating.

Burial will be at New Lorimier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be given to Wounded Warriors Project. You may also choose to give blood or platelets to the American Red Cross in honor of Mitch, who received numerous transfusions.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

New Lorimier Cemetery

832 Caruthers
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

OCT 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

DF

“Mitch - we loved your wit- your dedication to family-your positive attitude in good times and times of adversity. We respect you and we will miss you. You are a “Man among men”. Our Buddy!
Sincerely Dave and Cheri Fuemmeler.

David Fuemmeler - October 05, 2023 at 09:09 PM

LB

“ Love, Glenda, Olivia & Sophia Beach purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.



Love, Glenda, Olivia & Sophia Beach - October 05, 2023 at 04:17 PM

LB

“ Love, Glenda, Olivia & Sophia Beach planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mitchell Ray Shelby.

Love, Glenda, Olivia & Sophia Beach - October 05, 2023 at 04:17 PM

MM

“ Prayers for you and your family Karen during this difficult time. You are loved by many.

Mary Morak - October 05, 2023 at 12:48 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.*



October 05, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.*



October 04, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ *I remember when Mitch was an agent in Houston, Mo. years ago. When I started working for State Farm we crossed paths a few times and he and Justin visited our office in Houston when Justin was just starting out. He was a sweet soul, always friendly and smiling. When Justin became our State Farm agent in Houston, I was lucky enough to work for Justin and got the chance to get to know Mitch and his wife. He was a genuinely nice guy and I never heard anyone ever say anything bad about him. I was sorry to hear of his passing and have had his family in my prayers. He left an amazing legacy and won't be forgotten.*

Daleene Wade - October 04, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.*



October 04, 2023 at 02:23 PM



“ *A great friend since 1972. Mitch has left a legacy of success as a husband, father , grandfather and friend. He has been a man that all men should strive to be. I will miss my old buddy!*

Ken Gunter - October 04, 2023 at 12:06 PM



“ *Mike and Patti Davidson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.*



Mike and Patti Davidson - October 03, 2023 at 06:54 PM



“ *Mike and Patti Davidson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mitchell Ray Shelby.*

Mike and Patti Davidson - October 03, 2023 at 06:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.



October 03, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mitchell Ray Shelby.

October 03, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ Karen, Justin, and Jodie...so sorry to hear of the passing of Mitch. Our hearts are broken for you. So many good memories from days of old at SEMO. Always laughing and making us laugh too. May sweet memories keep him near. ❤️🥹
Pat (Graf) & Shep Kelly

Patricia Kelly - October 03, 2023 at 02:15 PM



“ So sorry for your family's loss 🙏

Joyce Streiler - October 03, 2023 at 10:40 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.



October 02, 2023 at 06:09 PM

DE

“ Another member of the "Woodland Hills Gang" has entered Heaven. I hope he & Bill are organizing a reunion as we continue to slip away. So many great memories- Mitch's sense of humor kept us all laughing.

I know in his next life he may become a comedian or cruise director. I am feeling your pain - I have found this to be the greatest challenge in my life. We are strong, we are survivors and we will all meet again some day. What a party that will be!👍😍💕🌻 Keep your head up and know you are loved.

Donna Ellis 🍷📧

Donna Ellis - October 02, 2023 at 05:31 PM

LA

“ I will never forget the friendship Mitch and I had. He was a great manager and mentor for me as I started my career with State Farm. One of his talents included developing our State Farm agents into a well-run machine. He helped me when I struggled, encouraging me along the way. I will miss him. Prayer to his family from Jody and me.

Laurie - October 02, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.



October 02, 2023 at 03:07 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mitchell Ray Shelby.



October 02, 2023 at 03:03 PM