



Michael A. Francis

January 13, 1946 - May 14, 2026

Dr. Michael A. Francis Sr, 80, died on May 14, 2026, after several months battling kidney ailments. Born in Tallahassee, FL, on Jan. 13, 1946, where his father, Robert, was assigned with the US Army at Dale Mabry Army Airfield. After the war Michael and his family relocated to St. Petersburg, FL.

After high school Michael briefly attended North Carolina State University before enlisting in the US Air Force in 1965. Michael was assigned at Patrick Airforce Base in Cocoa Beach, FL where he was part of the military support for NASA. He was an in-flight communications specialist providing high altitude radio communications to astronauts while in space. Michael's claim to fame was being the first person back on earth to hear Neil Armstrong's famous "One Small Step" and boosting the signal from his plane to earth bound stations.

It was in Cocoa Beach where he met his late wife Christine and married in 1969. After his enlistment was complete, he relocated with his wife and two children to Tallahassee in 1971 where he started his 31 years working for the State of Florida. During his time working for the State of Florida, he obtained a bachelor's in Math from Rollins College and a doctorate in Public Administration from Nova University.

Michael was an avid philatelist (stamp collector) and was president of the

Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club for many years. He also enjoyed salmon fishing in Alaska, photography, and watching sci-fi movies. His final decade was focused on meeting his friends at Whataburger on North Monroe each morning, with the occasional Chick-fil-A. Special thanks to Cheryl who was a regular companion for the past eight years.

Michael is survived by his daughter, Lisa Chason; a son, Mike Francis Jr. (wife Sherri); and brothers: Charlie and Paul. He is also survived by his three grandchildren: Ashley, Hub III and Christopher Cullen; and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

A remembrance and a reception will be held, beginning at 11a.m., on Tuesday, May 26, at Bevis Funeral Home at 200 John Knox Rd, Tallahassee (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com). The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Big Bend Hospice (<https://bigbendhospice.charityproud.org/Donate>), 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Ashli McCall, of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) has the honor of assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Remembrance

MAY **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael A. Francis*



Bevis Funeral Home - May 26 at 01:27 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rick Wolfarth - May 26 at 07:58 AM



Mike (wearing a hat) helping to stabilize a truck that was pushed off a road about 100' above. Two children were still trapped in it and crying.

Rick Wolfarth - May 26 at 08:01 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rick Wolfarth - May 26 at 07:54 AM

RW

Mike "blessing" the trees on Kodiak Island or maybe trying to find the geo cache.

Rick Wolfarth - May 26 at 07:56 AM

RW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rick Wolfarth - May 25 at 10:22 AM

RW

On Kodiak Island in search of the world's largest bears. We found them!

Rick Wolfarth - May 25 at 10:24 AM

RW

“ 1 file added to the album Mike Francis the Adventurer



Rick Wolfarth - May 25 at 10:04 AM

SS

“ On behalf of the Tallahassee Senior Center staff, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Mike. During his Silver Stars interview a couple of years ago, he stated that he had "an amazing life and great friends." That was evident by the love and respect of the many lives he touched as a volunteer for several different activities. In addition to the members of the Stamp and Cover Club, Mike had a loyal following of students in his digital photography classes, was well respected by other Advisory Council members, and attracted a fan club to his Silver Stars recognition. He enjoyed many Deck the Halls events with his many friends and family.



He was always kind and appreciative of staff and brought great opportunities for others to pursue their interests by sharing his talents at the Senior Center. Dr. Mike said his secret to positive aging was "Reduce your stress, have lots of friends, and see each other often; laugh – laughter is so good for you." We were privileged to share some of those good laughs and friendships with Mike. He will certainly be missed at the Tallahassee Senior Center.

Sheila Salyer - May 21 at 02:34 PM

BH

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Bevis Funeral Home - May 19 at 05:59 PM

BH

“ *Bevis Funeral Home sent a virtual gift in
memory of Michael A. Francis*



Bevis Funeral Home - May 19 at 05:57 PM