



Michael David Obrecht

April 3, 1955 - April 7, 2026

Michael David Obrecht, 71, passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026, surrounded by his family, who loved and cherished him more than anything.

Michael was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 3, 1955, and moved to Florida in 1971, where he went on to build a beautiful life centered around family, education, and community.

He graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in both English Education and Psychology with a minor in Creative Dramatics. A highlight of his time at FSU was performing with the All-American Showtimers, a group of singers, dancers, and instrumentalists. In the summer of 1977, they performed at Callaway Gardens as part of a memorable internship that reflected his lifelong love of music and performance.

Following college, Michael began his distinguished career in education, starting at Trinity Catholic School. After 4 years, he accepted a position at Maclay School, where he dedicated the next 45 years of his career. Michael wore many hats during his tenure at Maclay. Over the first 15 years, his roles included drama teacher for grades K-12, high school English teacher, senior class sponsor, and girls' varsity and boys' JV basketball coach. In 1995, he transitioned into an administrative position where he became the Director of Admissions. Whether teaching in a classroom or admitting students into

Maclay, Michael's focus was always on each student as an individual.

Maclay was not only the place where Michael made a lasting impact on countless students and families, but also where he met the love of his life, Julie. They married in 1990 and shared more than 35 wonderful years together, raising their three children, Olivia, Dylan, and Harrison.

Michael lived a rich and joyful life. An avid collector, he amassed thousands of records and had a deep love for music, books, and art. He enjoyed staying active at Premier Fitness Center and cherished traveling, especially to Seaside and New York City. Above all, he treasured time spent with his family, who were the center of his world.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife, Julie Bradley Obrecht; his daughter, Olivia Obrecht Langford and her husband, Robert Langford; and his sons, Dylan Christopher Obrecht and Harrison Bradley Obrecht. He was preceded in death by his father, Ernest Obrecht; his mother, Dorothy Obrecht; his brother, Steven Obrecht; and his in-laws, Frank Bradley and Lillian Bradley.

A service celebrating Michael's life will be held on Friday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m. at Saint John's Episcopal Church, followed by a reception at Maclay School. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Michael Obrecht Memorial Fund at Maclay School -www.maclay.org/MrO

Michael will be remembered for his warmth, his passion for life, and his unwavering love for his family. His legacy lives on through his family and the many lives he touched.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the Obrecht family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com or 850-385-2193)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 24. 4:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
211 North Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Reception

APR 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Maclay School
3737 North Meridian Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *It was an honor to meet Mr. Obrecht. While we were still in France, he kindly took the time to interview Charlotte through a video conference. He was incredibly welcoming and gracious, and immediately made both Charlotte and us, her parents, feel comfortable and at ease. He was our very first contact at Maclay, and we will always remember his warm smile.*

After arriving at Maclay, we also had many nice conversations with him, which we will always remember. He was always so thoughtful, regularly asking about Charlotte and how she was doing.

He will be greatly missed. Please accept our sincere condolences to the entire family. He was a truly kind and generous person.

With deepest sympathy,
Agnès, JP, and Charlotte Le Du

Agnes, Jp and Charlotte Le Du - April 24 at 03:36 PM

“Where to even begin with Mr. O? I could start with the *Cats* class play in 5th grade—his first year at Maclay—when a piano rolled onto the stage (with students on it dressed as *Cats*) and he sprinted out to stop it... breaking his foot in the process. Or I could start in high school, in the infamous “trailer,” where he somehow made research papers and Mass Media feel like real life—and later let my fledgling band (“Regis Cheesewind,” with Jason Coleman and Jason Petrovich) take over his classroom for a weekend recording session. In *Writer’s Workshop* he pushed us past cover songs and into writing our own lyrics. Bottom line: if Mr. O taught a class, I took it.

He could relate to teenagers who were still figuring things out—with real understanding, but also the firm encouragement we needed. He was like a coach (and he was an actual coach too—I managed the girls basketball team he coached), but he also coached us in the stuff that lasts: writing, good music, and finding what matters in literature. My senior year I was his student aide and spent a lot of time in the trailer talking about music and books. I still think of him when I hear Elvis Costello or Lou Reed.

Years later I reconnected with him through Leadership Tallahassee Class XX, where he served as our Program Chairman. His heart for service and his gift for guiding people were the same as I remembered—and he helped spark what became Youth Leadership Tallahassee. Even more personally, he encouraged me to meet a young teacher at Maclay named Gina Southerland. Fast forward: we just celebrated 22 years of marriage, with a daughter who graduated from Maclay last year and a son who’s a sophomore. When our kids enrolled at Maclay, seeing Mr. O out front in the mornings—greeting kids and families—felt like a reassuring thread back to my own time there, proof that the school could grow and change and still keep its DNA. Seeing the outpouring from former students, I’m reminded my story is just one of hundreds. I know his legacy will live on through his family, through countless students, through my children, and through Youth Leadership Tallahassee. But my heart will break a little the first morning I drive in and realize he’s no longer standing out front.

Tom Proctor -Class of '89

Tom Proctor - April 23 at 11:52 AM

PD

“*Michael was my favorite teacher when I was a student at Maclay '81-'85, the one who introduced my friends and me to all sorts of cool music. Then, when I wanted to start my teaching career, he was the one who drew me back to Maclay. My teacher/mentor morphed into my colleague/adult friend. He was always in my corner, wanted me to succeed; and, of course, he was that kind of champion for countless people over the years. He was an amazing connector and catalyst who loved to see people around him shine.*

If I had to pick just one memory, maybe it would be our senior class production of Grease back in '85 (although we called it Greased Lightning because we had to alter the script to make it more school-appropriate). Michael and Dr. Kathy Scott were our co-directors; they were so generous with their time and patient with our shenanigans. So many of my closest friends were in the play. Rehearsals were a blast, and our one-night-only performance was electric--well, at least from the perspective of us actors (not sure what the theater critics had to say!). "We'll always be together . . . "

*Paul Dickson
Maclay class of '85
Maclay faculty member since '98*

Paul Dickson - April 23 at 09:09 AM

PR

“*Our family got to know Michael at Trinity Catholic School. He was always a shining light to all who knew him. So happy to have known him and to know he carried his light to Maclay.*

Pam Rocco - April 17 at 01:32 PM

CB

“ *What a blessing to have known and worked with Michael. We performed together in the FSU All-American Showtimers in summer of 1977. Michael was a solid performer and a great man of integrity. He also had a wonderful sense of humor. Truly a gentleman in every way. Our prayer is for the Lord to keep His loving arms around the family during this time of great loss. I am attaching a photo of the two of us singing a duet together at Callaway Gardens. Thank you, Michael, for sure treasured memories. How your family, friends, students and colleagues will miss you.*



Connie Brink - April 14 at 09:48 PM

OL

Thank you so much for sharing ❤️

Olivia Obrecht Langford - April 14 at 10:02 PM

MB

@Connie Brink Thank you so much for sharing. Michael was a man of great integrity with a wonderful sense of humor —truly a gentleman in every way. We worked out together at Premiere, and he was always kind and pleasant. My prayers are with his family and friends. 🙏

Mina Barekat - April 16 at 11:49 AM



“ *You will be missed Michael. You were a good man. RIP my friend. Maggie & Miguel Masferrer*

Miguel Masferrer - April 14 at 07:21 PM

OL

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Olivia Langford - April 14 at 05:36 PM

OL

“ Olivia Langford sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael David Obrecht



Olivia Langford - April 14 at 05:35 PM