

Robert Michael "Mike" Williams

October 27, 1950 - June 17, 2023

Robert Michael "Mike" Williams, 72, of Saint Marks, Florida, passed away on June 17, 2023, after a water accident. He was born in McIntosh, Florida, and grew up in Saint Marys, Georgia. He is predeceased by his parents, Robert "Bob" and Martha Williams, and his son, Robert Justin Williams. Mike leaves behind his loving partner, Jeanette "Jet" Netwal; daughters Amanda Williams, Saukville, WI, and Suzanne Williams, Asheville, NC; grandchildren Zane Tinney, Ethan Williams, and Hailey Wilson; sisters Jane Buffkin, Locust Grove, GA, and Beth (Tom) Mason, Riverview, FL; brother Mark (Laurie) Williams, St. Petersburg, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

Mike graduated from Camden County High School, where he was active in academic and sports activities. He attended Georgia Tech and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural School before beginning his career as an electrician with the IBEW Local #177, in Jacksonville. He was elected as the Business Manager of Local #177 in 1990; as President of the Florida Building and Construction Trades Council in 1998; and has served as the President of the Florida AFLCIO since 2009. In these positions, Mike was involved in impactful legislative activities that improved the lives of 1.6 million union members and their families. In his free time, Mike loved riding his Harley, playing music, boating, and attending Florida Gator games with his family (a tradition started by his parents).

A Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends on Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Wakulla River Park, 8 City Park Avenue, Saint Marks, FL. A professional remembrance and recognition of Mike's contributions to labor will be held on August 19, 2023, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville, FL at 6:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mike's honor to Fight For Florida, Inc., an organization he created and led, 135 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

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

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wakulla River Park

City Park Ave

St Marks, FL 32355

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir//City+Park+Ave,+St+Marks,+FL+32355/@30.1810536,-84.2934096,13z/data=!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ec7c4480cc0deb:0xb3e2150a5e37cc40!2m2!1d-84.212383!2d30.1557683?entry=ttu>

Remembrance Ceremony

AUG 19. 6:30 PM (ET)

The Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center

1000 Water St.

Jacksonville, FL 32204

(904) 630-4000

<https://www.primefosborn.com/p/visit/311>

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Mike did a fantastic job on behalf of the construction trades and the AFL-CIO, and I say that as someone who was usually (not always) on the other side of his issues. It was almost an honor to lose to Mike on a legislative issue. Mike was a smart and great strategist, someone worthy of all respect, and a man with a very big heart. My condolences to all of Mike's family and friends. I know you will especially miss this great man.

Cam Fentriss

Retired and formerly representing Florida Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors Association, Florida Air Conditioning Contractors Association, and Florida Association of Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors

Anna Cam Fentriss - July 17, 2023 at 11:40 PM

LW

“ Mike was family. He was always there, though we might not see each other for months at a time ... or occasionally longer. One always knew where they stood with Mike and I liked that about him. He could be serious, but he always had a great sense of humor. He was fun to be around.

I recall countless visits to Sr. Mary's as a kid, Sunday afternoons at Nana's house in Williston, the summers as a teenager Mike spent working at the Ice Plant, family reunions, barbecues and oyster roasts, Gator football games and tailgating, Florida-Georgia weekends at the Cocktail Party in Jacksonville, time at the lake house, visiting him on his boat(s) and much more.

Though Mike was 5 years older, our birthdays were only one day apart. I will miss him and always remember him on our birthdays. All of my love and sympathy goes out to Mark, Jane, and Beth. Just as your mom & dad were second parents, you are like brothers & sisters. Heaven just got a little bit brighter. - Lewis Williams

Lewis Williams - June 30, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Michael "Mike" Williams.*



June 29, 2023 at 01:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Michael "Mike" Williams.*



June 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM



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

June 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Michael "Mike" Williams.*



June 28, 2023 at 04:06 PM

JP

“ Mike was my friend of 35+ years. He was an incredible person and also a mentor to me in my career in the Labor movement. Many good times together and I'll miss him forever. RIP



John Parker - June 28, 2023 at 01:52 PM

BH

“ My thoughts and sympathy go out to the family of Mike Williams. As past President of the North Florida Letter Carriers I have had the opportunity to work with mike over the years. His leadership and friendship meant everything. At conventions or seminars Mike never needed a microphone or a podium because his booming voice had everyone's attention. His dedication to the working families Lobby Corps made those of us from all unions ready to deal with the state legislators for working families issues. His dedicated work for all unionists will not be forgotten. This is a great loss to all of us and he will be sorely missed. Bob Henning NALC Branch 53

Bob Henning - June 28, 2023 at 12:11 AM

LW

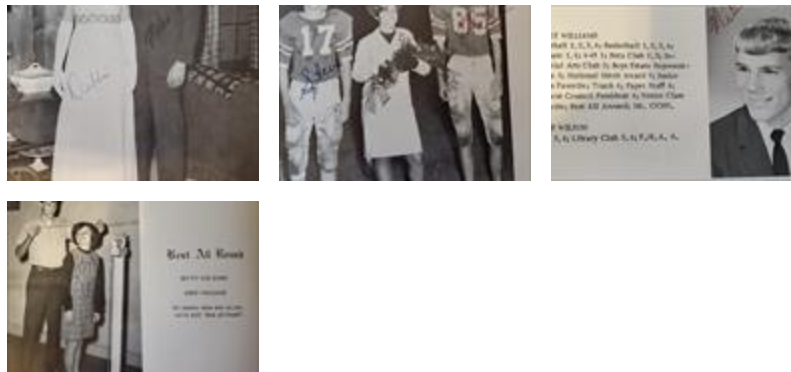
“ Mike was always a friendly and delightful man to talk to. I still have the “gators for Obama” pin he gave me. So sorry to all his family, he will be missed.



Laura Williams - June 27, 2023 at 09:25 PM

BM

“ Mike in his early years.



Beth Williams Mason - June 26, 2023 at 09:34 PM

DC

So sad for this terrible loss. May God comfort you Beth, Jane and Mark. I can't begin to imagine your pain. I love you guys.

Deanna Clark - June 27, 2023 at 10:54 AM

JW

“ *To all my beloved cousins, I can't imagine how tough it must be to loose a sibling. God will be with you all. I was running for county commissioner about 20 years ago. Probably hadn't talked to Mike in 10 years, I called him and said I'm almost ashamed to call on when you need something. First thing he said is that's what family is for, what do you need. I said I need som financial help. He said no problem and checks was filling up the mail box. He checked on me a couple times to see how things was going and offered some we'll appreciate advice. I didn't win but it was not Mike's fault. It will always be in my heart*

Jimbo Williams - June 26, 2023 at 09:17 PM

HR

“ To Jane, Beth & Mark may the hand of God be with each one of you as you say goodbye to Mike. Just know our hearts and prayers are with you and your family. Love Heidi & David Reinhardt.

Heidi Reinhardt - June 26, 2023 at 08:20 PM

MS

My best memories of my cousin Mike are old memories. We played together at Nana's house in Williston, and we lived together and then near each other in St. Mary's. I was the oldest cousin and he the next oldest, but he showed me no deference, then or later, which is why I once had to literally clock him, as in hit him in the head with an old metal alarm clock. It did no good. He was still an independent, ornery cuss, except when he was a loving, generous friend as well as blood kin. Mike was tall timber, and he will be sorely missed.

Mac Stipanovich - June 26, 2023 at 08:43 PM

AJ

I am so sorry for all of the family. One of the things I remember that impressed me about Mike is that he would grow his hair very long and then he donated his hair. I miss him too.

Aunt Joetta - June 26, 2023 at 09:22 PM

LB

I had the gift of being a friend , brother, supporter, many more adjectives too!Had it not been for Mike Williams I might have missed the last 50 yrs of be part of the greatest Brotherhood that I know of.I will be missed but the memories will always remain. God Bless& Peace to Family & Friends 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Lee Bowen - July 03, 2023 at 05:22 PM