

November 10, 2012

Dear Friends,

I write this year to let you know that Michael passed away peacefully on April 5, 2012 with all of our family around him. As you know, Michael lived life to the full while being treated for cancer nearly continuously for 8 1/2 years. In mid-February we learned that the cancer had metastasized to his brain and spinal cord. Michael continued receiving treatments until the day before his death, always doing everything he could to extend life. During the last few weeks of Michael's life, all four of our daughters, as well as our three sons-in-law and all six grandchildren were together in our home much of the time. We enjoyed wonderful times together, even in the midst of Michael's treatments and continued weakness and fatigue. For this we are so very grateful to God.

In the past seven months we have mourned the loss of best friend & husband, father, and granddad. There will always be a huge gap in our lives, but we also have so much of Michael within us. He shaped our lives by all that he was. When Michael was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in 2003, the prognosis was 1-2 years. In answer to the prayers of many, and by God's healing along the way, Michael's life was extended. Michael was with us for many special days: Amy's and Hilly's high school graduations, Amy's college graduation, Kiely's and Amy's weddings, and the arrival of 5 more grandchildren.

This Thanksgiving, our family truly is thankful.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34

Dear Elizabeth + Brian -
I know you are well aware of Michael's passing. I wanted to send you a copy of the program from Michael's memorial service. I love the image of Michael + think it captures very well his love of life. He always enjoyed spending time with you when in D.C. Elizabeth

Wishing you + your family a joyful Thanksgiving
Warmly, Stephanie