



## **Michael Charles Burke**

**November 19, 1944 ~ October 5, 2025**

Dr. Michael C. Burke, age 80, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at his home. A devoted husband, father, educator, and proud serviceman, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and love that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Michael dedicated his life to service in the classroom, in the community, and in uniform. He served his country for 28 years with honor and distinction as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves, embodying leadership and commitment throughout his military career. His journey with his professional and military career took him to many locations, and he decided Bellevue was the best fit for his family.

Education was not just his profession; it was his lifelong calling. Earning his Doctor of Education degree, Michael spent decades shaping minds and uplifting students, colleagues, and his children through his work. He served as an administrator at Nebraska School for the Deaf, Iowa School for the Deaf, and retired from Bellevue Public Schools. He believed deeply in the power of learning to transform lives and dedicated himself to teaching and serving others.

Michael had a knack for attempting to fix just about anything. A handyman at heart, he was happiest tinkering around the house, often with a roll of duct tape in hand. He was also an avid runner, regularly logging a ten-mile run several times per week, a routine that reflected his discipline, determination, and love of the outdoors. After retirement from his professional and military careers, he found joy in volunteering with Fontenelle Forest, where he spent many hours working outdoors and lending his skills to keep the grounds beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

Above all, Michael was a family man. He shared 58 beautiful years with his beloved wife, Mary Ann, who stood by his side through every chapter. Together they raised five children-Lisa Phillips (Corey), Patrick Burke (Annie), Sherri Roenfeldt (Clint), Kathi Buchholz, and Traci Gemberling (Kurt)-whom he loved dearly and of whom he was immensely proud. His greatest joy came from being a husband, father, and grandfather, and his family was the heart of his life. He is the grandfather of 17 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Dracos and Carrie Burke, brother Alan Burke, sister-in-law Linda Plough, granddaughter Harper Gemberling, and nephew William Burke. Michael's life was one of purpose and service. He will be remembered not only for his accomplishments but for his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering love for his family.

Visitation: Thursday, October 9, 5:00-7:00 p.m. with Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m., Bellevue Memorial Chapel.

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, October 10, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's of Bellevue Catholic Church, 2302 South Crawford Street, Bellevue.

Interment: Monday, October 13, 9:00 a.m., Omaha National Cemetery

Military Honors: U S Army National Guard Honor Guard

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Fontenelle Forest / [www.fontenelleforest.org](http://www.fontenelleforest.org). Reflecting his lifelong dedication to the community.

\*(Thank you, Bonnie Siders, for informing NSDAA. We appreciate your sharing this with us.)\*

