



## Michael Joseph Helm

September 20, 1958 - January 4, 2020

Michael Joseph Helm was born September 20, 1958, in St. Louis, Missouri to Roy and Bernardine (Slocum) Helm and passed away January 4, 2020, in Salem, Missouri at the age of sixty-one years.

Michael spent most of his life in the St. Louis area. He was a man of many talents and a very hard worker. He began drawing and painting at an early age and was hired by several neighbors to do oil paintings by the time he was ten years old. In his pre-teen and teen years, Michael continued to work in oils and selling several of his projects. Michael's passion for art continued throughout his life. He worked at the Penniston Commercial Art Studio before becoming the Vice President of his own art studio, Helm Smith and Grimm, Inc. He worked for several years with ad agencies and large companies like Kellogg and Anheuser Busch.

Michael was blessed with one daughter, Jessica Casey. He was a proud father who cherished her deeply and was blessed to have sixteen wonderful years of memories with her. On April 14, 2001, Michael was united in marriage to Barbara Ann Kerns, at the Bonebrake Center, and together they shared eleven years of marriage before her passing, November 21, 2010. He cherished the time spent with his family and was a father-like figure to his nieces and nephews.

Michael moved to the Salem area in 1998 and has been a blessing to the community. He has created many murals and logos for local businesses, sets for plays, and has taught several art classes. He was a part of the Bigfoot Exhibit at Trees and Trains along with Santa's Workshop and has played Santa for many years. Michael has touched the lives of many; bringing joy and happiness to children of all ages. He enjoyed working at Salem R-80 as a paraprofessional. Michael was an incredible teacher, amazing artist and was well-loved by the students and staff there.

Michael was strong in his faith and attended several local churches. He enjoyed the worship and the opportunity to sing. Michael was a part of the Spring Creek Artisans, Arts Rolla, and Salem Area Community Betterment Association.

Michael is survived by his siblings: Joseph Helm of Caseyville, IL, Mary Helm of Carrollton, IL, John Helm and wife Stephanie of Arnold, MO, Rose Henry of St. James, MO, and Gerard Helm of St. Louis, MO; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his wife: Barbara Helm; daughter: Jessica Casey and parents: Roy and Bernardine Helm.

Michael was one of a kind and will be remembered for his testimony of kindness and giving. He will be fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Celebration of Life for Michael Joseph Helm was held Saturday, January 10, 2020 in the Wilson Mortuary Salem Chapel with Pastor Rocky Lindley officiating. Song selections played were "Saying Goodbye" from the Muppets Take Manhattan, "The Prayer", and "Home to Stay". All arrangements were under the direction of Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem  
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.  
Post Office Box 45  
Salem, MO 65560  
(573) 729-5555  
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

## Service

JAN 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall



“Michael's time in Salem was a true blessing to many. I felt it a privilege to be among his friends. He was so very talented as well as had such a wonderful demeanor. Our lives crossed paths during numerous occasions. It is difficult to imagine not seeing him in various places around Salem. Meredith and I both held him in the highest regard. We are sorry that we are not in town to attend his service. Friends and family, please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. He is without a doubt in the arms of God.

*Jerry Craig*

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**GERALD W CRAIG** - January 11, 2020 at 05:19 PM



“Rest In Peace our dear friend. You made such a special place in our hearts. The Center will be forever be grateful for your majestic display! Always highlight of the Christmas Season when Santa arrived in his workshop! We loved you Michael Helm.

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**Judy Thompson** - January 11, 2020 at 01:53 PM



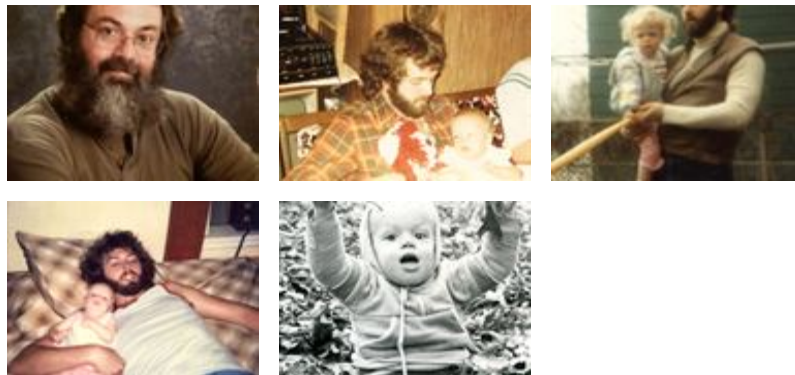
“ *Ralph and I knew Michael and considered him a friend, from the days when I taught out at Dent Phelps R-III with Barb. He was such a kind and caring man. He was always happy to stop and spend some time chatting with us when we ran into him around town. I think one of my fondest memories of Michael will always be the visits to my 1st and 2nd grade classroom playing Santa for my students at Christmas time. He was always more than happy to spend time interacting and listening to each child's Christmas wish, and with wonder and excitement in all of their little eyes you knew the true spirit of love and Christmas was in that room. He was a special person with a big heart. Michael made such a positive impact touching many lives of children, students, and adults. He will be missed by many. We send comfort and our sympathy out to all Michael's friends and family. We will remember him always.*

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**Shirley Trombley** - January 10, 2020 at 08:31 PM

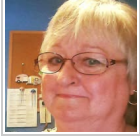


“ *327 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Wilson Mortuary** - January 10, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Janet Kratz lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Helm



Janet Kratz - January 07, 2020 at 11:16 PM



“ I still cant believe he is gone. My prayers to his family. He was a special person who cared about his student's. He gave them respect, friendship, and trust. He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed. As his friend and coworker he was willing to listen and give input or just a hug. He listened to his students and helped them make the right choices. Michael was an angel in the community and he just wanted to bring joy and happiness to all of us who new him.. He could also be a prankster. He had made this troll and when I went in my room one morning I turned on the light and he had put the Troll in my room. It scared the crap out of me. He loved it! He had a laugh and a smile you couldn't even get mad. I will love him forever. Sore with the Angles my friend.

Janet Kratz - January 07, 2020 at 07:28 PM

ZA

he is the nice teacher and he is my heart almost and he call me zachary and he is friend mr wade and price and he miss ad

zachary - January 09, 2020 at 12:37 PM

RN

“ *My condolences to all the family. He is now with his angels and our Heavenly Father.*



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**Rose New** - January 07, 2020 at 03:31 PM

SH

“ *You know what is in my heart Michael. You are truly with your family now.*



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**Shari** - January 07, 2020 at 03:17 PM

SH

“ *Shari purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Michael Joseph Helm.*



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**Shari** - January 07, 2020 at 03:08 PM

DS

“ *His talent was Amazing, his kindness was priceless, your work is done my Friend, welcome to your new home.*

*Dennis Schafer*

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**Dennis Schafer** - January 06, 2020 at 09:25 PM

RL

“ So sorry to hear of Michael's passing. He will be missed. Sending our thoughts and prayers to his family.

*Ron and Beth Light*

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**Ronald Light** - January 06, 2020 at 02:02 PM

DE

“ I will miss Michael. Christmas in Salem will never be the same without him. His kindness, patience and talent was extraordinary. In the words written by the Apostle Matthew: ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

*Deb Smith*

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**Deb** - January 06, 2020 at 12:13 PM

DF

“ This man was the most help man ive know he was my favorite teacher at r-80 was always helping very kind. Rest in peace mr helm you will be missed. An thank for everything u rver did for me!  
*Deseray fish*

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**Deseray fish** - January 06, 2020 at 12:02 PM

MC

“ Michael was one of the kindest people I ever met. He will be missed. Rest in peace my friend



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**Mary Beth Cook** - January 06, 2020 at 11:35 AM

CS

“ I met Michael as we were both employed with Salem R80 Schools. Michael contributed to a big part of students, faculty and staff by being such a caring person. Michael quietly doing what he could to fill the needs around him. Not to forget how he shared his Santa beard God gifted him with, for all ages to enjoy at Christmas. I believe he had a process that made the beard most Santa Claus like.

*Rest in the Lord Michael...and Thank you.*

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**Cheryl Shelton** - January 06, 2020 at 10:32 AM

MC

*Mikey, forever in my heart as my adopted son, Gene & I shared many hours together as ministers for our Lord Jesus, any time any where he could minister, HE was there, about 32 yrs together in ministry, such wonderful memories, THANK you Lord for allowing Mikey to be a part of our lives and many others, ha! Ha! HE also allowed me to work with his hair & beard for his Christmas joy 😊*

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**Marcia Craft** - January 07, 2020 at 08:21 PM