



Michel "Mike" Mahne

August 17, 2021

Michel "Mike" Mahne had an adventurous spirit and a rare talent for bringing joy to all who knew him. He was born in December 1958 in Paris, France to Lloyd and Lucille Mahne, a Navy family. Mike and his brother, Steve spent their childhood living abroad in France, the Philippines, and Japan. When Mike returned to New Orleans at the age of 13, he brought a sense of wonderment and joy for life with him that he shared openly with all for the rest of his life.

Michel was one of three boys. Don, Steve and Michel were all ten years apart making for a special dynamic and bond between them all. This was especially so for Michel and Steve who were extremely close his entire life. In his own words, "Steve taught me a lot about so many things, and I am very happy to have him as my older brother."

Mike met the love of his life in college while working as a bartender in Lafayette. Always the life of the party, Mike would wear a bandana to hold back his long hair while smashing sheets of ice with his head in a true Samurai fashion. When Sharon first saw him, she sarcastically exclaimed "THAT'S MY husband!" Little did she know she would indeed be the luckiest girl in the world.

Mike graduated from USL with a degree in Computer Science in 1980 when

computers were still “mad science” using punch cards and presumably mice to turn the wheels. His intelligence and self-motivation drove him to continue to learn as technology advanced, and he distinguished himself as a talented business software engineer. Mike’s prowess, professionalism, and amiable nature led him to collaborate with amazing partners in building Vericore, a company they all are immensely proud of. With the successes Vericore achieved, one of his most favorite things was the birthday celebrations which allowed him to really shine in his Elvis impersonation of “Happy Birthday”.

Mike’s true calling in life was to be a father. He reveled in the opportunity to tell stories, play games, and participate in every aspect of Sarah and Philip’s lives. Mike mastered the tightrope of encouraging and supporting his children. His mentorship and love served as strong motivators that helped his children succeed in life. Sarah currently holds a Doctor of Science from LSU Health Science Center and an MBA from Tulane University. Philip, after graduating with an engineering degree from Annapolis Naval Academy served as a Major in the Marine Corps. Mike truly set the benchmark for being a father, mentor, and friend.

Mike graduated to the level of “Pops” after the birth of his grandchildren, Ellie and Owen. It is a well-known fact, according to Ellie, that Pops went to Silly School and is the silliest person ever. She is incredibly proud that Pops taught her how to be silly, and she is advancing well in her studies. Pops’ ability to bring story characters to life, do impressions, and invent silly games was a true gift to his grandchildren. As a master fisherman, Pops also spent a great deal of time teaching Owen to fish and drive a boat. In Mike’s short time with his grandchildren, he was able to instill a lifetime of love. He will be remembered and cherished all their lives.

Mike was very creative and loved nothing more than to sow joy wherever he went, which made him a natural center of attention. He was famous for being

quick with the most believable of all big fish tales and had several alternate egos that were crowd favorites. Mike had a knack for creating a story that would keep you on the edge of your seat, and he could embellish a real-life story that would be more interesting than life itself. Mike always added such great humor to all of his stories; his philosophy was a story needed to make you laugh at the end.

Mike played as passionately as he worked. He loved living in New Orleans, where he had a passionate love affair with the local festivities, especially Mardi Gras. He was a member of the Endymion crew for six years and the Tucks crew for two years. Year after year, you could count on finding him at Jazz Fest in his floral shirt and famous turtle hat. Mike's favorite pastime was dancing with Sharon in their kitchen as they fixed the family dinner. When they took their dancing to the festivals of the city, people would go out of their way to tell Mike and Sharon they were the best in show. Practice makes perfect!

After 33 years raising their family in River Ridge, it was time for Sharon and Mike to make their move to paradise and start easing into retirement. The plan was to work until he was 65 then be in the perfect position to enjoy the golden years. The Lord had a different plan. After six months in paradise, Mike was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. Their new home was a beautiful place for Mike to convalesce. As he liked to say, they "had a million-dollar view" of the bay and all of nature in its glory. His boat was an easy access to the local beaches and fishing. Mike truly felt blessed to be in his new home while courageously battling his cancer.

Mike passed away on August 17, 2021 at the age of 62. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Sharon; his daughter, Sarah; and his son Philip and family Andrea, Ellie, and Owen. He is also survived by his brother Steve Inman (Jean) and his niece Jessica Babst (Beau) and their son James. Even though

he was taken from this world earlier than hoped, he was left surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor his legacy and celebrate his spirit by living life to the fullest.