



Michael F.X. DeSalis

March 29, 1956 - January 13, 2025

Michael F.X. DeSalis, age 68, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2025, surrounded by his son, Xavier and partner Mary. Born on March 29, 1956, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he grew up in Brookhaven, PA attending Our Lady of Charity school. Michael showed an early affinity for swimming and began competing at a young age at Knowlton Swim Club. His success earned him a scholarship at Malvern Prep where he was named an All American. He was also the President of the Student Council of his Senior Class. He graduated from Penn State University spending summers as an Ocean City Lifeguard and loved being by the water to continue to swim. He had a very successful career as a U.S. Postal Inspector which included a time working in Homeland Security during 9/11. The birth of his beloved son Xavier was his blessing that changed his world. As a father, he was unwavering in his love, support and dedication. Michael had many talents that included total refurbishment of many homes, starting at the age of 12 finishing the basement of his childhood home with his father. He helped his family and friends with many home projects and approached every project with dedication and pride. His talents also included restoration of classic cars and boats. His large fishing boat was a multi - year winner in the Ocean City Night In Venice. Though his hands built sturdy walls, his heart was filled with music with a deep appreciation for the Grateful Dead. He found joy and inspiration in their songs attending concerts across the country, naming his first boat, Ship of Fools. He loved living in Ocean City being by the water and beaches where he grew up as a lifeguard.

He was so proud when his son, Xavier followed his footsteps as a lifeguard in Ocean City and then Florida. He deeply valued his relationships, maintaining strong friendships with an extensive group of close friends from grade school, high school, college, lifeguard and work. These lifelong bonds were a testament to his loyalty, kindness and ability to bring people together. For the last 7 years he enjoyed a special relationship with Mary spending time together bike riding on the boardwalk, visiting family and friends and traveling back and forth between Ocean City and Stuart, Florida. Michael was the cherished son of the late Michael J. and Mary J. De Salis, a beloved father of Xavier (Caroline) DeSalis, a devoted partner to Mary Ciociola, and dearly loved by his sisters, Denise (Dan) Daly, Michele Sorento and the late Lisa Wituschek. He was a much loved uncle and father figure who treasured his nephews, nieces, including a former relationship's children, Angelo and Alexis and was a significant part of their lives. His memory will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew him. There will be a celebration of life scheduled at a future date. The family invites donations in Michael's name to Ocean City Beach Patrol Alumni OCRAA OCBP Alumni PO Box 880 Ocean City, NJ 08226 or The Jimmy V Foundation <https://donate.v.org>.

"Fare you well. Fare you well. I love you more than words can tell. Listen to the river sing sweet songs to rock my soul." - Brokedown Palace

Tribute Wall

BM

“ I enjoyed working with Mike at the UScPistol Inspection Service NHQ. Mike cut a dashing figure in his work suit but was fun, irreverent and very smart! I was just thinking about the satirical bumper sticker version of the Volkswagen slogan of the time , “ Fahrvergnügen” that he had posted in his cubicle at work. Mike will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Bob Martin - May 07, 2025 at 07:21 PM

LI

“ Mike was a friend to those in hardship! God bless him for all the good he did in his life. I have been riding a vintage Cannondale he donated from his garage. I have ridden it for miles and miles sustaining my life for years...like a best friend. Thank you Mike.

Lisa - March 07, 2025 at 01:54 PM

DS

“ We are very saddened to learn of Mikes passing. We didn't know Mike really well but always enjoyed seeing him when we were down in Stuart. He was a wonderful neighbor & our thoughts & prayers are with his family.
The Stokes

Deane Stokes - February 09, 2025 at 10:22 PM

RT

“ Mike viewed life as a challenge and a joy. We first met guarding on the Upper Township Beach Patrol. We discovered we shared a history of working at neighboring Jersey Shore Beach Patrols and enjoyed exchanging stories from our similar pasts. Then we learned we both had homes in Stuart FL which resulted in a friendship and new adventures spanning both Summer and Winter. Mike had a beautiful spirit as my friend who included me in his family Thanksgiving holiday, invited me to many memorable dinners with himself and Mary, helped me move a load of furniture into my condo, and hit the links with me at my place many times where he'd enjoyed playing with his Dad in previous years. Mike took my phone call a week before he passed and said with brave humility that all i could do was pray for him. An exceptional friend, he was proud of his son Xay, devoted partner to Mary, and a respected Captain. Mike lived a rich, full, exciting life. He will be greatly missed and is teaching us to have courage during this time and to sleep in peace because God is awake.

Rodney Tice - February 04, 2025 at 08:02 PM



“ Mike and I started with OCBP the same year which gave us a bond that not many have. We had a great conversation at the 2024 OCBP Alumni Reunion just as if there were hardly any years between our time on OCBP and the reunion. Rest in Peace Mike and Condolances to Family and Friends.

Michael Fellmeth

Michael Fellmeth - January 29, 2025 at 02:57 PM

JH

“ Was so sad to hear the news of Mike’s passing. Mike was a fellow swim team member at Malvern Prep. Tough all-around freestyler and always clutch on the 400 yard free relay. More importantly, a great friend to all on the team. Years later I was happy to re-connect with him when joining the OCBP and later at the reunions and races. Will miss you Mike. Rest in Peace. Jeff Hurley

Jeffrey Hurley - January 25, 2025 at 05:55 PM

JB

“ Mike captured how he felt about our 63 years of friendship with the text he sent days before his passing: "It's been a long journey together [with you and Pete] from kindergarten and apart as we followed our own different paths in high school, college, and careers, but somehow we always remained close and involved in each other's lives. I am very grateful." I can't think of a more thoughtful way to express how we all felt - a generous gift to us - but that was Mike. There are no words to express how much we will miss him. John Bogan

John Bogan - January 24, 2025 at 04:12 PM

KM

Well, gosh this is hard. I first met Mike at linville pool when I was 12. He was a new lifeguard and we all liked the new member of the staff. As I've been reminiscing about the rather unique relationship I had with Mike, one situation really sticks out in my mind.

It was the heat of the summer and I was at the mall with my mom. Our car broke down and Mike, also being at the mall saw us and stopped. My mom had called triple A and he hung out with us while we waited. I mean what 18 year old guy would spend a couple hours on a hot summer day hanging with Mrs Piccione and her daughter .

But that's it, right there...he stuck it out with us , he made conversation and didn't leave until AAA showed up.

Our friendship lasted a long time and for that I am very fortunate . I could go years and not see him but I would just somehow touch base with him and we would work out a visit.

The visit was always hilarious and crazy conversations of insane fun. I will really miss my friend, who a lot of times was like a bro. Thanks Mike I so appreciated being a part of the journey. Pic

kathy mccarry - January 25, 2025 at 08:58 PM

KM

I met Mike in 1989 just after graduating from the Inspection Service academy working contract audits with him. We lived a few miles apart in Anne Arundel country, MD. He would help me with my boat at the drop of a hat! This was particularly sad news.

Ken Male - May 07, 2025 at 03:16 PM