



Michael Spence

October 2, 1964 - January 10, 2025

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

Michael Bennett Spence, 60, passed away peacefully in the arms of his wife, Briana, on Friday, January 10, 2025 in Olive Branch , MS.

Michael was born on October 2, 1964 in Atlanta, GA to Craig Spence, Sr. and Mary Jean Spence.

After Michael graduated from MacArthur High School in San Antonio, TX, he went on to Fork Union Military Academy where his love for learning deepened. From there, Michael was recruited to The United States Military Academy West Point to play basketball. After West Point, he continued to serve his country honorably at Fort Knox, KY. Once his service was complete, Michael went on to further his education, receiving his master's degree from Thunderbird School of Global Management. After graduating from college, Michael started his career and ultimately ended up in Memphis, TN working for Federal Express. He devoted his career to FedEx for 24 years, with the last eight years as a senior manager in Global Digital. Throughout his career, he was awarded many accolades and made many life-long friends.

Although Michael took pride in his education and service to his country, he always felt his main accomplishments were his love for God and his family.

Michael loved his Lord and Savior and his wife, Briana, and their three boys more than anything in the world. To know Michael, is to know the simplest pleasures in life brought him the most joy. He loved days spent with the boys, playing basketball, throwing the football, walks around the lake, fishing, hunting, s'mores around the fire, Bible studies at home, and simple nights in cuddled up, watching movies together. He loved making memories together on family vacations to the beach, the lake, and the mountains, something he looked forward to every year. He was a devoted follower of Christ and a loving husband and father.

Michael was known to many as a gentle giant, which is why it is no surprise that while he may have been tall in stature, he had a soft side. He took to writing poetry later in his life. He loved to encourage and lift people's spirits through his writings. He went on to publish his first book, "Morning's Curtain," in 2021, and his second book, "no ordinary seed," will be published next year. He wanted his poetry to bring joy and comfort to all who read it.

Michael's hope is that all who loved him will continue to honor his legacy by living their life to the fullest, and that all would know his life didn't come to an end with his death. Rather, he lives forever with his Lord and Savior.

Michael was preceded in death by his father, Craig Spence, Sr.

Michael is survived by his wife, Briana Spence, and their three sons, Luke Spence, Ethan Spence and Weston Spence; his mother, Mary Jean Spence of San Antonio, TX; and brothers, Craig Spence, Jr. of West Bridgewater, MA and Douglas Spence of San Antonio, TX.

He also leaves behind a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews that adored him dearly.

Friends are invited to a visitation with the family on Tuesday, January 21,

2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bonne Terre (4715 Church Rd., Nesbit, MS 38651). A Celebration of a Life service to honor the life of Michael Spence will follow at 2:00 p.m. Pastor James Merritt will officiate. Interment will be held at a later date at West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Tunnel to Towers (www.t2t.org) or Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

In honor of Michael Spence's service to our country, the flag of the United States Army will be flown at Coleman Funeral Home the day of the service.

Cemetery Details

West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

4000 Forest Hill Irene Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bonne Terre
4715 Church Road
Nesbit, MS 38651

Celebration of Life

JAN 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Bonne Terre
4715 Church Road
Nesbit, MS 38651

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Spence



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - January 17, 2025 at 04:05 PM

DS

“ I miss my brother every minute of the day. I still can't believe he's gone from us.

Douglas W Spence - April 21, 2025 at 06:09 PM

DS

“ I went to school with Mike, although I do not remember him. I do read his poetry, and am always inspired by it. He had a great gift, and shared it with others. I hope someone will still post some of his poems on FB. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. God be with you all!! Donna Sanders

Donna Sanders - January 21, 2025 at 08:59 PM

HF

“ Hillis and Hutcherson Families purchased the En during Grace for the family of Michael Spence.



Hillis and Hutcherson Families - January 21, 2025 at 10:23 AM

DK

“ Dennis, Mike, Louis, and Kevin purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael Spence.



Dennis, Mike, Louis, and Kevin - January 20, 2025 at 09:43 AM

CV

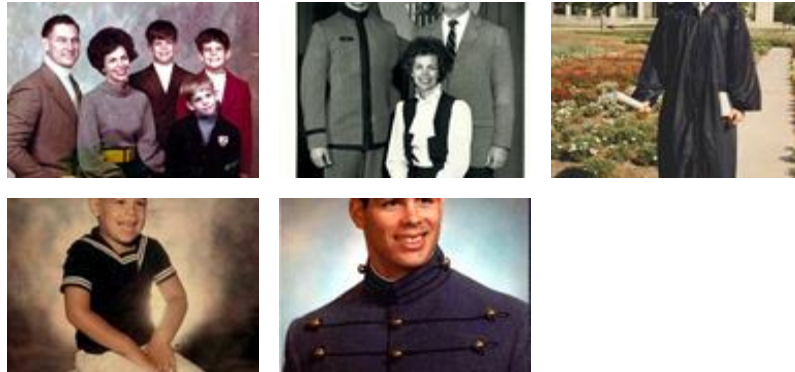
“ Coach Vance purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Michael Spence.



Coach Vance - January 20, 2025 at 09:21 AM



“ 25 files added to the album Life Tributes



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - January 18, 2025 at 12:39 PM

BD

I am deeply saddened to learn of Mike's passing. I worked at FedEx with Mike. I met him during a workshop in which we had to work together to create and tell a story about ourselves. Mike and I instantly hit it off as we were both military veterans, loved and cherished family and shared a passion for sports. Mike had many superpowers, but one that I remember most was his outstanding ability to communicate and connect with others at a deep and meaningful level. It was truly inspirational to me. I shall treasure the memories of Mike, of his kindness and relentless strength. I pray that his family finds peace and strength as well in the days ahead. - Bill Danzi

Bill Danzi - January 19, 2025 at 05:33 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Spence.



January 18, 2025 at 08:00 AM

CE

“ Mike, you will be dearly missed. You were a great colleague and friend. You have the victory in Jesus's name. Amen. - Celeste

Celeste - January 17, 2025 at 10:30 PM

NS

“ my love and prayers are with each of you, Norma Steinman

norma steinman - January 17, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ 98 files added to the album Life Tributes



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - January 17, 2025 at 02:37 PM

BJ

“ *Sad to hear about Mike passing away, but smiling about the memories of him whenever we met in Memphis, Belgium or online. Like taking Mike for an evening in Antwerp in my small car on a busy highway, must have been a scary ride for him. My condolences to his family.*

Bjorn - January 17, 2025 at 03:11 AM

 Jackie Jackson

“ *Mike and I were peers at FedEx years ago and remained in contact after I left the team. As colleagues, he was always willing to help whenever I called. We were also Facebook friends through the years. His book of poetry is in my library and I enjoyed contemplating every word written. It was no questioning his faith. He knew God and loved his family. I will miss his posts and his smile. Blessings and encouragement to beautiful Briana and your children.*

Jackie Jackson - January 16, 2025 at 03:06 PM

KM

“ I knew Mike from working at FedEx. I'll never forget him reaching out to me with encouraging words and some of his poetry after my Dad passed in May of 2024. I never worked for Mike, but that touched my heart hearing his kind words! Rest easy Mike and Praying for the family during this difficult time!

Keith McWhite - January 16, 2025 at 12:28 PM

RS

“ Michael, my friend, I am going to truly miss you. Thank you for being such a great example of a loving husband, father, and friend. As we say at West Point to a fallen Soldier, “Be Thou at Peace.”
Ron Steptoe

Ronald Steptoe - January 16, 2025 at 07:40 AM

JM

“ My high school classmate was a great person to know. When he was writing Morning's Curtain, he honored another classmate of ours. He was always thinking of others. May you rest in peace, my friend. God bless! Our paths will cross again.

John McMahon - January 16, 2025 at 06:08 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Spence.



January 15, 2025 at 08:42 PM

GF

“ *Garon and Flora Marion and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Spence.*



Garon and Flora Marion and Family - January 15, 2025 at 04:59 PM

PH

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers go out for the family.*

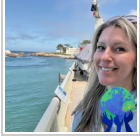


Peggy Hensley - January 15, 2025 at 04:27 PM

DH

“ *Mike was a wonderful person! I was initially sadden to hear of his passing. I worked at FedEx with him and he was always available to answer questions and provide assistance on projects when I was in Services. He will truly be missed, yet I am certain I will see him again. Peace, strength, and comfort to the family.*

Daphnee Housley - January 15, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ Mike was my colleague at FedEx and my son Kaiden’s basketball “Coach Spence” from the age of 6-12. I read Mike’s poem about his father at my own father’s funeral as we both shared in the pains of caregiving for Parkinson’s.

Mike was one of those people that made you feel heard, made you feel seen.... treated everyone with dignity and respect. A character like no other and I know the angels are singing at his return. Mike you touched mine and my son’s life and people like you are never forgotten. Our stories will be told forever. My heart goes out to Brianna and the boys for such a deep loss. I bet Jesus wanted to met up first thing ❤️

Amanda Pannell - January 15, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ Jason, Barkley, Oakley and Easton March purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Michael Spence.



Jason, Barkley, Oakley and Easton March - January 15, 2025 at 01:20 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Michael Spence.



January 15, 2025 at 01:18 PM

CO

“ Mike and I were co-workers for many years at FedEx. During this time we shared long conversations about faith, families, the military, sports and aspirations. Most of all faith and family. He worshiped Brianna and his boys. Mike was a gifted man in many ways and always had his priorities in order. Among other things he left behind beautiful poetry for our inspiration. Goodbye Mike, all of us are better for knowing you.

Craig O'Connor - January 13, 2025 at 01:01 PM

DT

“ Denezza & Emanuel Thomas purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Michael Spence.



Denezza & Emanuel Thomas - January 12, 2025 at 04:42 PM

LN

“ Louis and Dionne Noisette purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Michael Spence.



Louis and Dionne Noisette - January 12, 2025 at 10:10 AM