



## Howard Michael Rich

November 7, 1960 - March 4, 2025

Howard Michael Rich, 64, died the evening of Tuesday, March 4th at S. Mitchell Mack Hospice House in Mooresville, NC, after an aggressive battle with cancer. Michael is the son of the late Howard Rich and the late Jane Farris.

Michael is survived by his wife of 17 years, Rosemary (Rose) Rich; son Jeremiah Stanton-Rich and daughter-in-law Caitlin of Todd, NC; stepson David Cohen of Cornelius, NC; sister JoAnne Hastings and husband Bill of Tampa, FL, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Born into a military family in Paris, France on November 7, 1960, Michael spent his childhood and teen years on several Air Force bases including Germany, North Dakota, Colorado and Florida. He claims Elba, Alabama as his home base, where he attended high school. A lifelong learner, Michael attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, then proceeded on to Duke Divinity School where he earned a Ph.D in Divinity and Religion, and University of Maryland where he earned a Ph.D in Recreation.

After hearing a call to ministry as a teen, Michael spent his life in the service of others as a United Methodist pastor. His passion for the pulpit took him to many churches in Western North Carolina and even Japan, but the mountains of Western North Carolina called him back where he continued to serve until his retirement in 2023. Overall, Michael spent over 40 years in ministry, attending to God's flock and making an impact on many communities by organizing volunteer events, serving the needy and counseling the many

souls who sought his guidance.

Michael loved playing and listening to music, especially Bluegrass. He loved and cherished his cats, Blackie and Ellie who spent many hours in his lap. Michael also enjoyed traveling with his wife, Rose, and enjoyed taking and displaying photographs. He was a man of few words but with a heart so big that it changed the lives of everyone he encountered. He will be truly missed. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church, 575 Brawley School Rd, Mooresville on Saturday March 15th, 2025, starting at 2pm. The family will greet friends at a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR), GPO, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068, or to Williamson's Chapel, 575 Brawley School Rd, Mooresville NC 28117. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville is proudly serving the Rich family.

# Cemetery Details

## **Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory**

494 E. Plaza Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Previous Events

## **Celebration of Life Service**

**MAR 15.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church  
575 Brawley School Road  
Mooresville, NC 28117

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Dear Rose

*We haven't met but I knew Mike very well whilst he was our pastor here at Kobe Union Church, Japan. I cherish so many good memories, and perhaps above all Mike's constant humour, despite everything, and his folksy common sense. He kept us on a very even keel, despite all sorts of machinations that should really be turned into a great novel. It was not an easy time, but Mike was much respected. He was there for everybody. And of course Jeremiah flourished. We will create a memorial and also send some funds to charity, in his name. I will send you those details in due course. We are praying for you, for Jeremiah and all Mike's vast family of relatives and friends. Blessings and warm memories from Michael Shackleton, and the congregation of Kobe Union Church.*

Michael Shackleton - April 01, 2025 at 12:13 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Howard Michael Rich.

March 15, 2025 at 12:28 PM

GF

“ GU Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Howard Michael Rich.



GU Family - March 13, 2025 at 12:02 PM

GF

“ GU Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Michael Rich.

GU Family - March 13, 2025 at 12:02 PM

CC

“ Rose, so sorry for your heartbreaking loss. May your memories bring comfort, peace and strength to you and your family.

Christie Yoder and Caroline Collins - March 10, 2025 at 02:22 PM

SB

“ Mike was our pastor at Mayodan Methodist in Mayodan, NC back in the 1990's. He was a beloved pastor and friend. He bought a Toyota T-100 truck and was sooo excited. He was like a kid at Christmas. Please accept our deepest condolences from Mayodan Methodist Church.

Steve Boles - March 07, 2025 at 11:06 AM

SR

“ We are so sorry for your loss Rose. Sending our condolences to you and your family. Ryan and Sari

Sari Rogers - March 06, 2025 at 12:54 PM

JW

“ Rose: You're not alone. Celebrate Michael's life.  
"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Pslam 23:4 JeffW

Jeff Weis - March 06, 2025 at 12:04 PM

CD

“ Rose, words cannot express the sorrow that I feel for you and your family at this time. May God bring your peace and comfort in the coming days.

*With much Love, Crystal DiGiacomo Matthew 5:4*

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**Crystal DiGiacomo** - March 06, 2025 at 11:52 AM

KC

“ Rose, my heart is so heavy hearing the news of Michael. I am so sorry you are walking through this. So much we don't understand this side of heaven. Just know that your BOAs are for you. And that we care. Isaiah 57:1-2

*Karen Clark*



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**Karen Clark** - March 06, 2025 at 09:37 AM