



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF  
*Dr. Michael F. Cahill DMD*

March 19, 1935 - March 24, 2026



Michael Cahill led a life rich in love and laughter; he was appreciated for being a warm, gentle presence in his community and the steadfast rock of his family. He was a constant source of strength, no matter the circumstances, and he was a powerful role model. His life was a testimony to the value of hard work, kindness, and compassion. Mike cherished every moment spent with his friends and family. He prioritized faith as a cornerstone in his life, and his generosity has left an unforgettable impact on so many. Dearly loved, Mike will be remembered forever by those who knew him.

The early 1930s were far from the easiest years to be living in the United States. During the Great Depression it was vital that families find joy wherever they could. Nowhere was there more to celebrate than in the household of Frank and Genevieve Cahill as they happily announced the arrival of their first child, Michael, born March 19, 1935. Six years later a brother, Paul would complete the family.

The family lived on Bartlett Avenue in Erlanger, and Mike remembered his childhood experiences as idyllic. Children were free to explore, and Mike enjoyed walking around on farmland and fishing in Silverlake pond. Neighbors looked out for one another and helped whenever needed.

Mike attended Saint Henry Elementary School where he was an excellent student and enjoyed playing baseball and basketball. He was also a member of the rifle club. While in high school at a local dance, Mike met the beautiful Pat McGinnis. The young couple began to date and enjoyed spending time together. Mike worked as a caddy at Summit Hills Country Club and delivered groceries for Koenig's Market in Erlanger. Mike graduated from St. Henry High School in 1953.

Mike began attending Villa Madonna College. One of the nuns observed that he was academically gifted and she set about to fast track his college studies. He graduated in just two years and immediately enrolled in the University of Louisville Dental School. When Mike graduated from Dental School in 1959, he was fulfilling a lifelong dream. Since Mike was six years old, he had wanted to be a dentist.

Pat attended Good Samaritan Nursing School and she and Mike reconnected. Pat's mother did not recognize Mike when she saw him. He was no longer the skinny kid she remembered from high school, but a humble, kind young man.

The young couple enjoyed dancing at Moonlight Gardens and spending time together. They were married on May 7, 1960.

Mike began his dental practice with Dr. Ramey in Erlanger. After a couple of years, he decided to start his own practice on Commonwealth Avenue.



It was quite a leap of faith for Mike and Pat to believe it would be a successful move, but their courage and determination paid off. Not only were they starting a professional endeavor, but they had also begun growing their family. Maureen was born in 1961, Patrick in 1962, Laura in 1963, and Marianne in 1966.

In 1964, the Cahills built a new home on North Ashbrook, in Lakeside Park. It was a great neighborhood for a family with children. Parents socialized while the kids ran freely in the neighborhood. Pat stayed home and cared for the children. They recall their dad's quick-witted humor, as well as his slap stick comedy. Mike would smack shoes together as he climbed the stairs to issue punishment for a child's misbehavior. He often joked with the kids' friends telling them to not mind the alligator in their bathtub. All his pranks were done in good fun and with love.

As a dentist, Mike was personal and professional. His patients loved him and appreciated his dedication and reasonable charges... Often he helped patients who could not afford dental care. He always shared his home phone number and was available for dental emergencies day and night. He even dedicated his time after a commercial airline disaster, helping to identify victims through dental records.

Mike was active in the Northern Kentucky Dental Association and the American Dental Association. He served as president for the Kentucky Dental Association, and he and Pat traveled extensively as members of these associations. Mike also volunteered at the Abbey of Gethsemani, caring for the dental needs of the Trappist Monks.

The Cahills enjoyed vacations to Myrtle Beach, Gatlinburg, and the Kentucky State Parks. The children recalled loading up in the station wagon, no seatbelts or suitcases for the children, but each child had a beer case that held their clothes. They would walk into the hotel or lodge with their beer cases!

Mike loved playing golf at Summit Hills Country Club. He and Pat played in a twilight golf league together until Mike took a corner too fast and threw Pat out of the cart!





That was the end of golf for Pat! They also enjoyed playing bridge with friends. Mike enjoyed his beer, his Manhattan or a good glass of wine.

As the children grew and moved on, the Cahills were able to travel more. They visited Greece and Italy. One of their favorite trips was a trip to Ireland with three other couples including Larry Cahill who researched their Irish roots.

Mike was a daily communicant and longtime member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Devoted to his faith, he served as an example of how to treat others.

Sadly, at the age of 83 years old, Mike had to close his practice after a fire in a neighboring office destroyed his equipment and office. Mike joked, "I retired because I got burnt out!"

Mike and Pat downsized to a condo as they both faced health issues. Mike was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and Pat was diagnosed with throat cancer. Mike had surgery and recovered, however, sadly the love of his life, died in 2018.

Mike loved spending time with his grandchildren who referred to him as Grandpa Dude. He remained active and just loved having conversations with them. He often said, "You learn more when you are silent because you listen better!"

Mike kept himself busy after Pat's death. He was an avid reader, and he enjoyed lunch on Mondays at Peewee's with his retired medical friends. On Tuesdays, he lunched with his retired dentist friends, and on Wednesday and Thursday, he volunteered at St. Elizabeth Hospice where Pat had once served as volunteer coordinator.

He continued to have some medical issues, and his children joked that he had nine lives. He would spend time in rehab but always rejoiced when he could return home. Mike enjoyed visits from friends and was lovingly cared for by his children.

As the end drew near, Mike said he was ready to go home and be with Jesus. He died shortly after his 91st birthday on March 24, 2026.

Mike Cahill will be remembered as a kind, caring, faithful man who was a servant of the Lord. Mike lived each day caring for others as Jesus taught us to do. He will be missed by all who were lucky to have known him.

