



Michael A. Friend

August 26, 2023

Michael Anthony Christopher Friend was born September 24, 1950, the son of Rita and Roy Friend, in Brooklyn, NY. He grew up in Richmond Hill, Queens and attended Archbishop Molloy High School and St. John's University. He was a true child of the 60s - passionately anti-war, anti-violence, anti-nonsense. He was incredibly well read and alive in the world. His interests and intellect ran deep. His love of music, particularly that of the Beatles, was unsurpassed and infectious. He was an accomplished guitarist and played in several bands throughout his life. He notably performed with his closest friend, Paul Krez, as Sweet Morning. They played at various venues around Greenwich Village for many years and graced his cousin Jeannie's Sweet 16 with a memorable set.

When it came to work, Michael was a renaissance man. He was a Master Carpenter, building furniture, houses and among other things, beautiful candlesticks for those close to him. After countless hours in the kitchen with his Yiayia in Washington Heights, he attended culinary school and became a chef, working at a number of fine restaurants in NYC, ultimately joining Restaurant Associates where he was assigned to iconic locations like the United Nations and the US Open. Later Michael became certified in kitchen safety and for many years consulted in that field.

While he loved to travel, Michael was a New Yorker through and through. He loved the Mets, the Jets, sarcasm and was on a mission to try every Greek restaurant in the city.

Michael is likely best known for his love and devotion to his family, especially his mother, Rita, who he cared for over many years, and his sister Kathleen. You could often find them on the beach, worshipping the sun, the sand and the surf.

He lived life with gusto, sharing his interests and knowledge not only with his family and friends, but with anyone he met - in restaurants, bars, grocery stores and laundromats. He couldn't help but make his presence known. He was lovable and one-of-a-kind. His absence will be deeply felt.

He is survived by his sister, Kathleen, Aunt Betty and cousins, Kathy, Diane, Kenneth, Brian, Jeannie, Tina, Catherine, James, Sophia and Tess, Barrie and Allie - and his Godchildren, John Paul and Alexandra. He also leaves behind a lifelong group of friends from Molloy as well as many others he met along his life's journey. He remembered everyone he ever met, and they remembered him.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday 10AM at St. Mary, Roslyn Harbor. Private cremation to follow.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary RC Church
110 Bryant Ave
Roslyn, NY 11576-1191
(516) 621-2222

Tribute Wall

SS

“ We knew Michael as a great neighbor along with his Dad Roy and Mom Rita....all great people! Michael pursued a path in the culinary world and quickly secured jobs....likely due to his good nature, friendliness and perhaps ability at cooking!
He was missed as soon as we moved from Rego Park to Manhattan...a step we took over 35 years ago . We often still thought and talked about the "Friend" family!

steve smith - April 15, 2024 at 07:15 PM

CF

“ RIP, great person !!! Enjoyed working with him!!

Claudia A Fitzgerald - August 31, 2023 at 10:05 AM

 Paul
Krez

“ 1 file added to the album Friends



Paul Krez - August 30, 2023 at 05:09 PM

PA

“ 3 files added to the album Mike's photos



Paul - August 30, 2023 at 03:49 PM

JL

“ In the 70s my wife, Elisabeth, and I were privileged to be a member of a small group of friends who became somewhat of a family. From then on, Michael was my brother and I was his. Our lives went to opposite coasts and we didn't see each other for decades, but the love of brotherhood never faded. Today my heart is broken.

Jack Leustig - August 29, 2023 at 12:38 PM

AM

In the world there are good people and once in a while you come across a truly great one. A gem. A keeper. Mike was one of those. DB and I are heartbroken through and through. Very grateful we got to see him a few times in recent years as we've been living in Los Angeles for so long. We are going to miss him terribly. A terrible loss for the many people who loved him, like us.

Amy Malina - August 30, 2023 at 01:07 PM

 Paul Krez

The nicest man I have had the pleasure to know. Rest in peace Michael.

Paul Krez - August 30, 2023 at 05:11 PM

CF

During my four years sitting right in front of him in homeroom at Molloy as a student and then, much later, my three years as an administrator Michael was never far away. His wit, wisdom and culinary connections were endless. Most important, his dedication to his friends and family knew no bounds. We weep... The Angels sing.

Charles H Flood - August 30, 2023 at 09:49 PM