



William Michael 'Mike' Bird

February 3, 1963 - July 7, 2025

William Michael "Mike" Bird, 62 of Hattiesburg MS passed away peacefully at home on July 7, 2025 after a long battle with cancer.

Mike is survived by his husband of 23 years Lee Rigdon-Bird; brothers Keith Bird of Las Cruces, NM and Steve Bird (Lisa) of Phoenix, AZ; nephews Jacob Edwards (Chloe) of Richland, MS, Steven Bird of Phoenix, AZ, Jackson Edwards of Billings, MT, David Bird of Phoenix, AZ, and one niece Erin Bird of Phoenix, AZ.

Mike was born the first son to Willis Monroe "Dub" and Mary Frances "Tancy" Bird on February 3, 1963 in El Paso, TX. After graduation from Burley High School in Burley Idaho, he served in the National Guard then obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from New Mexico State University. He was an accomplished ICU/ER travel nurse for many years. Mike and Lee made their home in Hattiesburg where many lasting friendships were made throughout his career. He received a Masters of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner in 2017 and took pride in being the best provider possible to his patients.

Mike never met a stranger, always had a warm smile and left a lasting impact on anyone lucky enough to befriend him. His work ethic and attention to detail was nothing short of amazing. His integrity, caring heart and resourceful

nature will be missed in the days to come.

Fishing, boating, hunting and woodworking were some of Mike's favorite pastimes as well as making beautiful decorations and stained glass creations. Most of all, his favorite place, time and person was sitting on their back porch overlooking the lake with Lee, the absolute love of his life and their golden doodles Rowan and Remi.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents Willis Monroe and Mary Frances Bird, and father in law Harold Rigdon.

Information on the celebration of Mike's life will be posted soon.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Hattiesburg Cancer Center.

Special thanks to Dr Laurie Douglas, oncologist at Hattiesburg Cancer Center, for the care given to Mike.

Tribute Wall

SA

“ 12 files added to the album Mike



Sarah - July 15, 2025 at 06:20 PM

SA

“ Rare is a person that embodies qualities like Mike. He was gentle, kind, affable, silly, loyal, steadfast, intelligent, strong, generous, welcoming, dedicated, and genuine. He was always one of the people you wanted at your side - brunches, parades, dinners, parties, even watching TV or sitting on the back porch - all were made better with Mike there. My only regret is that I never got him over to The Grand to enjoy the bay breezes like I promised. Through the years of battling cancer and all the shit that comes with it, he remained optimistic, and worked and lived like he wasn't in pain, even though at points of his journey every step he took was anguishing. He fought hard up to his last day to stay here. His battle has come to an end. We are both richer for having known him, and at the same time, poorer for no longer having him with us here. Mike was a beautiful soul.



Sarah - July 15, 2025 at 06:17 PM

LE

“ Mike was truly a gift to this world. He loved people with his whole being. He never met a stranger. He would truly help anyone in need. He made people feel special. He was so humble. He appreciated his life and lived every moment to the fullest. He loved adventures, but also loved the quiet simple days. He gave the best hugs and we always had the best conversations, he was an incredible listener and always made me feel so special. I am so honored to have been his friend. What a huge loss of an incredible human being. I'll miss his sweet face forever.



Lisa Eisenberger - July 14, 2025 at 06:36 AM

MM

“ It is still hard to believe Mike is gone. He was one of the most kind, fun, and knowledgeable people I know. His heart was always open to friends and family. He was always willing to help. He was tougher than anyone I’ve ever met. To have him be your friend and love you felt like you had won the lottery. Everytime he would hug me it was pure love and friendship. My heart will forever have a break in it because he was taken so soon, but I am so lucky to have gotten to call him friend.



Molly Martin - July 10, 2025 at 06:22 PM

DN

“ I don’t even know where to begin with how I am feeling about Mike’s passing away. He was indeed one of the most genuine men I had the honor of meeting, having had in my life, and blessed to have been able to call him my friend. From his dedication in both his nursing career to his role as a NP, he always put his patients first. He and Lee both mean the world to me!!! Until we meet again buddy, I will always think of you whenever I look back in my first couple of years as a new director in emergency services and although he never knew it (or maybe he did) I treasure his opinion and ideas always. God’s speed friend 💙



Dixie Norris - July 09, 2025 at 10:26 PM

DJ

“ Mike was one of the kindest, most compassionate, and caring nurses I ever met. When talking with him, he was without a doubt totally invested in the conversation and he never gave the perception of being hurried. He always seemed so grateful for his life and his blessings. He persevered with such grace during times of tremendous physical and emotional challenges. I am sad about the loss of this great friend, provider and warrior who wore a shield of love and kindness as he fought his battle to the end .

Debbie Johnson - July 09, 2025 at 07:36 PM

AM

“ No matter how many times I said “ Andrew“ he kept referring to me as Dr. Marsh. Many a time I would render an opinion and with a slow steady response, he would give me an answer that always invariably was right in contradistinction to the very opinion I had just recently rendered. A gentleman through and through, the likes of which is truly a rarity these days. Mike, my brother from another mother, I shall miss you greatly. until we meet again.

Andrew R. Marsh, MD - July 09, 2025 at 06:38 PM

WB

“ West & Lori Benson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Michael 'Mike' Bird.



West & Lori Benson - July 09, 2025 at 05:22 PM

LB

“ To know Mike - was to love him ❤️ He was an incredible person and I'm grateful I was able to call him my friend. He was a bright light every time I saw him. Mike had the best smile and hugs

Lori Benson - July 09, 2025 at 05:19 PM

JM

“ Mike, you were such a genuine person. Always looked forward to seeing you and Lee. May you rest in eternal peace.



Jay Marshall - July 09, 2025 at 05:00 PM