



## Michael Richard LaRosa

October 14, 1954 - May 19, 2019

Linden - Michael R. LaRosa, age 64, of Linden passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Mike was born in South Hempstead, NY on October 14, 1954, the son of Richard and Louise E. (Lisee) LaRosa. He arrived in Wisconsin in 1984. Mike is survived by his wife Susan M. Schmidt of Linden, father Richard, daughters Raffica (Ben Gollmer) and Joan (James Doyle), step-son David (Kait) McCullough, three grandchildren Preston, Danica, and Zoe McCullough, his siblings Theresa, Mary (Stephen) Ostop, Thomas, and Dolores (John) Paeth, and countless friends. He is preceded in death by his mother Louise (Betty).

Throughout his life, Mike never met a stranger. He lived a full and interesting life, and had many stories to tell. He could fix anything, and spent his free time inventing and tinkering. As a kid, he built ham radios. His handle was "Troubleshooter," which suited him well. Later on, he became interested in alternative energy (wind and solar), but may be best known around the neighborhood for the unusual contraptions strapped to his vehicles (gasifiers) that allowed him to drive by burning wood for fuel. Mike made a living as a land surveyor, took pride in his work, and left his mark across southwest Wisconsin. He was a great father who taught his daughters and step-son innumerable practical skills and always encouraged them to follow their dreams. He is forever loved and will be deeply missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, May 24, 2019 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at GORGEN FUNERAL HOME, 310 Ridge Street, Mineral Point.

In lieu of flowers, the family is accepting donations in his memory.

# Events

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**MAY** **Celebration of Life** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

**24**

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Gorgen Funeral Home

310 Ridge Street, Mineral Point, WI, US, 53565

# Comments

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“ Sad to hear of Mike's passing. Found him on the Yahoo woodgas community. He was THE guru that was decades ahead of everyone!  
Always a smile and warm greeting from him whenever we had a meet!  
Rest in peace.

Terry Grzyb  
(grizbach)

Terry Grzyb - July 26, 2019 at 01:06 PM

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“ Sincere condolences from Germany to Mike's family! I just heard the sad news. I never met him or talked to him. But we sometimes posted on the same threads in the Driveonwood forum. And from Mike's postings I learned that we were brothers in mind when it comes to the "obtainium topic" and that he was an unique and special person with a good sense of humor!

I will never forget (and try to live up to) the two most important lessons he taught me (or better: all of us):

"No blood for oil!"

and

"Never put charcoal on top of raw wood!"

May Mike rest in peace and may strength and peace also be with his family in this difficult time of loss.

Nils Foelster, aka "Sam, the German"

Nils Fölster - June 25, 2019 at 04:17 PM

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“ Mike and I shared that passion for gasifiers, we would talk hours on the phone, He was a "Good Soul" and had a great sense of humor, Very sad for his passing, Myself, and the entire gang on the woodgas list, send our condolences.

Greg Manning,  
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

**Greg Manning** - June 16, 2019 at 09:55 AM

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“ Sorry to hear of Mikes passing. I was friends with him through the woodgas scene. We talked often on the phone and I was down to Mike and Sues 2 or 3 times. They had my wife and I for lunch on one of the visits.  
I can tell you his family meant a lot to him! He usually always had something to share about Sue and you kids.  
I hadn't talked to him for quite a time lately. Life just got in the way I guess, making me rethink things. He was always an encouragement too me when we did talk. He had lots to share, and always wanted to hear what I was up to with my projects.  
He will be missed!  
David Siedschlag  
Waupun, WI

**David Siedschlag** - June 15, 2019 at 08:41 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of riding with Mike in his wood burning truck years ago. He loaded up the burner with chunks of wood and we headed down the road. I said it was running pretty good. Mike replied we're still on gasoline. He then reached down under the dash and hit a toggle switch. Mike said NOW we're running on wood gas!

The performance was almost matched. It was cool he could go back and forth between fuel sources (wood gas or gasoline).

He was a good friend and a great man!

73, Mike

ECK

**Robert Stout** - May 31, 2019 at 05:06 PM

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“ Mike's depth of thought and creativity were some of the most unusual and thought provoking times I've had. Total genius. Alternative energy guru. Excellent grade. Peace be with him.

**Tim Gavin** - May 25, 2019 at 09:26 AM

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“ I always enjoyed talking to him, Peace be with you all at this difficult time.

**Heidi Olson-Streed** - May 23, 2019 at 11:53 PM

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“ Such an interesting and unique individual. I'm sad to hear the news and my heart goes out to Mike's family.

**Carol Puder** - May 22, 2019 at 02:27 PM

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“ Mike. You never held your words back. You had the La Rosa brain. Hug Grandma for me.

**Jessica De La Rosa** - May 22, 2019 at 01:38 AM

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“ One other thing my brother taught me...when someone tells you to hold two wires, it's probably not a good idea. Mike loved his WWII hand generator. I learned after two shocks. Probably should have learned from the first :)

Thom

**Thom LaRosa** - May 21, 2019 at 04:21 PM



“ Love you Tommy

**Jessica** - May 22, 2019 at 01:30 AM



“ So sorry to hear Mike passed. R.I.P. Mike

**Ted** - June 15, 2019 at 10:28 PM

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“ I remember one year, Mike returned from college. I was in our room and instead of knocking he played his electric guitar outside the door. I miss the few jam sessions we had. I'll forever miss my brother.

Thom

**Thomas La Rosa** - May 21, 2019 at 04:15 PM

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“ Olaf and Candy purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Michael Richard LaRosa.



**Olaf and Candy** - May 21, 2019 at 07:48 AM