



Michael Thomas Toy

January 15, 1954 - June 3, 2025

Michael Thomas Toy son, brother, husband, musician, athlete, Doctor of Pharmacy

January 1954-June 2025

A Chicago area native, Michael was the third of four sons born to Gerald and Betty Toy. In high school he wrestled and ran track and enjoyed singing and playing in a rock band, causing him in later years to wonder aloud whether he should have taken his parents up on their offer to get him started in the music business rather than go to college. Summers were spent at his grandfather's lake home in Michigan. He earned a degree in genetics at University of Illinois, won numerous foosball tournaments, and ran a bar in Champaign called the Alley Cat.

In the 1980s Michael moved to Raleigh, where he briefly worked in restaurant equipment sales and court reporting before putting his degree to work in the pharmaceutical industry for companies including Kabi Pharmacia and GSK. As a quality assurance

auditor he took advantage of the opportunity to sightsee during business trips to places including Finland, England, Germany, and France. He excelled at recreational volleyball, both indoor and beach, snorkeled in Hawaii, and did scuba dives in Grand Cayman.

Michael's first date with Gwen Barclay, at her invitation, was to an NC State men's basketball game on her birthday in 1988. Their relationship survived his move to Albuquerque for five years. In 1997 they married at Hanalei Bay on the north shore of Kauai, and when his townhouse finally sold, he returned to North Carolina. To improve his chance at admission to a professional degree program, he earned a second bachelor's degree, this time summa cum laude in microbiology, and was admitted to the nationally ranked PharmD (Doctor of Pharmacy) program at UNC Chapel Hill. Upon graduation in 2008 he worked retail pharmacy at Harris Teeter and then medical information, advising doctors on drugs, for PPD, Inc (Pharmaceutical Product Development). He also enjoyed the opportunity to do some teaching in Wake Tech's Bioworks program and Durham Tech's pharmacy tech program.

Michael continued to enjoy playing his guitar and singing; watching women's volleyball matches at NC State, UNC, and Duke; visiting botanical gardens; taking greenway walks; exercising in

the health club pool; being a fan of Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune; and traveling to favorite places such as Banff, Hilton Head, and Oregon. He took great pride and delight in introducing himself as “Doctor Michael Thomas Toy.” Friends and family will remember his smile, sense of humor, and caring nature.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Duke Dementia Family Support Program

<https://dukefamilysupport.org/giving/>

Tribute Wall

SB

“ We send our sincerest sympathy to Gwen and to Michael's family. It was a true pleasure to have known Michael. A really nice memory we have is of a game night at our place with Michael and Gwen - lots of good fun and laughs with a great couple.

Sylvia Benice - June 18, 2025 at 05:42 PM

JT

“ You couldn't ask for a better big brother than Mike. He was always wanting to get together and it didn't matter what we did, he would always make it fun. I will cherish the memories I have of our time together and always smile when I think about Mike.



Jeff Toy - June 18, 2025 at 02:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - June 17, 2025 at 10:26 AM

BT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bill Thomas - June 15, 2025 at 01:46 PM

BT

Mike, my best buddy growing up. Known for his contagious, slightly twisted, Pythonesque, sense of humor, adept tennis skills, love for music and his guitar, and sense of adventure. I will miss him dearly. Thanks for the memories buddy!

Bill Thomas - June 15, 2025 at 05:52 PM

JB

“ *Jeff Barclay lit a candle in memory of Michael Thomas Toy*

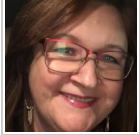


Jeff Barclay - June 14, 2025 at 01:08 PM

RR

“ *Gwen, We met you and Michael at the Memory Cafe. Michael was always so much fun and had so much fun, and you were so sweet with him. We are so sorry for your loss. Warmly, Renee and Burt Rauch*

Renee Rauch - June 13, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ I had the sincere pleasure of knowing Michael a short time when he worked out at the wellness center of Wakefield. I always enjoyed our brief chats about our pharmacy experiences. Michael was a kind sweet man and I am so glad I csn say I knew him.

Florence Boggs
Youngsville NC

Florence Boggs - June 12, 2025 at 10:00 PM

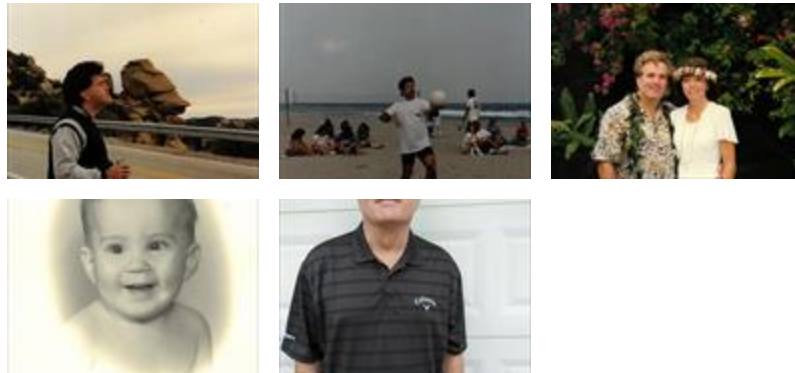


“ Tim amd I loved hosting Gwen and Mike at our home in NY with the rest of the Toy siblings. What a treat they were to get to know. We love them both. Kathy and Tim Toy

Kathy and Tim Toy - June 12, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - June 12, 2025 at 03:01 PM