



## David Michael "Mike" Silvernail

November 12, 1948 - January 4, 2018

David Michael "Mike" Silvernail, 69, of Green Valley, IL passed away Thursday, January 4, 2018. He was born November 12, 1948 to Clarence and Naomi (Fletcher) Silvernail in White Hall, IL. In August of 1968, during his station at Minot Air Force Base, Mike met his future wife at a USO dance. Shortly after their meeting, he wrote her a song to gain her heart. He married Mary Sauber on February 22, 1969. Mary survives at their homestead in rural Green Valley.

Mike is survived by his daughter Melissa (Brian) Hays of Mason City, IL. Anyone close to the family knows that Melissa was her dad's "mini me", and Mary was often offered sympathy for having two people that stubborn under the same roof. Mike is also survived by the boy that stole his heart, his grandson Jacob Johnson. Mike was extremely proud of his grandson, who also recently completed years of service in the Army. Though not present in body, Mike will be present in spirit for the upcoming nuptials of Jacob and Lyndsay Chapman, who the family adores. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Mike is also missed greatly by his constant couch companion, Charlie ("Chuck") Silvernail, the family King Charles Spaniel. The cat, Hank (after the great Hank Williams), will work to fill the gap.

Mike very proudly served his country in the Air Force from 1966-1970. He did a tour in Vietnam and maintained a very patriotic attitude throughout his life. Mike was a self-taught musician with the guitar at the age of 14. In high

school, he was proud of his performance at the Possum Holler Opry in Quincy, IL. He was able to participate in the 2017 reunion show. He continued a lifelong love of traditional country and bluegrass. He participated in multiple local area country bands, as well as recent years of pickin' n grinnin' with anyone that liked to play, sing, and drink a cup of coffee. He really enjoyed the many visits with close family friends, Gary Sperry and Miss Deb.

Mike retired in 2010 from the State of Illinois Department of Historic Preservation after 20 years of service with the state as a systems analyst. In his younger days, Mike also worked as an electrician at Caterpillar.

A private family gathering will be completed with a planned Celebration of Life in the spring for all to enjoy Mike's favorite music and foods. Mike always preferred a celebration over somber, and the family hopes to see family and friends at that time to share fun memories.

Monetary contributions may be made to St Jude Children's Hospital, as Mike was a faithful donor and supporter. You may also honor his memory by listening to some Hank Sr, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Patsy Cline and the like.

Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *David Michael "Mike" Silvernail*

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October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *I know it's been almost a year that is has been gone. But I didn't know he had passed until later. He came to the VFW in Heywoth, IL on Thurs evenings with Carl Gordon. Plus I met him in Pekin and got to know his wife Mary. He was a Great musician and a Great singer. Also a Great friend. We will and do miss him at the VFW and I miss him as my friend. So many things has happened in the last year. I lost Charlie huff then I had open heart surgery. Lost my voice and hearing in right ear mild hearing in left. But we started up the music again cause the music goes on on our hearts. Gives us memories of the ones we have lost. Mike is one!!! Love you Mary...  
Delora Griffin*

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**Delora Griffin** - November 12, 2018 at 11:40 AM

KH

“ I remember working with Mike at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and his genuine demonstration of tolerance to me as I was so very technologically inept. Patience was a virtue that he showed to me and others on my staff. A kind word and a smile were his constant companions . I know that he loved music as he talked about some of his faves when he'd come to “fix” our Library PCs or show me for the “nth” time how to do something.

*Never got to hear him play but I'm confident he's being a front man in the Heavenly Band!*

*I pray God's Peace and Comfort to his family and friends during this difficult time.*

*Be blessed.*

*Kathryn M Harris  
Springfield, IL. 62703*

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**Kathryn M Harris** - January 09, 2018 at 09:42 AM

ME

“ Miss and love you, Dad. Thankful you knew the Lord and can now breathe deeply and sing loudly. <3

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**Melissa** - January 07, 2018 at 06:00 PM

AW

*Very sorry for your loss.*

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**Adam Woodmancy** - July 22, 2018 at 08:16 AM

DM

“ Mary, I'm so sorry for your loss. Deb Moehring

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**deb moehring** - January 07, 2018 at 05:22 PM

AF

“ Ashley Flarity lit a candle in memory of David Michael "Mike" Silvernail



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**Ashley Flarity** - January 07, 2018 at 05:15 PM

DO

“ Our dear friend and fellow musician will be sadly missed. Mike was a caring and giving friend with a wonderful quirky sense of humor. We enjoyed spending time with Mike working on home improvement projects, playing music, and swapping stories. An avid storyteller, Mike kept us entertained and amused. There was never a dull moment spent with Mike. We will miss our beloved friend. Gary Sperry and Deborah O'Shea

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**Deborah O'Shea** - January 07, 2018 at 11:41 AM

BK

Never saw him frown. Easy Trails Mike!

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**Bob Krouse** - January 09, 2018 at 07:26 PM

SM

Mary, from all of us at Roland Rich Ford in Delavan, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. We know he is up in heaven singing his favorite songs right now. Always enjoyed talking with him when he came in to get his vehicles serviced. If you need anything please let us know.

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**SANDRA MORTON** - January 11, 2018 at 02:40 PM

GS

*Mary, I am so sorry for your loss. We just returned from a Florida vacation and was catching up on the newspapers. I worked with Mike at The Department of Conservation at Lincoln Tower. We were some of the glue that held everything together in the IT section. He will be missed.*

*Gary Starr - January 19 at 10:08pm*

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**Gary Starr** - January 19, 2018 at 11:10 PM