



Michael Gassen

December 21, 1952 - February 12, 2026

Michael Albert Gassen, 73, Topeka, passed away at Midland Care Hospice on February 12th, 2026. In lieu of a funeral, the time and location for the Celebration of his life will be announced at a later date on Facebook by the family, and online by Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home. There will be a private graveside service for the benefit of his family.

Mike was born in Garnett, KS to Albert M. Gassen and Edith L. Crouch Gassen on December 21, 1952. The family later settled in Topeka, where Albert found new employment at the C&W Market and Edith raised their five children.

Mike attended Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School, Capper Junior High and graduated from Topeka West High School in 1970. After completing high school, Mike graduated from the Kaw Area Vocational Technical School.

From an early age, Mike and his three brothers enjoyed working on cars and attending car races. Mike made this into a career; starting in automotive repair, initially at Shorey's body shop, the Chevrolet dealerships in Topeka, and then many years with the Laird Noller dealerships in Topeka and Lawrence. He concluded this line of work as the body shop manager at Laird Noller Ford-Saab in Topeka.

Mike then opened "Mike's Place" at 3203 SW 10th, Topeka, KS - the former home of the beloved Dutch Goose. Mike later owned a series of bars and restaurants; ultimately retiring as an owner of the popular Tailgators Sports Pub & Grub. The many friends he made throughout his career are a true testament to his character and the impact he had on those around him.

Mike enjoyed collecting cars, attending sporting events, cheering on KU basketball and the Royals, playing golf, playing and coaching softball, and bowling at Gage Bowl where his mother worked for many years.

Mike is survived by his brother, Thomas; his sister, Charlene; and his five nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Edith and his two brothers, Lloyd and Richard.

In lieu of a funeral, Mike requested that a Celebration of his Life be held at a future date. The time and location for this event will be announced here and on social media in the near future.

Tribute Wall

CP

“ *Mr. Mike...you told me a few times in high school that you loved me. I wasn't sure exactly how you meant that. However, I want to make sure you know that I loved you, too. Not knowing exactly how I meant that either.*

I want you to know how loveable you were, to so so many. I cherished our friendship.

We had a nice catch up talk on the phone this last November 2025. In February I sent you a tiny Valentine, not knowing you had passed the day before.

I hope this message makes it's way to you, as you are missed, as loved ones are.

Here it comes... Don't duck!!

Caroline Gentry Pinnick

Caroline Gentry Pinnick - March 24 at 02:20 AM

CL

“ *So sad to hear about Mike's passing. We knew him for many years and followed him to every bar he had. He always had a smile on his face and had so many friends. He will be missed and remembered forever* ❤️🙏

Curt and Benette Clark

clark - March 03 at 09:31 PM

GW

“ I first met Mike when his family moved in next to us on Mission Street. We went through Junior High and High School together, and became good friends. Throughout those years, and for years that followed; we enjoyed playing softball, golf, bowling, pool, and my other activities (usually at the local bars in Topeka). I was blessed to have such a Good Friend in those early years of my life. I will never forget that you chose to be my friend.

Gary Wenger

Gary Wenger - February 28 at 03:55 PM

BR

“ We were sad to hear of Mikes passing he was a former neighbor of ours and always had a smile on his face. Our condolences to Tom and the rest of his family. Rest in peace Mike!

bill rowell - February 27 at 04:11 PM



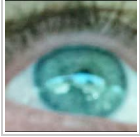
“ Mike was the true meaning of a friend, I'll have all of our great experiences and memories tucked in a special place in my heart. Rest in peace my friend as you climb the ladder to heaven, I miss you horribly. 🙏

Kenny Shively - February 27 at 01:38 PM

MF

“ Mike was a client of mine here in Las Vegas and soon became a good friend. I'll miss our times at Ellis Island having breakfast and solving the world's problems. Enjoy the paved road.

Mitch Fulfer - February 27 at 10:42 AM



“ Mike was a good friend. He guided me when I was out of my lane a couple times and I remember him well because of it. Peace Brother

Schaan Donaldson - February 26 at 08:59 PM

EA

“ Tom and family - sending my condolences to you. What a special friend Mike was to me and so many people. He connected so many of us from a young age at the original Mike's Place - gave us a place to hang out and have fun, and I was lucky enough to work for him at Mike's Place too and I have the best memories from that time and forward. Also bought a couple cars from him, drove his corvette and can't believe he let me drive the limo one time! I loved every time I got to see him, even while he was fighting that horrible disease. Gosh I miss him so much, but I feel so blessed to have called him my friend. Rest in Peace Mike (fondly aka Chicken Butt and Schmike!) 🙏🏻✝️

Eve artiles - February 26 at 01:08 PM

BK

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mikes passing. My sincere condolences to his family. He will be missed. Barb Keck

Barbara Keck - February 26 at 12:09 PM

NK

“ Loved this friendly, happy, smiley Gentleman. So deeply sorry to all of his family.

Nancy Thompson Kohake - February 25 at 11:39 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. Gone too soon. I never saw him without a smile on his face, surrounded by friends. Mike had a big heart and helped many in their time of need. He will be missed. RIP Mike.

Susan Maxon - February 25 at 10:30 AM

JB

“ So many memories of this guy. Always friendly nice and understanding! Great smile! RIP❤️

Janice Brier - February 25 at 09:37 AM

JS

“ Mike and I worked together for several years. He was a good man and friend.

Jerry Schnee - February 25 at 06:17 AM

SD

“ 3 files added to the album Mike and friends



staci Dillingham - February 24 at 09:50 PM