



Michael Joseph O'Malley

October 8, 1957 - July 1, 2021

Michael Joseph O'Malley of Corvallis, Oregon was born on October 8th, 1957 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the son of Michael John O'Malley and Bridget Theresa Costello O'Malley, both of Galway County, Ireland. He died suddenly at home, in the arms of his beloved wife of 30 years, on the morning of July 1st, 2021.

Mike married Nell Winokur O'Malley in Lexington, Massachusetts on December 29th, 1990. They made their way from Westminster, SC to the Pacific Northwest in June of 1991, and later had two children: a daughter, Bridget Rose, and a son, Emmett Joseph.

The oldest child of immigrants, Mike was the first in his extended family to go to college. He received his Bachelors Degree from Northeastern University in 1981, and his Masters Degree from Harvard University in 1990. He (proudly) dropped out of law school five times University of Texas at Austin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Northeastern (2x), and University of Oregon before becoming a teacher.

From 1991 to 2006, Mike taught social studies and language arts in K-12 public education in South Carolina, State of Washington, and Oregon. He was voted Best Teacher wherever he taught. In 2000, while serving as the Director of Albany Night High School, he was asked to give several guest lectures at

Oregon State University's College of Education. Soon thereafter, he was offered a part-time position at OSU. Inadvertently, a Boston backtalker had become a college professor.

Mike started working full-time at the College of Education in 2006. He believed that education should inspire students to pursue their passion, free them from delusion, and direct them to those activities that best suit them to build their own stories. He took immense pride in his mentoring of students, and the outpouring of love and gratitude in the days since his passing has been extraordinary.

Though he loved his friends and childhood memories, he often said the greatest joy of his too-short life was raising his children. He will be remembered for living with immeasurable gusto and joy, and touching so very many lives.

Mike is survived by his wife Nell, his daughter Bridget (26), and his son Emmett (23), along with all of his former students, his sister Mary M. O'Malley of Weymouth, MA, his nephew Michael J. Bittner of Quincy, MA, his sister Anne C. Godwin of Reading, MA, his brother Patrick M. O'Malley of Norwood, MA, and his many nieces, nephews, and cousins all over the United States, Ireland, and England.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis, OR on July 16th at 11 a.m. Viewing at 10 a.m.

The family has decided to establish a scholarship in Mike's memory for OSU College of Education students. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to Mike's scholarship fund. Gifts can be made to the OSU Foundation at osufoundation.org or mailed to OSU Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333. Please indicate that the gift is

for the Mike O'Malley College of Education Scholarship Fund.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th St.
Corvallis, OR

Funeral Mass

JUL **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th St.
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall



“ McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Joseph O'Malley



McHenry Funeral Home - July 15, 2021 at 03:47 PM

SS

Thank you for sharing, especially for those if us who couldn't be there

Sue Steinman - July 16, 2021 at 04:30 PM

LB

The O' Malleys were such a refreshing gift to Tumwayer Middle School, especially Mr O'Malley for our son Erik. He really pushed the boundaries and made him think and be willing to debate his values. I'm so glad he was part of our boys educational experience. Rest in peace.

Laurel Backstrom - July 17, 2021 at 01:21 AM

AM

“ *Michael O'Malley was my favorite teacher my senior year at West Oak High School in Westminster, SC. He was loved by all of the kids and made us want to learn and to be better people. I will never forget his Boston accent and also how you could see how much he Loved Nell when he talked about her. We shared a lot of memories with him and he helped us through some hard times. I will never forget how amazed he was when he attended a horse auction with me, which he really enjoyed. That's how I remember him, always wanting to learn something new and being so excited about it. I hadn't seen him in 30 years but I know a whole lot of kids that were better people for knowing Mike Omalley.*

Allen Murphy - July 24, 2021 at 12:55 AM

PC

“ I love you so much, dear O'Malley family. He remains everywhere, as ever. Never enough. Always too blessed much!

*“When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old men that wait to die.*

*And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give to them
What you need to give to me.*

*I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.*

*Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live in your eyes
And not on your mind.*

*You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands
By letting
Bodies touch bodies
And by letting go
Of children*

That need to be free.

*Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away"*

— Merrit Malloy

Pam Cytrynbaum - July 16, 2021 at 11:11 AM

KL

Perfectly said.

Karen Lee - July 17, 2021 at 06:04 PM

PC

“*Nell,
I am so very sorry for your loss. I will always remember Mike's
passion for teaching.
Peace,
Peg*

Peg Cornell - July 11, 2021 at 10:06 AM

LK

“ Nell,
I am thinking about you and your family during this difficult time. I have fond memories of my conversations with Mike, most often political or related to social justice issues and sometimes about sports while watching our boys play basketball and hearing him talk about a cross country baseball venue expedition that I believe ended at Fenway. There were other times when I would call him since he was listed as a reference for a candidate seeking a job. Typically these calls last about 10 minutes. With Mike, we would be talking for 45 minutes. What was striking about those conversations was how well he knew his students. One of his many fine gifts. Keeping you in my light,

Lisa Krause

Lisa Krause - July 09, 2021 at 11:41 PM

KM

“ *Dear Nell,
My deepest sympathies to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Kathleen*

Kathleen McDonnell - July 07, 2021 at 06:34 PM

NO

Thank you, Kathleen <3

Nell O'Malley - July 08, 2021 at 03:38 PM

AS

Nell et al.— Mike told me I was a friend who he felt he could call at 2 am and I would show up. He had so many friends, I'm sure he told this to others . He could probably fill a stadium with friends who would show up at 2 am. The second song on this tribute reminded me of that. Great song!

Anne

Anne Schuster - July 16, 2021 at 12:05 PM

TF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Tim Forde - July 06, 2021 at 02:18 PM

NO

Thanks for this, Tim. I am so sorry we never met.

Nell O'Malley - July 08, 2021 at 03:37 PM

RS

Nell,

I'm so sorry for your loss. Mike was a larger than life guy and he will be sorely missed by many.

<3 Roni Sue

Roni Sue - July 16, 2021 at 12:39 PM

TF

“ 1 file added to the album Mike's Childhood



Tim Forde - July 06, 2021 at 02:10 PM

LH

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mike's tragic and untimely death. Emmett thanks for sharing your pain and reflections . Mike was one of the few people I knew who could talk seriously about social justice issues with profound observation. I'm only sorry we never had more conversations. Emmett you are a gifted writer no doubt. If there is a heaven maybe Mike is reading now in the great library of Alexandria. Holly and I are thinking of all of you.

lester Hartman - July 04, 2021 at 06:39 PM

NO

Thanks, you two. We're thinking of you. It all started at your place in Jamaica Plain <3 Be well.

Nell O'Malley - July 08, 2021 at 03:37 PM

JR

Nell, I was absolutely shocked to hear of Mike's death. I had read the notice but I didn't realize it was your Mike. I was informed by our mutual friend Doug Eaton. I don't know what happened, but please know that you are profoundly in my prayers for healing and peace. Blessings and blessings, Judy Ringle

Judy Ringle - July 10, 2021 at 08:44 PM

EM

Nell, I first met Mike at St.Mary's at our SocialJustice Commission. He was very passionate about his beliefs and a true asset.

As we became friends we realized that we grew up in Wollaston MA less than a mile apart. We had so much to share both coming from parents born in Ireland.

My heart goes out to you and your family but know Mike's joy and vitality will always be with you.

Ellen Murphy

ellen murphy - July 17, 2021 at 01:50 AM