

Following graduation, Michael spent several years employed as a website developer and manager for a book publishing company. Michael soon became unhappy with the constant congestion found in the tri-state area. Since he loved the outdoors, he and his long-time girlfriend, Teresa decided to consider relocating to Maine. They loved the beauty and less congestion found in Maine and decided to purchase a home in Litchfield, Maine. Carol and I, as well as our two other sons, made regular visits up to Maine. We always had a great time during our visits. Lots of lobster rolls, fried clam sandwiches and plenty of cold Maine beer. The above photo was taken this past October.

Michael developed a love for gardening and grew a large variety of vegetables and fruits. He and Teresa also raised chickens and had a regular supply of fresh eggs which they shared with their neighbors.

Our lives were shattered this past Memorial Day Weekend. Michael and Teresa went camping over the weekend. I spoke with Michael the day before they left and joked about the camping trip we took in the same area of North Maine when he was in the boy scouts. He sounded very excited and couldn't wait to start the drive up. He had recently purchased a pick-up truck, so that they'd have plenty of storage for their camping gear.

After a few days of camping, Michael developed a pain in his lower abdomen that got progressively worse during the weekend. Michael thought he might have pulled a muscle in his abdomen. Teresa is a nurse and suspected something more serious. They left the campsite and drove to an emergency room. Michael's vital signs were good, and his blood work was normal. The ER doctors decided to do a CAT Scan. You can imagine the shock when Michael and Teresa were told that the pain was caused by several tumors on his lungs, liver and spleen pressing against his abdominal wall. He had no other symptoms except abdominal pain. They were advised to see an oncologist as soon as possible.

A few days later, they saw an oncologist and a pulmonologist. Biopsies were taken of several organs. The report was devastating. Melanoma was found in all the samples. An MRI and PET scan were also performed. Those results were even more frightening. The scans showed that besides the internal organs, he had tumors in his brain and spine. The doctors in Maine told Michael that his condition was extremely serious and beyond what they could treat. They contacted a melanoma specialist at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston who agreed to see Michael the next day. The Boston specialist told Michael that his condition was extremely grave but was willing to try an infusion of two new powerful immune therapy drugs. Michael agreed to have the treatment that day.

Michael and Teresa returned to their home in Maine hoping that the treatment would help. Michael became extremely fatigued and could not eat or drink. He was rapidly becoming dehydrated. The Boston hospital was notified of his condition and advised that he return for examination. Michael was admitted to the Boston Hospital but his condition rapidly spiraled downward. As soon as we learned that he was admitted to the hospital, Carol and I started our drive up to Boston. Our other two sons also left their homes and drove up to be with Michael.

After several days in the hospital the oncology team met with Michael and our family. There was nothing else that could be done to stop the spread of a very aggressive form of melanoma. Michael wanted to return home to Maine and was transported home by ambulance that Friday. Michael passed away the following morning with his family at his

bedside.

We're very thankful that Michael did not suffer any longer than he did, but our family is heartbroken.

We thank all of you for your condolences and words of support during this difficult time. They are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim & Carol Hurley