

Patrick “Mike” Kearns

Mike was born on November 17, 1943, in Santa Monica, CA, to Evelyn and Patrick Kearns. Mike grew up in Santa Monica, and at an early age, his mother married Dick Nickel, who Mike considered his father.

At a young age, Mike took a job at Friars Restaurant, in Santa Monica, where the “seed was planted” and his passion for the restaurant industry began.

Mike and his brother Tim spent three years traveling all over Europe and Africa experiencing the history, culture and cuisine of many regions. In 1967, Mike was drafted into the Army where he met lifelong friend Larry Bailly. Larry introduced Mike to the Midwest where he fell in love with the Minnesota lakes country.

In 1971, Mike was hired by Francis Kukowski to help open the Country Kitchen Restaurant in Wahpeton, ND. A short time later, Mike's first son Mark was born, followed by his son Shawn a few years later.

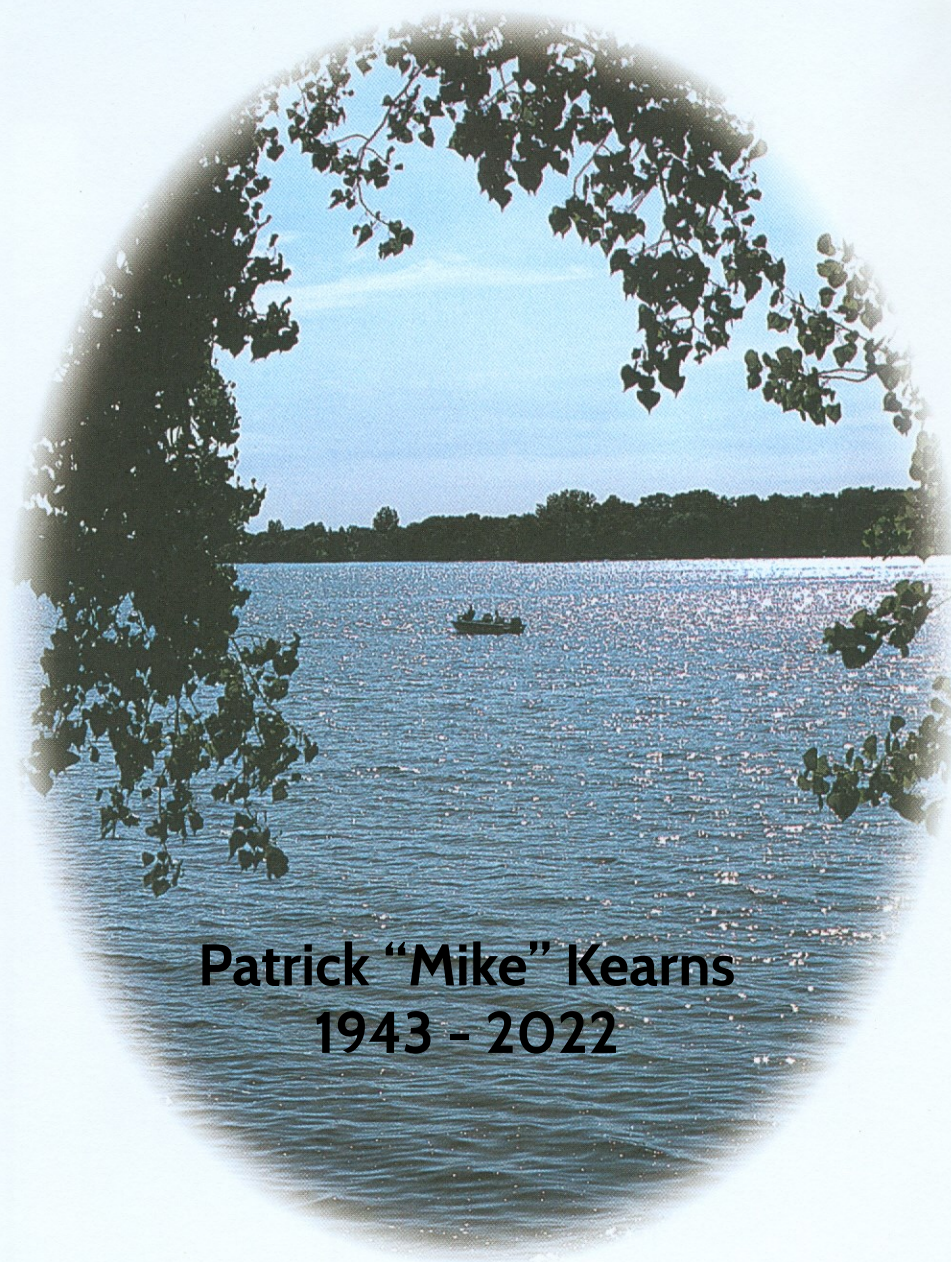
Mike's vision for acquiring more restaurants grew and along with his partners, opened restaurants in Fargo, Moorhead, Brookings, Sioux Falls and Yankton, SD. In 1981, they went independent and renamed the businesses as the Fryn' Pan Family Restaurants. In 1991, Mike married Jo Schieffer, and they made their home in Sioux Falls.

Mike retired in 2000 to spend more time with Jo, traveling to Lake Havasu, AZ in the winters and summering at their beloved cottage on Pickerel Lake in northern Minnesota. Mike thoroughly enjoyed finding things to do outside and two of his greatest pleasures were riding one of his many mowers and pontooning on the lake. He collected old vehicles to include a Model A, a 1976 Mercedes, and a 1952 Ford pickup. Mike and Jo were the “hosts with the most” entertaining family and friends over the years, on their ever-evolving outdoor patio.

A highlight in Mike's retirement years was continuing the tradition of hosting the annual Fryn' Pan company picnic where he and Jo would entertain over 100 people at their lake cottage. The Fryn' Pan family grew with the generous support of Jo's family at this annual event.

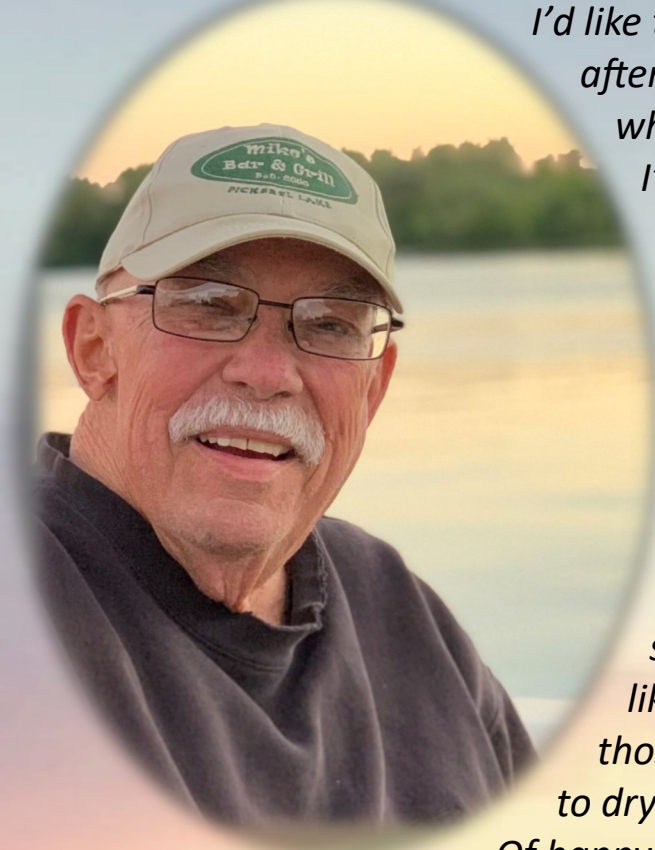
Mike is survived by his wife Jo; sons, Mark and Shawn; grandchildren, Isla and Alder Kearns; sister-in-law Patty Kearns; nephew, Ryan Kearns; Jo's extended family; and the entire Fryn' Pan Family. Mike was preceded in death by his parents and brother Tim.

The Kearns family would like to thank the caregivers of Perham Living and Hospice of the Red River Valley for the wonderful and dedicated care he received.



**Patrick “Mike” Kearns
1943 - 2022**

*Peaceful
Reflections...*



*After Glow I'd like the memory
of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an
after glow of smiles
when life is done.
I'd like to leave
an echo
whispering
softly down
the ways, Of
happy times
and laughing
times and
bright and
sunny days. I'd
like the tears of
those who grieve,
to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that
I leave When life is done.*

Vertin-Munson Funeral Home - Wahpeton, ND
Funeral Directors: Whitney Demarais and Shanna Grumbles - www.vertinmunson.com

In Loving Memory

Patrick "Mike" Kearns

Born

November 17, 1943
Santa Monica, California

Passed

July 16, 2022
Perham, Minnesota

Age

78 Years 7 Months 29 Days

Funeral Service

2:00 PM
Friday, July 22, 2022
Vertin-Munson Funeral Home
Wahpeton, North Dakota

Officiant

Jeanne Putnam

Special Music

"Help Me Make It Through The Night" by Kris Kristofferson
"Leave You With A Smile" by Willie Nelson