

**Michael Leroy McDonald**  
**Nov. 14, 1951 - Mar. 4, 2020**

Michael (Big Mike) McDonald, 68, of What Cheer, died Tuesday, Mar. 10 at the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City. A celebration of life will be held at the Delta Community Center on Friday, Mar. 20, from 5:00 p.m. until the celebration ends. Food and refreshments will be served and a time of sharing will begin at 6:30 p.m. Internment will be held at a later date in the Sixteen Cemetery near Thornburg. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the family.



Michael Leroy McDonald was born in Iowa City on Nov. 14, 1951, the son of Oscar and Opal Jackson McDonald. He attended Tri-County High School and enlisted in the United States Navy on Apr. 8, 1969. Michael served 1 year and 6 months on the USS Eldorado LCC-11 during the Vietnam Conflict. After his honorable discharge he returned home and was united in marriage to Cheryl Kay Krebs on June 22, 1974 at the Hilltop Chapel in What Cheer. Over the years he worked at Vermeer and Clow Valve Company.

He also worked as a truck driver for Manatts. Most of his working career he worked as a heavy equipment operator for Kaisers, Martin Marietta, and Doud Stone. He enjoyed target shooting, camping, riding horses, good country music, whiskey coke, and above all doing most anything with his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Brian Michael McDonald and Michael Patrick McDonald; four brothers James, Carl, Joe and Jerry McDonald; two brothers-in-law, Dane Richburg and Terry Sherwood and a sister-in-law, Marie McDonald.

Michael is survived by his wife, Cheryl McDonald of What Cheer, a daughter, Carolyn (Keith) Becker of What Cheer; a son, John (Lacey) McDonald of Guernsey; a brother in spirit, Frank (Tammy) Pierce of Gibson; two brothers, Frank (Sandy) McDonald of Barnes City and Richard McDonald of Porter, TX; four sisters, Betty Richburg of Parma, OH, Sue (Joe) Durian of Oskaloosa, Alice Sherwood of Washington and Rose (Robert) Pfannebecker of Webster; also a sister-in-law, Erma McDonald of Mt. Pleasant. He also leaves behind six grandchildren: Brock Bellenger, Colton Rauch, Kaitlyn McDonald, Kylie Rauch, Karlee Bellenger and JJ McDonald.

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