



Michael Joe Spence

May 18, 1966 - April 22, 2021

HUNTINGDON, TN. Michael Joe Spence, age 54, formerly of Cookeville, TN passed away on Thursday, April 22, 2021. He was a devoted father, beloved son, sibling, and friend. Michael is survived by his son, Noah Jackson Spence of Cookeville, TN, his daughter Alyssa Cha Huerta and son-in-law Luis Rey Huerta Tellez of Cookeville, TN; his mother Linda Oatsvall of Huntingdon, TN, his father Bobby Joe Spence of Crump, TN, and stepmother Ann Spence of Crump, TN; his brother Tommy Joe Spence of Huntingdon, TN, sister Lisa Jo Spence Beard and brother-in-law Charles Beard of Fairview, TN; his nephew Joseph Beard of Los Angeles, CA, his niece Laura Gill of Heiskell, TN, and his nephew Waker Spence of Asheville, NC.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Lettie Prince Spence and James Robertson Spence, and his maternal grandparents, Thelma Louise Dotson Roberts and Raymond Dotson.

Michael loved people and people loved him. He was a life-long educator who began his teaching career in Memphis City Schools. He later traveled abroad and became the Principal of Busan Foreign School in Busan, South Korea. He was a Visiting Scholar for five years at Postech University in Pohang, South Korea. He was the Immersion Program Director of Uchon School in Seoul, South Korea. He later spent some time in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as the Academic Coordinator for American Higher Education Inc. Once Michael was back stateside, He became the Associate Director for Curriculum for Ball State University and the Director of the Intensive English Institute via FLS

International at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN.

Michael was a graduate of Gibson County High School in Dyer, TN. After he graduated from high school, he played football for Lambuth University in Jackson, TN where he graduated with a bachelors degree in Communications. He obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching Curriculum and Instructional Leadership at the University of Memphis.

Michaels presence, his intelligent conversations, and his gracious spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew him. In such a sad, difficult time as this, it is comforting to know that he professed Christ as his Savior and that he is in Heaven with the Lord.

A celebration of Michaels life will be held at Gowen-Smith Chapel in Shelbyville, TN on Tuesday, April 27 at 11:00 am with visitation at 10:00 am. Family and friends are invited. An interment will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery in Shelbyville, TN. Due to Covid restrictions, face masks are required unless there is a medical reason not to wear one.

Gowen-Smith Chapel is assisting the family.

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SERVICES

Funeral Service

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

11:00 AM

Gowen-Smith Chapel

850 Union Street

Shelbyville, Tennessee 37160

Tribute Wall



“ *Feldhaus-Gowen-Smith Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Joe Spence*



Feldhaus-Gowen-Smith Memorial Chapel - April 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



Feldhaus-Gowen-Smith Memorial Chapel - December 09, 2025 at 11:36 AM