



Curtis Michener

May 17, 1989 - January 11, 2011
Paw Paw, MI

LIFE STORY / OBITUARY



VISITATION

Thursday, January 13, 2011
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST
Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes
Paw Paw Location
60900 Michigan 40
Paw Paw, MI 49079
[\(269\) 657-3870](tel:2696573870)
[Driving Directions](#)

SERVICE

Friday, January 14, 2011
11:00 AM EST
Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes
Paw Paw Location
60900 Michigan 40
Paw Paw, MI 49079
[\(269\) 657-3870](tel:2696573870)
[Driving Directions](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS

At the family's request memorial contributions are to be made to those listed below. Please forward payment directly to the memorial of your choice.

Christine & Ashley's College Education Fund
C/O First Community CU, 24032 Red
Arrow Hwy
Mattawan, MI 49071

For Curtis Michener, each new day was filled with the hope of opportunity and the promises of tomorrow. For some, these days are great in number, but for others, they are sadly too few. Although Curtis' life was all too brief, he spent the years he did have enriching the lives of those around him. Full of possibilities for a promising future, he took the opportunity to live life to the fullest. Fearless, outgoing and well liked, he was a friend to many and was dearly cherished by those he called family. Curtis will be undeniably missed, but his memory will forever remain a light in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

The 1980s were a memorable time as many of the technological advancements of the day paved the way for the convenience of Americans today. The decade signaled the beginning of the computer age, and the first hands free car phone sold for \$788. Pac Man and the introduction of Nintendo Game Boy took gamers to a whole new level while MTV's premiere became the channel to watch for young viewers everywhere. Piece by piece, the world rejoiced when the Berlin Wall came tumbling down while Bobby Ferrin's hit, "Don't Worry, Be Happy" put a smile on the faces of many. For Greg Michener and Diane Baran, smiles were aplenty on May 17, 1989 when they welcomed the birth of their healthy baby boy, Curtis into their hearts.

Born in Park Ridge, Illinois, Curtis grew up with his older sister, Chrissy and at the age of four he became the proud big brother of his younger sister, Ashley. From early on Curtis was nonstop chatter. He'd talk to nearly anyone about anything and never quite grasped the meaning of "don't talk to strangers." To Curtis, no one was a stranger and throughout his life he considered many to be his friend. Inquisitive and adventurous, he was 100% boy and simply fearless right from the start. Sometimes his childhood antics landed him in trouble, but they usually had a good outcome in the end, like the time he took the dog trimmers and proceeded to give himself a very stylish Mohawk. From that day on he wore his hair on the shorter side.

As a youngster Curtis and his family relocated to Paw Paw, Michigan where he made fast friends. He loved anything to do with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and even had one of the popular ninja bikes. While attending grade school he enjoyed wrestling and watching WWF on TV. He also liked playing dodge ball, but when it came to baseball, Curtis excelled. He played the position of catcher and acquired quite a skill for the sport. Along with other childhood and youthful adventures, he thoroughly enjoyed the water, especially fun times tubing behind his dad's boat.

Although he had dreams of one day having a blue Dodge Viper with white rally stripes, his parents bought him his first car, a 1996 Dodge Neon, during his high school years. Together he and his dad installed a coffee can exhaust on it and everyone who knew Curtis could hear him coming from a mile away! In fact, the term "drive it like a Neon" was often used by him when referring to people who were driving crazy.

From elementary school throughout his high school years Curtis was well liked by many. Outgoing and fun-loving, he made friends easily and just had that something special that naturally drew others to his side. When it came to his choice in music, Curtis liked listening to the sounds of rap and techno genres. During school he balanced his studies along with his job at Subs-N-More. He loved working there which was made evident through his social nature and reflected in his likable qualities.

Curtis was currently living with his dad. Filled with hope and promise, he was coming to see all that life had to offer. With a lifetime of possibilities before him, Curtis was in the process of finding himself, maturing and setting his sights toward the future. He began working with his mother's husband Mark as a carpenter, mainly installing windows in residential housing. Along with realizing a strong work ethic and his potential, he took pride in his finished work.

On the dawn of a new day in his life, Curtis Michener was living fully and completely in the hope and promise of a future filled with possibilities. Tragically, the opportunities ahead of him were abruptly cut short when at the age of 21 he sadly died from injuries sustained as a passenger in an automobile accident in Kalamazoo. Although his time enriching the lives of those he touched was all too brief, he leaves much to be remembered and will be treasured for all he gave in the short time he was with us.

Learn more about Curtis, view his Life Story film, and visit with his family and friends on Thursday, January 13, 2011, 4-8 PM at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler & Thompson-Paw Paw, 60900 M-40, 657-3870 where services will be held Friday at 11:00 AM. Burial will take place at Waverly Cemetery. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Ray Michener and maternal grandmother, Jeanne Messler. Surviving are his parents: Diane (Mark) Mierzejewski and Greg Michener; sisters: Christine and Ashley Michener; stepbrother, Mitchell Mierzejewski; maternal grandfather, Thomas (Jackie) Baran; paternal grandmother, Irene Michener; many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. Please visit Curtis' personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com where you can submit a favorite memory or thought, photo or sign his online memory book before coming to the funeral home. Memorial donations may be directed for his sister's educational fund, c/o First Community Credit Union, Mattawan.

