



Michael William Hamilton

April 12, 1957 - December 28, 2025

Michael William Hamilton was born on April 12, 1957, in Bellingham, Washington, to James and Barbara Hamilton. He graduated from Moses Lake High School in 1975, already known as someone who understood the value of hard work and responsibility.

Mike was a dreamer from the very beginning. While still in high school, he worked at Chet's Drive-In and quietly built a dream of owning the restaurant one day. Long before the doors opened each morning, Mike could be found there putting away freight and preparing the restaurant before Chet even arrived. That work ethic and that dream came full circle when, at just 18 years old, Mike purchased the restaurant himself. That moment marked the beginning of a lifelong career as an entrepreneur and restaurateur.

It did not take long for Mike to realize that restaurant was not enough. His vision grew, and soon after, he set his sights on the local A&W, which he proudly added to his growing ventures. The dreams and aspirations never stopped. With the support of his family and the partnership of his loving wife, Krista, Mike went on to help shape and grow several restaurants that became cornerstones of the Moses Lake community. Together, they transformed Michael's on the Lake into what it is today and later opened Michael's Market & Bistro and Rock Top Burgers & Brew, each rooted in family, hospitality, and community connection.

While Mike had a true passion for food, travel, and the restaurant industry, it was always secondary to his devotion to his family. He was a deeply caring

husband, father, and grandfather whose love for his family was unwavering and genuine. His humility was one of his defining traits. Mike never sought recognition and often tried to avoid the spotlight altogether. If there was an event where he might be acknowledged, he would be the one quietly standing in the back, hoping to slip out unnoticed. He was proud of what he built, but even prouder of the people around him.

Mike was a true friend and a community-minded leader. If there was a need in the community, he was there, quietly giving, supporting, and helping without ever expecting credit. His generosity and belief in taking care of others left a lasting mark on countless lives.

Outside of work, Mike enjoyed time in his yard, expanding his car collection, spending time in Arizona, and traveling the world with Krista. No matter where he went, home and family were always at the center of his heart.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, James and Barbara Hamilton, his brother, Craig Hamilton, and Craig's wife, Teresa.

He is survived by his wife, Krista Hamilton; his sons, Jordan (Manuel) Hamilton and Taylor Hamilton; his grandchildren, Baylee, Harlee, Kinlee and Rowdee; his great-grandchildren, Gracyn and Roy; and his nephew, Derek.

Mike passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, after a courageous 20-year battle with cancer.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 17th at 11:00 a.m. at Moses Lake Presbyterian Church. A private interment will take place at Guardian Angels Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mike's memory to the Moses Lake Cancer Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-7848

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 17. 11:00 AM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church
1142 W. Ivy
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

KT

“ Mike was not only a boss to me for 13 years but a friend. He taught me so much, but mostly how to be a better person, because he was! He left me cards, flowers, gifts, smiley post its on my desk just because. He was one if the best without a doubt. Thank you for everything Mike! ❤️ Kelly



Kelly Thomas - January 17 at 11:23 AM

JE

“ Janae Eng lit a candle in memory of Michael Hamilton



Janae Eng - January 16 at 11:18 AM

JM

“ Mike was my boss in high school when I worked for him at A&W. He was a great boss to learn under and the legacy he has left in our town is something special. My prayers go out to his family.

Joy McClendon - January 07 at 05:22 PM

Sherry Murray

“ Sherry Murray lit a candle in memory of Michael Hamilton



Sherry Murray - January 05 at 12:36 PM

GP

“ Our thoughts and prayers going out to Krista and Mike’s entire family. What a wonderful man’s and such an icon in the Moses Lake community. RIP Mike. Ray & Gail Powell

Gail Powell - January 03 at 10:46 PM

MI

“ Mike&Penny lit a candle in memory of Michael Hamilton



Mike&Penny - December 31, 2025 at 05:30 PM

RS

“ Randall Stewart lit a candle in memory of Michael William Hamilton



Randall Stewart - December 31, 2025 at 01:04 PM

BW

“ Our prayers are with the family. Mike was a great friend to whoever needed help.

Bill Welch - December 31, 2025 at 11:38 AM

JS

“ Krista and family I’m thinking of you at this time. Jim sircin

Jim Sircin - December 30, 2025 at 10:14 PM

JK

“ We are absolutely heartbroken to read this. We always enjoyed seeing and visiting with Michael and had the utmost of respect and admiration for him. His work ethic and kind personality were second to none. To everyone in the family we extend our deepest sympathy at the passing of a man that will be deeply missed. We love each and everyone of you--Jerry & Ronda Kayser

Jerry & Ronda Kayser - December 30, 2025 at 07:45 PM

LB

Mike was a caring and loving man, supporting our town in so many ways and will be missed by many. I have a different kind of memory I'd like to share. I was 18 and went to A & W for a quick lunch before I had to go back to class. I placed my order at the counter, then sat in a booth and waited for it. I was reading, so I didn't even think about it taking longer than usual. I heard someone step up and place my tray on the table. Lying beside my hamburger was two dollar bills and some change. I looked up and there was Mike. He told me that no one waited that long for a meal at his restaurant. Wow, the owner himself not only brought my tray to me but gave me back the money I had used! I remember thinking "This guy will go far." Astute business sense and a kind heart. Moses Lake has lost a good man. RIP Mike. You left a legacy.

Lisa Barth - January 09 at 05:56 PM