



## Michael Morikazu Iwamoto

March 5, 1953 - September 2, 2019

Succumbed too early, Mike Iwamoto passed away peacefully at John Muir Hospital on September 2, 2019 surrounded by family and friends. He was loved by many who encountered him — always known for making people feel comfortable with his gift of gab and his jokes.

Mike was born in Oakland, California on March 5, 1953, the eldest out of 3 children from Morio and Tomiko Iwamoto. He lived his whole life in the Bay Area. Mike was a lover of music. He loved listening to all types of music, whether playing in bands, attending live concerts, or talking about performers of his time. At his prime, Mike was the center of attention, feeling most comfortable with a microphone and a bass guitar in his hand, jamming out to all different musical genres including rock, jazz, country, oldies and Hawaiian.

His career led him to Chevron, where Mike worked as a Research Technician for 30 years. Chevron was also the place where he met the love of his life, Josie. Mike and Josie tied the knot on October 10, 1987 and were happily married for thirty-two years. Mike embraced Josie's daughter Marjorie as his own, and they all lived together as a happy family in El Sobrante.

Mike was a lover of all Bay Area Team Sports. He loved watching the A's play baseball, catching a Cal Football game, having season tickets to cheer on the Golden State Warriors, always hoping for a better season for the San Francisco 49ers, or having rink-side season pass seats to a Sharks game. You could never catch him without his trademark sports t-shirt or sweatshirt, always preferring to be comfortable versus anything formal. This laid back attitude is how Mike always carried himself. His casualness in life made him a person of real and genuine character. He was a person who was never afraid to speak his mind, make an off-the-wall comment or stand up for things he felt weren't right.

Over the last few years, Mike preferred being in the comfort of his own home, surrounded by his loving and doting wife and enjoyed visits from his Grandchildren, Alexis and Sydney. He also loved visiting new places and was excited to spend time as a family on cruises to see the glaciers in Alaska and the white sand beaches of the Bahamas. Although he had many health ailments leading up to his passing, he proved to be a fighter

and warrior despite all. He will always be missed in our hearts for the memories that he has given us, the laughs that we have shared, and the conversations that we have had for as long as we all shall live.

# Comments

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“ Condolences to Mike's family on his passing. I worked with Mike in the lab at Chevron. Known affectionately to some as "Mikey", he was was a delight to work with because of his work quality and his amiable nature. Besides a few talks with him about music, I recall many discussions on the care of tropical fish - particularly the Discus, a species for which he showed special expertise and enthusiasm. Mike faced his illness with courage and grace. He will be missed - may his memory bring comfort to those who knew him.

Ralph Forde

Ralph Forde - November 19, 2020 at 08:20 PM

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“ Just found out yesterday that Mike had passed last year. Very saddened to hear of his loss to the Iwamoto family, and for all of us that had the pleasure and fun of knowing him and spending time with him. I got to play with him in our band back in the 1970-80's and had hours of fun with his infectious stories, wry humor, his chuckle, that raised eyebrow and grin, and his never ending optimism that helped us keep going and keep having fun.

Always the life of any gathering - we will miss him, his spirit and his energy.

Very belated condolences to Josie and the Iwamoto family.

Much love,

Steve Suzuki - Fellow Bass / Groove Hacker



Steven Suzuki - June 14, 2020 at 05:26 PM

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“ I just found out today that Mike had passed away. I worked with Mike at Chevron for many years and he was always upbeat and kidding around. I send special belated condolences to Josie and his family. Eileen Kuzmicky

Eileen Kuzmicky - February 27, 2020 at 08:09 PM