



## Michael Wayne Parks

September 10, 1949 - May 24, 2021

Michael Wayne Parks was born on September 10, 1949, to Aaron Jr. and Mildred Parks in Long Beach, California. He was the youngest of three children. He was preceded in death by both parents.

Michael grew up in Compton, California where he attended Pioneer Elementary School, Enterprise Junior High School and graduated from Compton Senior High in 1967. He attended Chadron State College where he excelled and earned notoriety as a defensive tackle. His former coach called Michael “the best defensive lineman I ever coached”. He was NAIA All American his senior year. Both Michael and his brother, Ken, were inducted together into the Chadron State Athletes Hall of Fame in 1993. In 2014, Michael was honored as one of 50 Star Athletes on Chadron State’s All-Century Team. Michael graduated from Chadron State in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He continued the life-long friendships with fellow athletes until his death.

While attending Chadron State, Michael began working for the Pine Ridge Job Corps Center. Upon graduation he continued and expanded his employment with the USDA Forest Service. He worked in South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Washington, D.C. At his retirement in 2006, Michael was a Human Resources Officer with oversight of 19 Forest Service Centers.

As a retiree, Michael kept an active lifestyle. He spent time with his grandchildren, worked on home improvements and was always in the gym (which was a good thing, because he loved pizza!) When he moved to an active senior's community, he was vocal in advocating for better facilities and community services. Michael enjoyed venues for live music and traveling with his partner Karen. He especially loved to attend family gatherings. He was known for his mischievous humor, his generosity and perseverance. One thing he always said was "That if a thing is worth doing, do it right."

Michael's connection to Compton was never broken. He was one of the staunchest supporters for the Class of 1967 by attending reunions and in his many friendships, Michael Milas and Cloyed Miller to name a few.

Michael is survived by his sister Norma Suber (Eddie), brother Kenneth Sr. (Melanie); daughters Kim Diggs (Darrell) and Melissa; grandchildren Vivienne, Alexander, and Diana Diggs; nephews Darryl Suber, Kenneth Jr., Michael Aaron and Justin Matthew Parks, nieces Deborah Suber Salcido, Chudnee Suzonne and Summer Danielle Parks; great-nephews and great-nieces, cousins, and a multitude of friends.

There will be a visitation/viewing in Colorado on June 19, 2021, at 2:00 pm at Ballard Family Mortuary, 6700 Smith Rd., Denver, CO 80207.

A memorial service is being planned for a later date at Inglewood Cemetery Park in Inglewood, California which will be his final resting place with the rest of the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **19**. 2:00 PM (MT)

Ballard Family Mortuary, LLC  
6700 Smith Rd  
Denver, CO 80207  
(303) 963-5779

# Tribute Wall

HN

“ *Michael and I were great friends. He was like a older brother or cousin. Rest in peace my brother thank you for your life long friendship.*

*Harriet (Jackson) Nohr*

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**Harriet nohr** - July 22, 2021 at 04:07 PM

CG

“ *We went to Enterprise and Compton High School together. He was a lot of fun 😂. I send my sincere condolences to the family. May God bless and keep you all in His grace. Cynthia Green-Geter*

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**Cynthia Green-Geter** - June 22, 2021 at 02:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Parks.*



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June 19, 2021 at 08:51 PM

JJ

“ Memories of Michael

*I met Michael and his brother, Ken when I enrolled at Chadron State College in the fall of 1969. We participated in athletics and I found Mike to be a mean dude on the football field and a humble, charismatic, and tenderhearted individual off of the field. I enjoyed his warm smile and the kindness that he displayed toward me and others who were around him. Mike along with several other minority students would meet socially and engage in discussions on a variety of topics. I often found Mike to be uplifting and pleasant to be around.*

*Mike and I lost contact for several years after my graduation. A mutual friend, Lorne Boswell of Denver, CO, was instrumental in reconnecting us. Mike would extend invitations for me to come out to Denver or to accompany him and other Chadron alumni to homecoming activities. Three months ago, I shared with Mike that I had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He was gracious and shared his experience and provided encouragement to me.*

*I thank God that our paths crossed. May Michael rest in peace. I extend my sincere condolences to the Parks family.*

*Jake Kirkland, Jr.  
Chadron State College class of 1973*

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**Jake Kirkland, Jr.** - June 16, 2021 at 11:32 PM

SC

“ Michael was a nice guy with a great sense of humor. When I told him he shared my mom's birthday he said I had to like him. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

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**Sandra Coates** - June 13, 2021 at 08:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Parks.*



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June 11, 2021 at 03:26 PM



“ *Great memories of Big Mike from our days at Chadron State. A great teammate and a better man! His infectious laugh and smile will never be forgotten. Rest In Peace.*

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**Dave Shrader** - June 07, 2021 at 11:10 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Parks.*



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June 06, 2021 at 12:40 PM

JR

“*Michael was always supportive towards helping others reach their goals and full potential.. I am sudden to hear of his passing....I will always remember and cherish some of the most important moments in my life we shared*”

*Joan Roberts - June 3, 2021*



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**Joan Roberts** - June 03, 2021 at 12:36 PM

HA

“*Uncle Haywood would make Michael and I fight when we were together. Of course, I was never the winner. I will always cherish the time when we were roommates at Chadron, and the time we spent together..*”

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**Harold** - June 01, 2021 at 02:59 PM

KN

“*Mike was a pleasant and friendly next door neighbor. He even bought Girl Scout cookies from our granddaughter when he could not eat them himself. We will miss his smile. To his family and friends, we are so sorry for your sudden loss. Remember the good times you shared.*”

*"A life that touches the hearts of others goes on forever."  
Sincerely, Terry and Kenya Nolte*

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**Kenya Nolte** - May 31, 2021 at 08:03 PM

HR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Harold Riley** - May 28, 2021 at 09:13 PM