



## Michael E. Zehr

April 23, 1954 - December 17, 2022

Dateline Dubois, Indiana

Michael E. Zehr, age 68, of Dubois, Indiana, passed away at 8:38 a.m. on Saturday, December 17th, 2022.

Mike was born in Jasper, Indiana, on April 23, 1954, to Oliver and Ardella (Goller) Zehr.

Mike graduated from Northeast Dubois High School in 1972. In school he played basketball and baseball and continued his love for sports after graduation in Softball leagues. From his time playing sports he was coined the nickname, Zero. He even traveled to Florida to participate in New York Yankees tryouts.

He married his sweet bride, Marian Kunkel, on April 24, 1976, in St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana. He cared for her until she preceded him in death on September 21, 2021, and his deep love for Marian never ended.

He was proud to support his wife and kids and committed himself to 35 years at Farm Bureau. He retired from there as a Material Damage Specialist.

Many knew Mike through his 48 years of officiating. He developed strong,

lasting friendships with his officiating partners and was happy to be a mentor. He strived to officiate Indiana High School State Finals and accomplished this in the four sports he dedicated himself to: six in Baseball, seven in Volleyball, one in Boys Basketball, and seven in Girls Basketball. In 2019, he was honored with his induction into Indiana's Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

He was a member of St. Peter's UCC in Dubois, Indiana and considered his church as family. He was a man of faith and loved Jesus. He loved working with the youth in the church. He was a mentor for many confirmation students and served as a Sunday School teacher. He held offices, was a lay leader, visited homebound members of the church and once held offices with the Lincolnland Association.

He enjoyed golfing, fishing, gardening, playing cards with his friends and spending time with family and friends. He especially loved his grandchildren. He was so proud of them and all their interests and accomplishments.

When you look at the things Mike was most dedicated to, you can see his commitment to what he loved. Mike was a committed friend, son, brother, uncle, father, and papaw. He cared deeply for the people he knew. He was an inspiration and a great example for all of us and therefore held a special place in our hearts.

Surviving are one son, Alex (Heather) Zehr, Dubois, IN, one daughter, Audra (Drew) Caldwell, Sumner, IL, four grandchildren, Breanna Zehr, Jazlyn Zehr, Elijah Caldwell, and Jude Caldwell, his mother, Ardella Zehr, Dubois, IN, one sister, Tammy (Randy) Kieffner, Jasper, IN, one brother, Jim (Marcia) Zehr, Dubois, IN, nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death are his wife and his father.

A visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. (noon) - 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 26, 2022, in Redemption Christian Church in Jasper, Indiana.

A private service for close friends and relatives will be held on Tuesday in St. Peter's UCC in Dubois, Indiana, with burial in the church cemetery.

A scholarship will be made in Mike's memory. Memorial contributions may be made to Southwestern Officials Association.

Condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peter's Cemetery

Dubois, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 26. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Redemption Christian Church of Jasper  
1450 Energy Drive  
Jasper, IN 47546

## Private Family Service

DEC 27.

St. Peter's UCC  
Dubois, IN

# Tribute Wall

SJ

“ To Alex and the rest of the family please know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time so sorry for your loss.  
Sharon and Ron James

Sharon James - January 05, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ Michael E. Zehr

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM

ML

“ Mike And Donna Linette lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Zehr



Mike and Donna Linette - December 28, 2022 at 07:30 AM

EA

“ Sorry to hear that Mike passed away. Prayers for comfort during this difficult time

Ed and Betty Allen - December 27, 2022 at 05:38 PM

JB

“ My sympathy, prayers to family, & friends 🙏

James Birkle - December 27, 2022 at 12:23 PM

HE

“ So sorry to hear of Mikes passing. Great guy and great official. Got to know Mike through his officiating as Assistant coach at Wood Memorial Girls. Always new we were going to get a fair shake when we saw him com into the Gym. Thought and Prayers.  
*Howard Ellis*

Howard Ellis - December 26, 2022 at 09:32 PM

CS

“ So sorry for your loss. Great guy!  
*Mike and Cheryl Sermersheim*

Cheryl Sermersheim - December 26, 2022 at 07:46 PM

BH

“ Mike was just a good guy who I always enjoyed seeing walk in the gym.

Bryan Hughes - December 26, 2022 at 12:21 PM



“ Ray and Linda McCollom



Ray McCollom - December 26, 2022 at 09:41 AM



*Alex and Audra your parents were amazing and will be missed by many.*

Ray McCollom - December 26, 2022 at 09:46 AM

BS

“ Mike was a great inspiration to me when I got started in officiating. Without him I would not be where I am today.



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**Bart Stemle** - December 26, 2022 at 09:35 AM

RV

“ Roger Vollmer lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Zehr



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**Roger Vollmer** - December 25, 2022 at 06:20 PM

RV

*Mike was a friend, mentor and sports co-chair with me.*

*We worked a grade school basketball game together once. Someone told him at halftime he missed 3 calls. He responded "Only 3 - I'm having a great game". I know it was all in jest, but it summed up who Mike was perfectly.*

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**Roger Vollmer** - December 25, 2022 at 06:31 PM

DR

“ Danny and Ada

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**Danny and Ada Reynolds** - December 25, 2022 at 08:01 AM

JM

“ Over 20 years ago Mike gave me some greatly appreciated beginner's advice after officiating a basketball game. Just last week I saw him prior to a game at the same school and as usual Mike always said "Hi" with a big smile. He will be missed not only on the court and on the field, but also in the community. Rest in peace Mike.

Jim McFaul - December 21, 2022 at 09:55 AM

KN

“ Jim and I worked many games with Mike; Jim in basketball both girls and boys and in volleyball for me. He was a special man and friend. He will be missed so very much. We will be unable to attend the viewing as we will be out of town with family but our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Karen Newlin - December 21, 2022 at 09:25 AM

MA

“ My prayers to Mike's family. He will be missed. I enjoyed talking with him as an official when I was the principal at Barr-Reeve.

Mike Andrews

Michael Andrews - December 20, 2022 at 08:47 PM

DK

“ Donovan Keller lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Zehr



Donovan Keller - December 20, 2022 at 08:16 PM

TT

“ Tommy Thomason lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Zehr



Tommy Thomason - December 20, 2022 at 07:22 PM

EK

“ Our deepest condolences to all the family. He was such a kind and caring person. He will be missed by many! 🙏🙏

Eric/Irene Krodel - December 20, 2022 at 05:54 PM

JW

“ Loved umpiring with Mike Great guy Jack Wall Linton

Jack R Wall - December 20, 2022 at 05:34 PM

MG

“ In memory of Mike Zehr from the Southern Officials Association



Mike Golini - December 20, 2022 at 04:38 PM

SA

“ Southwestern Officials Association sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael E. Zehr



Southwestern Officials Association - December 20, 2022 at 03:53 PM

CB

“ *Craig Bechtel lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Zehr*



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**Craig Bechtel** - December 20, 2022 at 03:51 PM

NS

“ *Nick And Pat Seng lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Zehr*



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**Nick and Pat Seng** - December 20, 2022 at 01:55 PM