



## Mitchell D. Roper

May 28, 1952 - August 11, 2020

Mitchell Dean Roper, 68, passed away peacefully at home on August 11, 2020 after a 10 month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was surrounded by loving family and pets at the time of passing.

Mitch was born in May of 1952 in Libertyville, IL and graduated from Libertyville High School in 1970. He spent the majority of his life as a craftsman and carpenter. On Nov. 15, 1986 he (finally) married his partner of 11 years, Elizabeth Simon-Roper, who survives him in life. They were married in Rochester, MN and maintain relationships with friends there. They had just on daughter (no point in improving on perfection), Ashley, born August 2, 1989.

Mitch is survived by his wife Liza, daughter Ashley; his mother Gladys Roper, brother James (Kim) Roper, sister Elizabeth Schroeder and was preceded by his father Dean Roper in 2012. Also surviving are three wonderful golden retrievers and a ton of stuff. If you'd like something to remember him by, please be on the lookout for an estate sale notice soon. No, seriously, we don't know what we're going to do with it all.

Anyone who knew Mitch, knows he was an immensely kind and gentle soul, always willing to help any who asked. He was fun, goofy, and generally hilarious. Everyone who met him met a new friend.

Mitch loved to fish, travel, and spend time with his family. He was involved in the Rochester waterskiing club while he lived in Minnesota. He was also very active in the East Shore Crooked Lake Home Owner's Association where he

focused on improving Crooked Lake for the neighborhood. He was also passionate about things he could fix, especially if they could be classified as toys. He started Home Fun Company in the 1970's where he built, refurbished, and fixed pinball machines. Anyone who knew Mitch well, knew to NEVER challenge him to a pinball match. You would lose.

Visitation will be from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave) Libertyville. Due to the current health guidelines, we kindly ask that those that wish to attend services may pay your respects to the family and exit the funeral home so that all visitors have the opportunity to enter. A private family memorial service will follow the visitation. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Golden Retriever Club of America Cancer Foundation or Luistgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, <https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=7998> . For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **19**. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home  
120 West Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
(847) 362-3009

# Tribute Wall

KS

“ Mitchell Dean was the best! After my husband and his dear friend Dale passed away suddently 5 years ago Mitchell was so kind to me and my family. Not only did he make the long trek to the southside to do house repairs, he was resident consultant on all things for me, Niki, Jon and Jayme. His superior knowledge was always shared with patience and kindness. Not easily found combinations in any human. He was a part of our lives forever-he will be so missed. I hope he and Dale are building some cool stuff...



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**Kathy Stathos** - August 21, 2020 at 10:03 PM

CC

“ *To The Entire Roper Family: I don't know all of you, and it's been 40 years since I've seen Mitch because I live in Colorado, but we stayed in touch casually on Facebook and by email. I got to know him and dated him a few times when I worked as a dispatcher for Tri-Village Cab, and as a phone receptionist for their pinball machine business, the summer before I went to college. I was inspired by his skill in fixing and selling things and by the success of both businesses given that he and his friends were such young entrepreneurs. He fixed my car without charging me a dime and was a truly kind, warm, and funny soul. When we dated, I never expected to develop "stars in my eyes," and thought it best not to because I was going off to work on a science degree, but I think all people who get to know Mitch fall in love with him in some way and it stays with one always. It's not his charm, it's that he's so genuine. I still have a star or two in my eyes today, which cannot be washed away easily by tears. I know his mom from when I was young and she worked in my pediatrician's office and his dad from the times I bought shoes from him. I hope he and his dad are fishing the big lakes in Heaven and bringing home the big ones - for that is Heaven to fishermen. I know his mom is in a facility and hope she is faring well. I know how deeply he loved his wife and daughter, who has inherited his talents and warmth. My heart goes out to all of you.*

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**Christine Cline-Cardot** - August 21, 2020 at 06:15 PM

TF

“ *Liz and entire Roper family:*

*Sending our deepest condolences and know you will be in our thoughts and prayers. I know he was such a strong support of your family and a wonderful person with a positive outlook on everything.*

*The Barry Family*

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**The Barry Family** - August 19, 2020 at 12:10 PM

JC

“ Liza & Ashley, I am so sorry for your loss.

*Mitch was a very influential person in my life: from teaching me about tools, an appreciation for home maintenance and letting me assist with fun projects over the years to finally consulting with me on my first home purchase. Having the opportunity to learn from Mitch, who was always happy to teach and getting to share his passion was an amazing gift. He was a fantastic “substitute” uncle-of sorts and will be sorely missed by Beth and myself. Thanks for everything Mitch!*

*Sending our love - Joe & Beth Cassidy*

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**Joe Cassidy** - August 18, 2020 at 09:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.*



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August 18, 2020 at 07:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.*



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August 18, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.*



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August 17, 2020 at 10:21 PM



“ *Mitch and I grew up together as next door neighbors! The fun we had as kids is something our children and grandchildren will never have the opportunity to know! Kick the can on the corner of Center and Arlington, catching lightening bugs, orange juice can telephone lines strung between our bedroom windows so we could “talk” whenever we wanted! I could go on as Mitch was always inventing new gadgets for us to try out! What a genuinely nice person, always! If you were a friend of Mitch’s, it was for life! I had the opportunity to see Mitch the week before he left us and I will treasure those moments, always! Fly high my friend, until we meet again!*

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**Joanie Walton Bacci** - August 17, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.*



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August 17, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.



August 17, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ I am very sorry for your loss. Actually it is a loss for all of us that knew Mitch. I met Mitch when I was just a teenager a long time ago and will always remember how great of a guy he was. Playing pinball at his house on Milwaukee ave is something I will always remember. Spending the day with him last year in Davenport at the Antique swap meet was a great day for all of us that were there. Again my deepest sympathy to your entire family. Dave Brod.

David Brod - August 17, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ Mitch is one of the great ones. Growing up with the Roper family could not have been more enjoyable. They are part of our family. Mitch will be missed in so many ways. We loved him and his family very much. We pray for Mitch, Liza, Ashley, Gladys, Jim, Liz and the entire Roper family. Rest in peace Mitch.

Tom and Peg Olsen - August 16, 2020 at 09:55 AM



“ Kathy Murrin Garretson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.



Kathy Murrin Garretson - August 15, 2020 at 05:18 PM

OP

“ I have never known a kinder man than Mitch. For all the years that I worked with Mitch, I never heard him utter a negative word about any man woman, child, or dog He commanded respect and in turn gave it right back when you earned it. Mich Roper was a kind, thoughtful, generous, Gentleman. I have missed him sense his retirement from OPB, although I got to see hm now and again (a Mitch fix). Now he is in a much beter place with the big guy. We'll see him again... hopefully not too soon:)  
God Bless Orren,

orren pickell - August 15, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mitchell D. Roper.



August 15, 2020 at 10:48 AM

TK

“ Worked with Mitch at Orren Pickell Builders always friendly and very thoughtful! It was my pleasure to have worked with you Mitch. God Bless You and Your Family! Rest In Peace!

Thomas Koutny - August 14, 2020 at 02:01 PM

CV

“ Mitch was a wonderful man. He was one of the good ones. Ken and I are so sorry for your loss.  
Rest In Peace Mitch.  
Ken and cathy Varner

cathy varner - August 13, 2020 at 09:45 PM



David  
Bykoberg

“ On behalf of my husband, myself and his family, your neighbors The Berg's, we are Sorry to hear of the passing of Mitch and we are keeping Ashley and Liza and Mitch's entire family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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**David Bykoberg** - August 13, 2020 at 06:41 PM



David  
Bykoberg

*This was from Christina Berg, for some reason it registered to My husband David's Facebook. David has a wife not a husband. Again condolences.*

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**David Bykoberg** - August 13, 2020 at 06:43 PM