



## Michael John Scholke

September 26, 1981 - April 24, 2025

Michael John Scholke, 43, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Thursday, April 24, 2025, following a courageous, 5-year battle with cancer. Michael was born September 26, 1981 in Iron Mountain, MI to Michael “Mike” and Dolores “Dee” Scholke. Michael attended the Iron Mountain public school system and graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 2000. He later attended Michigan State University and graduated in 2004 with a political science/pre-law degree. He went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in 2007. Known affectionately and simply as “Scholke” to friends and classmates alike, Michael looked fondly upon his days at all three alma maters and deeply cherished the friendships and memories made at each.

Upon admission to the State Bars of Michigan and Wisconsin, Michael began his career as a solo practitioner. In 2012, he joined Mouw & Celeslo, P.C. in Iron Mountain where he was employed until December 2024. Michael moved to Florence, WI in May 2023, and he was elected as the Florence County Wisconsin District Attorney in 2024. In January 2025, Michael took his oath and was excited to start a new journey advocating for public safety in Florence County.

Regardless of where he called home, Michael was actively involved throughout the local community. He frequently attended fundraisers as well as

youth and community events. He rarely missed Italian Fest or the annual Kingsford Music Boosters Spaghetti Dinner. In fact, Michael served for many years as president of the Kingsford Music Boosters, and he chaperoned trips to Florida for the band. He was also involved in Project Graduation for Florence.

Michael particularly enjoyed coaching S.A.Y. and Northern Stars soccer with his closest friend Graham, culminating in nearly 20 seasons of coaching experience and mentorship as well as many broken clipboards and discarded baseball caps. Outside of his official coaching duties, Michael cheered on his friends' kids, many of whom referred to him as "Uncle Woody"—a nickname dually inspired by the Toy Story character and his fondness for cowboy boots. "Uncle Woody" could be found in the bleachers of swim meets, concerts, and award ceremonies in addition to football, basketball, and soccer games.

In his spare time, Michael enjoyed reading, traveling, gardening, cooking, coin collecting, fishing, and rooting for a multitude of beloved sports teams—particularly the Spartans and the Packers. He also was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He had an incredible gift for bringing people together. Whether it was a spontaneous bonfire, the annual Kentucky Derby party, or just any excuse to gather, he was always a generous host. Whatever the occasion, "Scholke" welcomed everyone with open arms and an open heart. He created a space where people felt seen, celebrated, and part of something special. Those moments live on in every story told and every smile he left behind.

To his immediate family, Michael was a devoted son, a supportive older brother, and a proud uncle. Michael's parents are proud not only of his accomplishments, but also of the hard-working, compassionate, and humble man he grew up to be. Michael shared a strong sense of camaraderie with

both his younger brother and his little sister and strove to set a good example for both. As a brother, he was a source of sage advice or an instigator of shenanigans, depending on the occasion. Michael was his brother's confidante and partner-in-crime. Michael enjoyed traveling to Canada to visit his brother and spend quality time with his family. Michael was his sister's first soccer coach, and despite the age gap, he respected and valued her opinions and perspective. Even during his treatments, he took as many opportunities as he could to explore Chicago with his sister.

He navigated his battle with so much grace. Even in the hardest moments, "Scholke" often comforted those around him rather than seeking comfort for himself. "We will figure it out" was a regular reassurance said to friends and family. He gave so much of himself, always more focused on how others were doing than his own pain. That was just who he was—genuine, selfless, and strong beyond measure.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, John and Ellen Kusmitch; his paternal grandfather, Donald Scholke; and an uncle, John Paul Kusmitch.

Michael is survived by his loving parents; his paternal grandmother, Sharon Scholke of Kingsford; a brother Matthew (Brilyn) Scholke; a sister, Melissa Scholke; a niece, Ella Scholke; and a nephew, Max Scholke. He is also survived by five aunts: Diane Magnuson, Donna Carson, Suzanne Scholke, Wanda Kusmitch, and Eileen Matchett; and two uncles: John Scholke and Michael Kusmitch, as well as numerous cousins.

His memory will live on among his cherished extended family of friends, which includes Hannah Goodman; Graham and Cindy Donahue; the Cavalieri brothers—Vince, Chris, Tony, Cole, and Lucas and their families; Aimee

Tatangelo; Chien-ting Chen; Ben and Shannon Sorensen; Brad and Stephanie Coe; Paul Picucci; Andy Flaminio; Matthew Peterson and family; Jon “Kentucky Jon” Edwards and family; and many others too numerous to name. Michael’s selfless and caring nature, his unfailing love and support, and his dedication to others made him a true friend to many. May this love and friendship continue to have a positive impact on the lives of those who knew and loved him most.

He had a special place in his heart for his niece and nephew, Ella and Max; his goddaughter Delaney and Finn Donahue; Dominic and Sierra Tatangelo; Ember and Grayson Goodman; his goddaughter Isabelle “Izzy,” Jack, and Audrey Sorensen. His biggest smiles were always for the kids, and it gave him great joy to be around them.

The family would like to express our immense gratitude to our friends, coworkers, and the community at large for their compassionate support, food donations, visits, flowers, and gifts. Your generosity and kindness will never be forgotten. Also, a special thank-you to the dedicated caregivers from Marshfield-Dickinson Home Health Hospice—Tammy, Brandi, and Sunshine—for their care and support. Your compassion and guidance during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

To those who knew him, the following quote by Bob Marley sums up Michael’s life perfectly: “The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.” And that’s exactly what “Scholke” did. His moral character, integrity, and empathy had an overwhelming impact on his family, friends, and anyone he came in contact with.

Michael, the world is a better place because you were in it. In the eyes of those who knew and loved you, we are the ones who are rich. You will never

be forgotten; instead you will remain in our hearts forever.

Pall bearers will be Matthew Scholke, Tony Cavalieri, Grant Carlson, Gerry Pirkola, Michael Celello, and Robert Pirkola.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Michael's name and directed to Incredible Bank, 101 West B Street, Iron Mountain, MI 49801.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 8 and from 9:30 to 10:30 am on Friday, May 9 at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. The funeral mass will be at 11:00 am on Friday, May 9 at St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Fr. Timothy Ekaitis will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Interment will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Condolences to the family of Michael Scholke may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Iron Mountain Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
(906) 774-1212

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 8.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Avenue  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
(906) 774-7676  
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

**MAY 9.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Avenue  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
(906) 774-7676  
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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MAY 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St Joseph Church  
W B St  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
(906) 774-2046

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rest Well.. Blessings*

Tiffany Chanel Gray Travel Nurse - October 13, 2025 at 06:25 PM



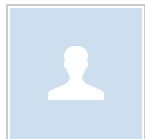
“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Michael truly was a special individual. Will miss his welcoming personality, smile and positive attitude. Until we meet again my friend. Love, the Bowers & Sabotta families*

Nikki Bowers (Sabotta) - May 08, 2025 at 03:03 PM



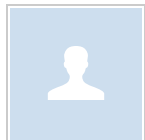
“ *Mike was a great attorney. He always went out of his way to protect his clients. He was always prepared and was respected by the judges that he appeared before. He was a true spartan fan. He will be missed by those who dealt with him. Kim Coggins.*

Kim Coggins - May 08, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael John Scholke.*

May 07, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael John Scholke.*



May 07, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MJ

“ Attorney Michael Scholke was an honorable man. He was a joy to have in my courtroom, courteous to court personnel--fair to his opponents and respectful of Judges. Always prepared and professional in representing his clients. He never refused to defend the accused regardless of the allegations. Michael was faithful to his calling and he will be sorely missed by our legal system. Judge Michael Judge Br. 1 Oconto County Wisconsin

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**Michael Judge** - May 06, 2025 at 09:58 AM

PF

“ Our family’s deepest sympathies to Mike’s family and friends, of which he had multitudes. Scholke will always be remembered with a wry smile and a quick retort. He stood out among the smartest, yet most humble and kind, kids I knew growing up in IM. The world is a more cynical place without him. Until next time, old pal.

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**Paul Furlow** - May 06, 2025 at 09:43 AM

CO

“ Please accept our condolences from the Rainbow House staff and board. We are grateful for Attorney Scholke's contributions to the community.

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”  
Albert Einstein

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**Courtney Olson** - May 05, 2025 at 04:51 PM

DE

“ There is no greater service than public service. Condolences to the family and the community he served. - Jennifer Harper, Esq. District Attorney, Richland County DA

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**DA Jennifer Harper, Esq.** - May 04, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about this and am praying for the family.

Blake Hill - May 02, 2025 at 01:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael John Scholke.



May 01, 2025 at 09:32 PM



“ I first got to know Mike in a professional manner but later as a friend. He was a good and kind man. He was an excellent advocate for the kids he represented and made a difference in many people's lives.

Mary Bruen - May 01, 2025 at 08:53 PM



“ What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful man!! He was the man with a million dollar smile and an infectious personality. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!! Jeff and Cindy Olsen

jeff and cindy olsen - May 01, 2025 at 07:06 PM



“ Mike Sr and Dee i am so sorry for your loss.I chatted with your son many times over the years more so in his younger years when he was starting out in his law career. He was so proud and worked hard to get there.So sad to see him go.God bless your entire family.Bryan Toedter

bryan toedter - May 01, 2025 at 07:00 PM