



Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr.

October 24, 2000 - November 4, 2023

Michael A. Stanilla, Jr., 23, of Lebanon passed away on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at MS Hershey Medical Center surrounded by his loving family after a three-week battle with necrotizing pancreatitis.

Born on October 24, 2000, in Shakopee, Minnesota, Michael, or "MJ" as many knew him, was the son of Michael A. Stanilla and the late Tammy L. (Wilman) Stanilla and Denise Stanilla. He was a graduate of Cedar Crest High School's Class of 2019. He attended Thaddeus Stevens College in the automotive technology program. MJ was most recently employed for Flagger Force as a flagger; a job he really enjoyed. He attended St. Mark Lutheran Church in Annville with his grandparents. He was an Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 439 where he served as an Assistant Scoutmaster. He was also a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts National Honor Society. His Vigil Honor name was Thundering Gentle Bear. As a youth he volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, Hershey, PA, and enjoyed helping the residents of Londonderry Village, Palmyra, PA. MJ had many interests. As an avid Vikings and Dodgers fan, he enjoyed sports, Disney World, traveling to Mexico and Europe, exotic cars, music, heavy metal concerts, video games, and was known for his sneaker collection.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his sister Elizabeth Diffenderfer and her husband Christian Sosa of Philadelphia, his brother James Diffenderfer (Sophie Allen) of Philadelphia, niece Emilia Sosa, nephew David Sosa, paternal grandparents Peter and Donna Stanilla, uncles Brian Stanilla

(Stephanie Wolfe) and Jack Rissmiller (late aunt Michelle Rissmiller), aunts Kathy Eckenroth (late aunt Joyce Garee) and Elaine Eckenroth, and many great aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 10AM at Kochenderfer Church, 1105 Kochenderfer Road, Lebanon. Interment will be in Grand View Memorial Park, Lebanon. There will be a viewing on Friday, November 10, 2023, from 6PM – 8PM at the church. There will be an additional viewing on Saturday morning from 9AM until 10AM at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Friends of Camp Mack please send donations to: PO BOX 56 Landisville, PA 17538 or Friends of Camp Bashore please send donations to: 1003 Stanford Drive, Lebanon, PA 17042.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV **10.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kochenderfer's United Methodist Church
1105 Kochenderfer Road
Lebanon, PA 17046

Public Viewing

NOV **11.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Kochenderfer's United Methodist Church
1105 Kochenderfer Road
Lebanon, PA 17046

Funeral Service

NOV **11.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Kochenderfer's United Methodist Church
1105 Kochenderfer Road
Lebanon, PA 17046

Tribute Wall

AW

“ MJ had an impact to the lives of all who had the pleasure of meeting him. My son is an OA member and instantly became friends with MJ on the 2022 NOAC. MJ left this world leaving a significant footprint that can never be erased in the lives and hearts of all of those who loved him and called him their friend.

With love and sympathy from Rohrerstown BSA Troop 64, A grove of 3 Memorial Trees was planted in honor of Michael A. “MJ” Stanilla, Jr.

Ashley Wharton - November 15, 2023 at 10:33 AM

PD

“ His life was short but packed with his smiling service to others. I knew him as a baby and only very recently as a grown-up Boy Scout--big, tall, smiling. Phylis Dryden, from St. Mark Lutheran in Annville.

Phylis C Dryden - November 13, 2023 at 04:32 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael A. “MJ” Stanilla, Jr..

November 12, 2023 at 09:28 AM

LS

“ Sincere deepest sympathy at the passing of Michael. Michael was such great guy. His sense of humor was such a blessing. We here at the Londonderry Village Barn greatly appreciated his help. We called him our muscle man as he could lift anything, and like letting the ladies know he was the go to guy. You will be greatly missed, RIP Michael see you on the other side.

Linda K Sprandel - November 09, 2023 at 06:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..

November 09, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..



November 09, 2023 at 10:00 AM

TE

“ Mike, Denise, James and the rest of the family, we are so sorry for your loss. MJ was such a kind young man, always smiling. Traci and Bailey Eisenhour



Traci Eisenhour - November 09, 2023 at 07:40 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..



November 09, 2023 at 07:09 AM



“ From the Members of Wunita Gokhos Lodge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..

From the Members of Wunita Gokhos Lodge - November 09, 2023 at 07:09 AM



“ Michael and Denise, we are so very sorry for the loss of your son, Michael. We continue to pray for your family as you grieve his loss. The Scarfo Family (from the waiting room)

Tammy Scarfo - November 08, 2023 at 09:33 PM



Thank you so much. Prayers for your family, as well

Denise - November 26, 2023 at 06:58 AM



“ I will always remember Michael as a sweet, smiling little boy in my classroom. Thinking of all of you.

Patty Stehr - November 08, 2023 at 07:56 PM

SH

“ God’s Return For a Child....Reaching an Understanding



*I’ll lend you for a little time, a child of mine, he said
For you to love the while they live and mourn for when they’re dead.*

*It may be six or seven years or twenty two or three
But will you till I call them back, take care of them for me?*

They’ll bring you charms to gladden you and shall their stay be brief.....

You’ll have their tender memories as solace for your grief.

*I cannot promise they will stay, since all from earth return.....
But there are lessons taught down there I want this child to learn.*

*I’ve looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true...
And from the folks that crowd life’s lanes, I have selected you.*

*Now will you give them all your love; don’t think the labor vain,
Don’t hate me when I come to call to take them home again?*

*I fancied that I heard them say
“Dear Lord, Thy Will Be Done!”
For all the joy that children bring, the risk of grief we’ll run.*

*We’ll shelter them with tenderness, we’ll love them while we may,
And for the happiness we’ve known, forever grateful stay.*

*Shall the angels call for them much sooner than we’ve planned,
We’ll brave the bitter grief that came and try to understand.*

Dr. William R. Vincent

Sheree - November 08, 2023 at 05:53 PM

BY

“ Bill and Tracy Yoder purchased the Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet for the family of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..



Bill and Tracy Yoder - November 08, 2023 at 08:01 AM

BY

“ Bill and Tracy Yoder planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..

Bill and Tracy Yoder - November 08, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..



November 07, 2023 at 03:48 PM

WF

“ With love, your running friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..

With love, your running friends - November 07, 2023 at 03:48 PM

MK

“ My condolences to the family. I only knew Mike for a couple of months, working with him at flagger force. He was a good man. He always had a smile on his face. Mike you will be missed.

Michael Kerns - November 07, 2023 at 03:42 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..



November 07, 2023 at 03:35 PM

LF

“ Love, your Temple friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael A. "MJ" Stanilla, Jr..

Love, your Temple friends - November 07, 2023 at 03:35 PM

MM

“ Me and Mike were great friends in high school before I graduated I can't believe he is gone I hope he rests in peace and I will always remember the good time we had together

matthew Mauro - November 07, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ I've known MJ for a few years now. I first met him at Cedar Crest High School in 2015 when I started my sophomore year. I feel bad that he has now passed away. His memory will live on and I'm sorry for his family's loss of their son.

Daniel Miller - November 07, 2023 at 01:44 PM

RN

“ Donna, Pete, and Mike Sr.,
Deepest sympathy on the loss of your grandson & son. I certainly remember Mike as he grew up under your care and attended St. Mark. Losing one so young is so difficult to understand. Call on your Lord & Savior to get you through this trial.

Rachel Noll - November 07, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ What an amazing young person to have done all of the things Michael was able to do and all of the lives he touched in his short life. I am thinking of you all each and every moment hoping you find some peace knowing that while Michael was here he had so much love to offer others and that he was loved so deeply by you and all of his friends. Continued prayers for his entire family...

Jolene Bright - November 07, 2023 at 09:40 AM