



Michal Arrington

February 19, 1947 - June 3, 2026

Michal Wayne Arrington was born on February 19, 1947, in Denton, Texas, to Leroy and Mary Nell Arrington, the younger of their two sons. Known to many as “Mike,” “Coach Arrington,” “Mr. Arrington,” or “GPaw,” he grew up in Denton and worked with his father in the family flooring business until graduating from Denton High School in 1965. He then attended the University of North Texas, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education in 1969. While attending UNT, he met Jennifer “Jenny” Watson of Fairfield, Texas, a student at Texas Woman’s University in Denton. They married in 1968 and made their home in Fairfield. After graduating from UNT in 1969, Mike began his career at Fairfield Junior High School, where he coached and taught for several years before continuing to teach seventh-grade science for the remainder of his 29-year career.

Mike served in the United States Army from 1971 to 1973 and was stationed at Fort Ord in Monterey Bay, California, where he served as a Physical Activities Specialist. After completing his military service, he returned to Fairfield Junior High School and continued the coaching and teaching career he loved.

With the arrival of his only child, Maggie Ellen Arrington, in September 1975, Mike soon decided to “retire” from coaching so he could continue focusing on teaching. Mr. Arrington was truly one of a kind. Many Fairfield alumni still remember his unforgettable classroom antics—from throwing erasers to dropping metal trash cans near sleeping students, to his famously slow

movements and quirky mannerisms. He loved making people smile and never failed to leave them wondering what in the world he had just said, why he had just done what he did, or what exactly he was thinking when he simply stood and stared in silence.

In 1991, Mike married Kathy Jo Kent of Corsicana, Texas, who became a kindergarten teacher at Fairfield Elementary School. Mike worked at Fairfield Junior High School from 1969 to 1998, and when he retired, he and Kathy both concluded their careers with Fairfield Independent School District. They spent many of their retirement years in Ruidoso, New Mexico, enjoying the cooler weather and the community they came to love. Mike and Kathy took part in many local activities, including Mike's performance in *The Music Man*. After grandchildren arrived in 2005 and 2008, the couple decided to return to Texas, where they cherished many hours entertaining and spending time with them while their parents worked.

Mike was a member of First United Methodist Church in Fairfield, loved playing golf and teaching his daughter to play, and for many years he was an avid fisherman. He also thoroughly enjoyed working in his yard, where he always seemed to have some sort of landscaping project underway.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Leroy and Mary Nell Arrington of Denton, Texas, and his wife, Kathy Jo Arrington. He is survived by his loving family: his only child, Maggie Ellen Bonds, her husband, Jerry Bonds, and their two children, River Bonds and Rainy Bonds, all of Fairfield, Texas; his brother, Ronnie "Ron" Arrington and his wife, Sherry, of Denton, Texas; four nephews, Brian Arrington and his wife, Kim, of Coppell, Texas, Jason Arrington and his wife, Jessica, of Lewisville, Texas, Jeff Arrington and his wife, Pamela, of Northlake, Texas, and Patrick Hall of Denton, Texas; and his niece, Mikayla Garrison and her husband, Jordan, of Round Rock, Texas, along with many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at First United Methodist Church in Fairfield, Texas. Visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that

memorial donations be made to First United Methodist Church of Fairfield or to Round Prairie Baptist Church of Fairfield Building Fund.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:4-7

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist - Fairfield
201 North Mount
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-2225

Memorial Service

JUN 14. 3:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist - Fairfield
201 North Mount
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-2225

Tribute Wall

TN

“ *My deepest condolences to the family and all who loved him.*

I wanted to share that Lily is doing very well and is in loving, caring hands. She is safe, happy, and deeply cherished. I hope it brings some comfort to know that she continues to be well cared for and loved every day.

He clearly meant a great deal to many people, and it is evident from the memories and tributes being shared how much of an impact he had on those around him. My thoughts are with all of you during this difficult time.

If the family would be comfortable with it, I would be honored to bring Lily to the funeral. It would mean a lot to have her there to pay tribute to someone who was such an important part of her life. If that is not appropriate or would place any burden on the family, I completely understand.

Wishing you peace, comfort, and strength in the days ahead. May he rest in peace.

Theresa Nguy - June 12 at 11:49 PM

JC

“ *I'm grateful for the laughs and lasting lessons. Jennifer Love Class*



Jennifer Love Class - June 11 at 08:41 AM

JP

“ Mr. Arrington was one of my favorite teachers. I always loved going to his class. He truly loved his job and made many lasting impacts on all of us. From time to time he would get me out of computer class and we would discuss life, and most importantly, fishing. I will always remember him for his kindness and unique sense of humor. He will be missed.

Jeffrey Price - June 09 at 08:29 AM

KG

“ Growing up I have such fond memories of Mr. Arrington. He was hands down one of my favorites of Dad's friends. Then I got the opportunity to have him as a teacher. He was always so witty and I just adored him. So sorry to hear about his passing. He was one of the great ones for sure. I know him and Dad are having so much fun in heaven together. Sending all our love and condolences. - Kristi McLerran Galbraith

Kristi McLerran Galbraith - June 08 at 11:53 AM

NS

“ Well, this makes me sad. Mr. Arrington was one of my favorite teachers. He was a kind man and made learning Science fun. He remembered me even after 30 year since being in his class. I know he will be greatly missed by many. My condolences to the family.

Nicole Schaefer - June 07 at 07:38 PM