



## Michael John Pender

April 28, 1960 - October 4, 2021

St. George, UT - With his family by his side, Michael John Pender age 61 passed away due to health issues on October 4, 2021, in St. George, UT. He was born April 28, 1960, in Oak Harbor, WA, US Naval Air Station to Joan Gertrude Riley Pender and Glenn Edward Pender. He married Christina Lynn Vanetti in South Lake Tahoe, CA on May 30, 1992. Michael was raised in Dixon CA where he graduated high school. He also completed an Industrial Maintenance Certificate Program in 2016 at Dixie Technical College in St. George Utah. He also lived in Olympia WA before moving to St. George Utah in 2006.

Michael's lifelong career was in the Industrial Maintenance/Construction field. Michael was very clever with mechanics and enjoyed repairing things for family and friends as well. Mike's work was never done, and he thrived when he had a project. He enjoyed riding and fixing motorcycles, swimming and throwing football with his boys. He loved watching his boys play football, basketball, track and soccer and did his best to be at every game. He enjoyed taking his family on vacations and just spending time with family in general. He was a lifelong 49er's fan and loved to watch the Sunday night games with his family. He loved animals and was good with rescues, winning their trust through patience, walking, petting and treats.

Michael is survived by: his wife Christina Lynn Pender; and their two sons Robert Michael Pender aka Bobby, 20 and Joseph Alexander Pender aka Joey, 14; 2 children from previous marriage, Matthew John Pender, his wife

Leah Pender, their two children, Melissa Pender-Gschwend, her husband Sanford Gschwend, their two children; his mother Joan Riley Swafford; and his siblings Cindy Patrick, Patricia Pender, and Glenn Pender. He was preceded in death by: his father Glenn Pender; and stepfather Robert Swafford who raised him. Michael idolized Bob Swafford and called him dad. Michael drove diesel trucks and harvesters, learning so much from Bob through the years. Bob helped make Mike the hard working, dedicated man that he became.

We'd like to thank Nurse Kim Schuman (our good neighbor) and the staff at IHC for their effort and support. We really appreciate the love, kindness and support we've received from our extended family, friends, and neighbors in our time of grief. A special thank you to Michael's youngest son Joey for his amazing effort in initiating lifesaving skills in an effort to save his father. His mother and brother are eternally grateful for his gallant efforts.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate Mike's life on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Hills 10th Ward LDS Church, 1222 East Brigham Rd, St. George, UT.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary or ASPCA. Mike will be extremely missed by his family and friends who knew, loved, and respected him.

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at: [www.SerenityStG.com](http://www.SerenityStG.com). Arrangements and memorial tree planting are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 435-986-9100.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM (MT)

Bloomington Hills Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
1222 East Brigham RD  
St. George, UT 84790

# Tribute Wall



“ I'll never forget being able to invite Mike to Father & Sons Outing and having him and Bobby up for that night camping. We really felt the spirit together. He could readily accept and rejoice in that feeling for face value, which is a quality of valiancy. His enthusiasm and zest for life were catchy and inspiring. But these were qualities common to meeting Mike anytime. As he was a great source of friendship in our cul-de-sac of neighbors where he was always willing to be the first to lend a helping hand. Because of that first experience of really feeling the spirit and in and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Mike and I continued that friendship with the memory of that influence of the gospel in our lives and in trying to be better men for our families. We tried to compliment each other in our roles and interest over each other and each other's kids. He expressed enthusiasm in almost every encounter. He was a hard worker which he showed to be a devotion to his family and 'the principle of it' which made him in my book a man of integrity. It was a deep deep honor to know and love Mike Pender- friends in life and friends forever! May God now bless his family as would his heart be soothed in that, over the temporary loss he feels right now of his beloved Chris.

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**Brian Habel** - October 22, 2021 at 07:12 AM

CP

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Christina Pender - October 16, 2021 at 01:25 AM

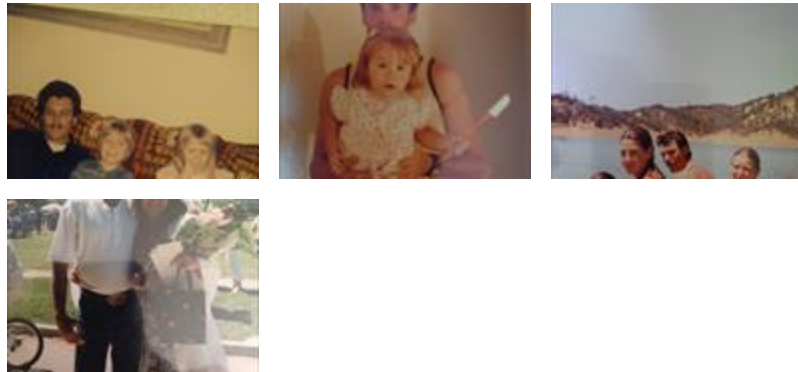
DP

“ Chis, I'm so sorry to hear about Mikes passing. My little one Adilyn will never forget when Mike showed her behind the scenes at Tuacahn. He lit the fire for arts with her. He'll never know how many lives he truly touched. He'll never be forgotten. praying for peace in this difficult time for you and you're family.

DIANE PISBREY - October 14, 2021 at 08:21 PM

CP

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Christina Pender - October 14, 2021 at 05:26 PM

MG

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Mellissa Gschwend - October 13, 2021 at 10:59 PM

TB

“ I have so many fond memories of Mike. I'm so grateful to have shared in so many wonderful family adventures with him. Camping, canoeing, rafting and hiking just to name a few. He was always cheerful and helpful and made these trips special and memorable.



Mike had an incredible work ethic and always offered a helping hand when needed.

My heart is heavy. I wish I could have one more family meal, one more adventure.

My deepest sympathies to his family. He will be greatly missed. Surrounding you with love.

Theresa Baciarini - October 13, 2021 at 03:31 PM

CP

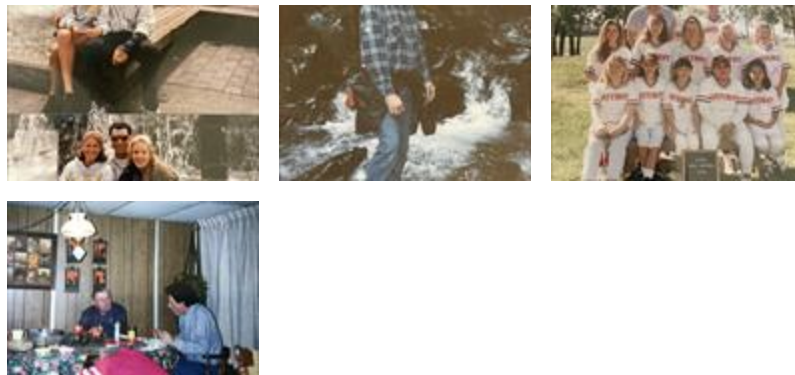
“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Christina Pender - October 13, 2021 at 03:48 AM

MG

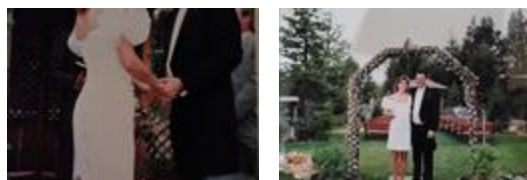
“ I will miss you so much you never realize how much until it's to late



Mellisa Pender- Gschwend - October 13, 2021 at 02:19 AM

CP

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Christina Pender - October 12, 2021 at 08:18 PM