



## Michael Blanchard Obituary

September 21, 1961 - September 1, 2006

Michael Randall "Mike" Blanchard, 44, of Albany, died Friday from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. His funeral service will be TUESDAY 4 PM at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church. The Rev. Nathan Godley will officiate. Burial services will be in Russellville, KY. A native of Alexandria, La., Mr. Blanchard was born Sept. 21, 1961. He is the son of Randall M. Blanchard, Newberry, FL and Joan H. Catcart, Albany. He graduated from Windsor Forest High School, Savannah, GA in 1980 and attended Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA. After college, he worked in the banking profession before beginning a career in the automotive industry at Savannah Toyota. He worked with Applied Transportation Concepts, Birmingham, AL as an automotive consultant, working with Ford, Chrysler, and the Southeast Toyota dealerships for eight years while residing in Russellville, KY. He came to Albany in 2003 to open the new Fairway Toyota where he served as General Manager. In 2005, he was the recipient of the prestigious President's Award from Toyota Motor Corporation. Earlier this month he was featured in Time magazine recognizing his success with Toyota and his work with the Albany community. He was a member of Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church, and was a Mason. In addition to his mother and father, he is survived by his wife: Susan (Sue Lynn) Neely Blanchard, Albany; 2 daughters: Neely Blanchard, Bowling Green, KY, Savannah Blanchard, Albany; 2 sisters: Tracie Blanchard Danzey, Atlanta and Heather Cathcart, Augusta; a grandmother: Hattie Clifton, Savannah, GA, father and mother-in-law: Ray and Sally Neely, Russellville,

KY; brother-in-law: Bryan Neely and his wife Samone, Nashville, TN. The family will receive friends at Fairway Toyota on Ledo Rd. on Monday from 2-6 PM. They will also receive friends at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church on Tuesday from 2 PM until the funeral hour. Those desiring may send memorials to Children's Educational Fund, c/o U. S. Bank, 135 W 4<sup>th</sup> St., Russellville, KY 42276.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Blanchard Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Michael Blanchard Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Michael Blanchard Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Michael Blanchard Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Happy Birthday, You!*

**Golden Eyes** - September 22, 2015 at 09:24 PM



“ *Dark and silent late last night  
I think I might have heard the highway calling  
Geese in flight and dogs that bite  
Signs that might be omens say I'm going, I'm going  
I'm goin' to Carolina in my mind...*

*Hey you...I will see you again!*

**A Special Friend** - October 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Mike,  
It's been six years and Savannah is about to turn 20! Our baby has grown up and is still not doing well. Please help her heal the pain. I still have a hard time understanding all that I have found out and wish you were here to discuss it all with you. Only the Lord knows what your family is still going through...especially Savannah.  
Susan

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**Susan Blanchard - Jacksonville, FL - wife** - September 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I miss you Mike ! You was the best . Shane Brown

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**shane brown - tifton, GA - friend** - August 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

YS

“ I miss you Mikey! Please help us find Tybee!

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**Your Susan** - July 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

YS

“ Daddy, I miss you so much and Hope you are doing good in God's hands now, you don't have to worry about the lynch's you can relax and play with buddy! love you...

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**Your Little Girl Savannah** - July 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

YS

“ Father's Day wasn't the same this year without you Mikey!  
We all miss you terribly especially Bana! Please send her down your strength-it's not getting any easier for her yet. Since we are back in our home now, I hope that all of your old friends will reach out to her. I love you darling. Your Susan

---

**Your Susan** - July 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Mike, little did we know that day God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly. In death, we do the same. It broke out hearts to lose you. But you did not go alone. For a part of us went with you on the day God called you home. You left us beautiful memories. Your love is still our guide. And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Nothing seems to be the same. But as god calls us home we will see you again! Miss you Michael!!

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**Always a friend** - March 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Susan and girls..... You ALL KNOW how we feel about you. CANNOT comprehend what you are feeling during this holiday season, but please know how much you are loved. WE ALL MISS MIKE.....BUT we will NEVER know HOW MUCH YA'LL MISS HIM. All we can do is let you know that we LOVE YA'LL SO MUCH and our thoughts and prayers are with ya'll. My joy at Christmas now has a HUGE void.....cause we always looked forward to your Christmas card....PLEASE, PLEASE.... still do a Christmas card...because you are STILL a family and we will ALL 'see' Mike in YOUR CARD! LOVE YOU.....Paige

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**Paige Linton Saussy** - January 07, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Dear Mike,  
I know that you are so thankful for all of the support that our wonderful friends and family have given us upon you going to be with our Lord and Savior. I find such strength in knowing that you are a Christian and that we will SEE YA again. As I lie awake again tonight here so close to you in Russellville, please know that we feel your presence with us all of the time. We have been so blessed to have had all of our friends be so supportive to us. You never thought you were as great a man as Daddy is but you were. Your impact on our lives was so profound.  
I never would have believed that we would lose you in the R.V. I always worried about you getting on a plane every week to go to work but never did I think about losing you this way. Many of us have never felt that you ran that stop sign and hopefully soon, we will be able to prove that.  
Rest in peace sweetie!  
I love you!  
Your Susan

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**Susan Blanchard** - October 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ I love and will miss you so much. I fondly remeber how you terrorized me so in our childhood and the last few years we had some special times. its hard to accept you are gone but I trust in the lords wisdom and I will see you again on the other side, until we meet again..... love you, rest well!

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**Tracie Blanchard Danzey** - October 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HE

“ A brother shares childhood memories and grown-up dreams.  
~Author Unknown

*Susan, Neely and Savannah, my thoughts are always with you and know that I love you so much!*

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**Heather** - September 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ ..

*daisies are friendly and so was mike.....he will be greatly missed.....and rest and peace from God above to sue lynn,savannah,and neely  
i am only a phone call away for you all, and i hope to see you soon, whether you are back in your groove or not...love, ruthanne*

*daisies are friendly and so was mike.....he will be greatly missed.....and peace and rest from God above for sue lynn,savannah,neely.....love, ruthanne (23rd psalm)*

*p.s. i am a phone call away for you,whether you are back in your groove or not*

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**RuthAnne Gerber** - September 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Susan, Neely, and Savanna Mike was a great friend and cousin. Wayne and I will sorely miss his jokes, and laughter. We will never forget camping with him in the pouring rain and the whole time Mike kept saying "It ain't gonna rain!", just to make us feel better. We love you Mikie and will see you in heaven!! Wayne Sheri, Lindsay and Lauren Lanier.

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**Sheri Lanier** - September 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ You will be greatly missed, cousin. Praying for your family, with love,  
*Lori and family*

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**Lori Belser** - September 11, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ My sincerest condolences to your family. My cousin, Greg was the one in the accident with Mr. Blanchard. Our family is still in great shock over this loss. Greg was my childhood friend and my aunt and uncle's only son. The children he and Maggie had were adopted from a Russian orphanage. Greg and Maggie gave them a wonderful 3 years. The children were my aunt and uncle's only grandchildren.

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**Cindy Coughlin** - September 09, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I worked with Mike at Abercorn Toyota and can still see him, walking through the showroom with his huge grin and a twinkle in his eye. He was a great friend. To his family, friends, and everyone else who knew and loved him, through God's grace and mercy, we will see him again.

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**Pamela Smith** - September 07, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ To the Blanchard family, our memories are with your family. Mike will be missed in the automotive field.

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**John Bierman** - September 07, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ *The staff of Woodbury Funeral Home wishes to express our sincere sympathy to the family of Eddie McCurry.*

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**Woodbury Funeral Home** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Susan, Neely and Family --*

*Mary Beth, Kimberly and I are deeply saddened by the untimely loss of Mike. He was truly a nice guy and knew no stranger. Even though we have not been in contact in over 10 years, I remember our days living close in Savannah and Mike selling me a few cars. I am praying for all of you and know that your friends in Savannah deeply care and are thinking of you during this difficult time.*

*God bless all of you.*

*Your friends,*

*Bob Fritts and Family.*

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**Robert Fritts** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ *Susan and Family please accept our deepest sympathy for your great loss.*

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**George and Kathleen Haas** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ I was Mike's cousin although I didn't know him in person I knew his daddy and have heard great stories through my mamma that he was a very nice man.  
I would like to wish the family and friends that are left behind our blessing and know you're in our hearts and prayers! Uncle Randy and Aunt Beverly may God hold your hand through this time of need.

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**Amanda Lee Zehr & Family** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ My deepest sympathy for Mike's family and friends. He was my cousin, but I did not know him. From talking to my mother and father I get the feeling that I missed out on knowing a great person. To my uncle Randy and aunt Bev, my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this trying time. God Bless You All!

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**James C. Lee, III** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ On behalf of the Pastor and Staff of Byne Memorial Baptist Church, we would like to send you our prayers and sympathy in the tragic death of Mr. Blanchard. May God give you comfort during this time, and know that we are praying for you and your family.

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**Lydia Thompson, Pastoral Ministry Assistant** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Heather,  
My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

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**Donna Swanson** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with all of the family. May God bless you all. Dorothy B. Mock is Mike's great aunt and Martha Jo and Mike are 2nd cousins, we join all the family in knowing that we will miss him.

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**Mike Mock, Dorothy B. Mock, Martha Jo Ryan** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Mike was great instructor and teacher. Always willing to help and listen to our dealership problems. Many of us owe Mike a debt of gratitude for the knowledge that he shared with us all. Mike was good man, he will be missed by all that knew him.  
"The road goes on forever"

*Bob Starford*

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**ROBERT STARFORD** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ May God's love keep each of you. You are in our prayer..

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**Betty Rockett** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ I grew up living next door to Mike's grandmother, Ms. Clifton and spent a lot of time with Tracey and Mike. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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**Pam Wilson Rossman** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ To all Mike's family. We lived next door to Mike's grandmother when he was a youngster. He was always so full of life and a good friend to our son, Woody. His sister, Tracy, was like a sister to our daughter Pam when kids. We have fond memories of those days. Our extreme sympathy to all the family. Wish we had known him as an adult. It appears he did well and we are proud of him. May he rest in peace.

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**Bob and Betsy Wilson** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Your memories left behind at Savannah Toyota are all good. You gave me my first job at Savannah Toyota after retiring from the Military and I am still there..Thank You Mike, Rest in Peace, My Friend..Sue Lynn, during this time of grief, if BJ and I could be of help to you and your family, contact us..God Bless !!

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**Ron and BJ Winborne** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ To the family of Mike Blanchard,

*It was a sad day in Savannah, Ga. today when news spread of the accident. You have a large family of Mike's friends here in Savannah that are thinking of you. He is with the Lord and helping with his work now.*

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**Henry Holcomb** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Dear Sue Lynn and Girls, Please accept my deepest sympathies for your loss. I was deeply saddened to learn about Mike's accident. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless and comfort you. Remember that those we have loved and lost, we will see again on the other side. Love, Susan

---

**Susan S. Bunger** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ In my mind's eye, I'll always see Mike as the loveable little cat with 9 lives. Throw anything at that guy and he'd land on his feet. A life well lived, friend. Today, about time for your funeral, the heavens rained tears for us, joy for you. Farewell.

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**Doris and Roy Baugh** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ The best Atcon teacher I ever had. He will be greatly missed by us all at North Georgia Toyota in Dalton, Ga.

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**Donna Lewallen** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

OC

“ You are in our prayers. Please accept our deepest sympathy for your great loss.

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**Olivia Coston** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Susan and Family and I cannot begin to tell you how sorry I am to hear of Mike's passing. Mike was my mentor when I started with Atcon over 7 years ago. He will always be remembered in my heart as a great friend and person. I have the utmost respect for him. I will keep Mike and your family in my prayers. God Bless.

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**Cam Priole** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ *A great business friend. Our loss here on earth is God's gain in heaven.*

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**Chuck Darsey** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Sue Lynn, Neely & Savannah,  
We are so sorry for your loss and want to let you know that our prayers are with you.*

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**Jodi and Robert Stuart** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *You are in our prayers. Please accept our deepest sympathy for your great loss. Craig, Cindy, and Emily Smith*

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**Dr. Craig and Cindy Smith** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Randy:  
We just learned of Mike's death. We all want the family to know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if we can help in any way. We send our love.  
All the Elkins sisters & families.*

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**Cecile Elkins Baker** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ *I worked with Mike at Chick-Fil-A in Savannah and always thought so much of him. Mike was sensitive and kind to everyone. I know that he will be greatly missed.*

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**Vicki Carter** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Mike was a super employee for Abercorn Toyota for many years. After a talk with Hal Lynch in later years and seeing Mike get the job at Fairway Toyota made me a very happy person. His memory will always be in my heart. My condolences to his family.

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**Dave Fleming** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Susan and family, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this tragic time in your lives. Know that you are being prayed for and that you are loved. May you all turn to the Lord for your comfort and may many blessings be poured out to your family.

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**Lila Swords** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ I was so sorry to hear about Mike. He was such a wonderful man and will be sadly missed. If there is anything that I can do, please let me know. Nancy

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**Nancy Gerlach** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Susan we are so very sorry for your loss. Mike will always have a special place in our hearts. He was the big brother Steve never had. We love you and the girls and will keep you in our prayers. Isaiah 40:31

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**Steve, Kim, Parker, Walker & Grace Gordon** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ I grew up living next door to Mike's Grandmother(Mrs. Clifton) Mike and I were the very best of friends when we were in our early teens. Although we had lost touch as adults, It still hit me pretty hard to hear of his death. My sympathy is with his wife & children, his mother Joan, Mrs. Clifton, and all the rest of his family.

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**Woody Wilson** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Susan, Savannah and Neely,  
You are in our prayers, our daily prayers. Your family means so much to us. Mike was more than just Al's friend, he was Zander and Calvin's "Buddy"!! He will be missed, but better yet, he will be remembered!  
We love you guys and you know we're here for you!  
Donna, Al, Calvin, Zander and Alli

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**Al, Donna, Calvin, Zander, and Alli Hatcher** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Heather,  
My heart goes out to you and your family. Please know that Michael and I are sending you lots of love and hugs. I am keeping all of you in our prayers. Love ya!!  
Louise and Michael

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**Louise Reintzell** - September 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Mike was certainly a fine man and we are so sorry for your loss. We are praying for God's strength and comfort now and in the days ahead. With our love, Chris and Mary

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**Glenn and Mary Christmas** - September 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ To the Fairway & Blanchard family,  
Your loss has been tremendous. I never saw a group work together  
so well- and to Susan & the girls, please know Mike always had a  
story to share about each of you and he LOVED his family.  
I will miss him greatly- and I'm praying for all of you.  
Dotty Davis

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**Dotty Davis** - September 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Sue Lynn, We are so sorry for your pain. Please accept our deepest  
sympathy. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Ann Duncan, Fount Shifflett** - September 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Your thoughts and prayers are with all of us.

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**Lisle and Tom Threlkeld, Fountain and Ann Duncan** - September 04, 2006 at  
12:00 AM

BF

“ susan,we are deeply sorry for the tragedy.tammy and i both loved  
working with mike from the day we met him.he always had a smile  
for you and made our business association a true freindship.our  
heart goes out to you and the girls you will always be in our  
thoughts and prayers. burt and tammy

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**burt and tammy leblanc and family** - September 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Sue, I am so sorry about Mike, He was truly an asset to Albany and I liked him very much, Sandy Farkas introduced us and you both are great people. He will be missed and my heart goes out to you and your children. Love you much Diane

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**Diane Coleman** - September 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you, Sue Lynn and your daughters. Michael was such a nice person to know. Tomorrow I am flying to Tallahassee to visit relatives. So I am sorry I will not be able to express my sympathy in person. Love, Mary Ewing

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**Mary Ewing** - September 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Sue Lynn, We were so sorry to hear about your loss. We are remembering you and your family in our prayers. Sincerely, Janet & Norman

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**Norman & Janet Menser** - September 03, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ susan, rustin and i are praying for you and your family if you need anything let us know. everybody loved mike and he will be missed dearly. we love you all.

*holly and rustin*

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**holly (faircloth) rustin collins** - September 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ We love you all. Mike made us feel welcome wherever you were. We are thankful for our short time with him and all of your family. God will see you through this as he has all of your life. Stay close to Him. We will always be there for you. Love, Ron, Charlotte, Allison, Alex and Helon

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**Ron, Charlotte, Allison, Alex, and Helon** - September 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, Savannah and Neely. Mike was such an inspiration and "father figure" to Spenser....we will all miss him dearly. Tracey, Taylor, Spenser and Bridger

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**Tracey Ferrell** - September 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM