



Michael Anthony Watson

April 13, 1965 - July 24, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Michael "Mike" Watson, beloved husband, father, grandfather (Popi), and dedicated public servant, who passed away on Thursday, July 24, 2025, at the age of 60 in Visalia, California.

Mike was born on April 13, 1965, and devoted his life to family, faith, and service. A proud resident of Tulare County, he spent over three decades with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, where he rose through the ranks to the position of Captain. Known for his integrity, steady leadership, and unwavering dedication to his community, Mike began his career in the Detentions Division and later served in patrol positions in Porterville and Pixley. Through hard work and compassion, he earned the respect of his colleagues and the community alike.

Captain Watson officially retired in March 2020 after 32 years of service, but his legacy continued to inspire those who followed in his footsteps. He often said that the most rewarding part of his career was working with the people who served alongside him - a sentiment that perfectly reflects the loyalty and kindness he was known for.

Mike is preceded in death by his parents Edward and Corry Watson. Mike is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Paula, and their four children:

Courtney (Doug), Caylie (Matt), Colton, and Samuel. He was a proud and devoted grandfather to five grandchildren (Case, Camdyn, Collins, Hayes, and Navy), who brought him endless joy and laughter. He is also survived by four siblings: James(Melody), Helen(Tom), Jeanne(Bobby), and Teddy(April), numerous nieces and nephews, and many close friends.

Mike was truly "one of a kind." From the moment he walked into a room, you knew it. There was a presence, a spark - a mix of humor, wisdom, mischief, and kindness that couldn't be faked or forgotten. He will be remembered not only for his years of dedicated service, but for his storytelling, sense of humor, and deep love for his family. His presence was steady, his heart generous, and his values unwavering.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, followed by burial at Tulare North Cemetery.

Mike will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew him.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 11. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Aloysius Catholic Church
125 E. Pleasant Avenue
Tulare, CA 93274

Graveside

AUG 11. 12:00 PM (PT)

North Tulare Public Cemetery
4572 J St
Tulare, CA 93274

Celebration of Life

AUG 15. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

The Gardens Venue Tulare
950 N J St
Tulare, CA 93274

Tribute Wall



SC

“ Man this is hard to take in I'm an ex Marine that had got a lot of addictions over seas but Mike would always help me out when I was low and needed whatever when I first moved to Porterville I was low on money needed wheels around the city and he helped me out worked for him for a bit at porterville pawn he was a great great man it hurts to see him not with us but if your listening I still want my game of poker old man, I send my love and respect to his family wife and Sam much respects...He will live in my heart forever by the talks he would have with me and even tho he was a cop, he never judged me not once but told me what I needed to hear..Hoo Raw to that Man they took a good one.....Respects.

Sean Conlon - August 28, 2025 at 10:29 PM



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

August 16, 2025 at 11:18 AM

PE

“ As a kid, Mike and his brothers and sisters came with their mother to the Netherlands on holiday for a couple of weeks and stay with Oma in a small apartment.

My mom and his mom were good friends and we always had playdates or went out.

The last time we did go to Bobbejaanland in Belgium and already had kids ourselves.

Mike, you were a really nice and fun guy to be around, wish your family all the strength, must be hard losing a husband, father, grandfather and brother like you.

Sending all our love to them.

We will cherish our memories

Petra van Noije Tilburg (Netherlands)

petra - August 12, 2025 at 02:33 AM

SK

“ Steven K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Anthony Watson.

Steven K. - August 11, 2025 at 08:34 PM

CR

“ He was the greatest American Alive. Ever, Greatest, Just awesome. I honestly think that everyone he talked to got who he was. He was like Marshal Dillion from GunSmoke. I remember one time he said, Renfro if my gas bill is \$700 dollars I am going shoot you in the head, when I accidentally hit gas line at his house. (moving a tractor) He would leave house at 3 am, 4 am and all times of the day and night (on or off duty) to check on the crime scenes of some of the worst gun violence this County has witnessed. He was always there. Its just like, what do you do, when someone like this is gone. Its like how? Nothing could hurt Watts? I am still wondering if his Tulare County Sheriffs back up are aware this; if there like me there still waiting to see him come out with that tilt of the head and smile and then throw that head back and look mean. Watts I am praying for your soul.. I am so sorry to children and Paula. Its like what do you do? Thats a big void. So much there to love. Watts... Watts... Love and Miss you my Brother.

Chris Renfro

I never had a friend until I had you as one

Christopher Renfro - August 06, 2025 at 02:35 AM

SH

“ Sharon Herbert purchased the Basket Full of Wis
hes for the family of Michael Anthony Watson.



Sharon Herbert - August 06, 2025 at 01:18 AM

FF

“ From cynthia armenta and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Anthony Watson.

From cynthia armenta and family - August 04, 2025 at 11:16 PM

FF

“ From cynthia armenta and family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Michael Anthony Watson.



From cynthia armenta and family - August 04, 2025 at 11:16 PM

MC

“ My brothers Rick, Roy and myself send our most deepest condolences to Paula and the entire family. I went to school with Mike but didn't get to know him till I got with my late husband LD Cox. Mike and LD were best buds and best man at our wedding. If it was going to buy a car for the carlot or if it was having a beer at the carlot.

Not only was Mike a big help to my late husband but also a big help to my two brothers and myself. After my husband passed, Mike said to call him if I ever needed any kind of advice. He meant it. I did call him a few times and he did help me out every time. I was so thankful to him.

And of course my brothers and I got a big kick out of his adventure stories. So comical!!! I recorded him telling one of his stories. I'm glad I have that story to remember him by.

Mike Watson will truly be missed.

May you rest in peace Mike. We love you 🥹

Mary Anne Cox - August 04, 2025 at 10:47 PM



“ *Rest in Peace Mike. It's was fun working with you at the COT and a pleasure taking care of your hearing health in recent years. Deepest sympathies to your family during this difficult time.*

*Marilyn Carter
Hanford Beltone*

Marilyn Carter - August 04, 2025 at 06:48 PM

AS

“ *So Sorry for your loss.*

Annette Salim

Annette Salim - August 04, 2025 at 06:33 PM