



## Charles "Mike" Thacker

August 2, 1956 - October 6, 2023

Charles Michael "Mike" Thacker departed this world peacefully on October 6th, 2023, at his daughter's home in Kingston. He was preceded in death by his brothers John and Vaughn, his sister Phyllis, his mother Anna Maude and father Charles, grandson Judah, and wife Karen. He is survived by his sister Kathy Campbell, niece Tangie Carillo, his son Matthew and his wife Wendi and their children Camilla Kate and Emmett, and daughter Rita Curran and her husband Jim and their son Mikey.

Mike was a lifelong member of the Kingston community having attended Roane County High and been a part of the 1973 Yellow Jacket Football State Championship team. Mike worked most of his adult life as a transmission specialist at Sexton Automotive in Harriman and was well known as a man who could fix anything with an engine. Anyone who knew Mike knew his real passion was drag racing. Mike raced hand-built roadsters and rear engine dragsters every Saturday night all across the southeast. Many rival racers he rolled up next to in the staging lanes were driving engines, transmissions, or even whole cars Mike helped build. Though he kept racing until the last year of his life, when his grandkids came around, he would occasionally be seen on a Saturday evening riding a grinning toddler around on his tractor or teaching them to drive a 4-wheeler. "Papaw" was deeply loved by his kids and grandkids alike and will be sorely missed.

In their last years, Mike and Karen supported St Jude Children's Hospital in remembrance of their grandson Judah. In lieu of flowers, please donate in

Mike's name. Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Thacker Family.

# Tribute Wall

CO

“ Mikey was a good friend and family member of my Stepdad Wayne Thacker. He and his wife often visited with my parents with whom they shared their love of Drag Racing and mechanics. I remember well Mikey’s laughter from our garage where he, Wayne, and my brothers swapped stories and mechanic skills while we women sat around the kitchen table chatting with our cups of coffee. Mikey was family and I considered him a friend. Later on we discovered that we shared the same disease, multiple sclerosis “the MonSter”, and once when Mikey was helping Wayne with my car and had it up on his lift in his garage, we got to swap stories of our own comparing our MS symptoms and what treatments our doctors had us on. He seemed happy then and doing well and that is how I choose to remember him. Prayers for his family, may they find peace and comfort that Mikey isn’t suffering anymore and that with God’s grace we will all be reunited in a much better place.

Sincerely,  
Cammie Owens

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**Camoline Owens** - October 08, 2023 at 09:02 AM

FS

“ Charles was a guy. Prayers for his family.

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**Frank Stout** - October 07, 2023 at 09:34 PM

CF

“ Matthew and Rita and all extended family, We are so very sorry for your loss. Thinking of your family today and sending lots of love, hugs, and our deepest sympathies. Cindy and Dave Fielden

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**cynthia fielden** - October 07, 2023 at 03:29 PM

DT

“ So sorry for your loss I can remember Mike and my uncle Wayne building a race car. They loved being under the hood of a car. Love cousin Dana

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**Dana Thacker** - October 07, 2023 at 03:25 PM