



Michael Joseph Rowland

January 26, 1959 - October 31, 2021

Dr. Michael “Mike” J. Rowland was a caring and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He left this world suddenly on October 31, 2021 at the age of 62 with his family by his side.

He was born to Christopher and Patricia Rowland on January 26, 1959, in Charleston, South Carolina. Mike was fiercely loved within his family, his community, and the military. He graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology in 1981 and not long after, married his best friend from high school, Terri. She was the love of his life and provided an exemplary model of lasting and loving marriage.

In 1986, he earned his Doctorate of Medicine from The Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and completed his internship in general surgery at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center in South Carolina in 1987. In 1990, not only did he complete his Residency in Augusta, Georgia at the Medical College of Georgia, but also felt drawn to serve his country. He joined the South Carolina Army National Guard in 1990 with the rank of Captain as the Field Surgeon with the 1ST Battalion 263RD Armor Unit and several months later deployed to serve in Desert Storm from November 1990-April 1991. After his return, he graduated from the Endocrinology fellowship program in 1992 and moved to Birmingham, Alabama with his wife and five children to begin his work as an Endocrinologist. He was promoted to the rank of Major on February 9, 1995 before transferring into the Alabama Army National Guard in 1997 with the Medical Detachment as an Internist.

While serving his country, he cultivated a medical practice in Birmingham, AL and served the community with both his head and his heart first at St. Vincent's East, then at Brookwood Medical Center. Attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on April 19, 2002, he deployed in 2003 and in 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Continuing to rise in the National Guard, he was promoted to Colonel on March 19, 2007 while remaining a practicing physician in his community. He deployed his final time from January-June 2010 to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. After graduating from the United States Army War College in 2016, he became the Alabama State Surgeon and Commander Medical Detachment responsible for advising the Commanding Officer of the Alabama National Guard in all medical activities and missions culminating in guiding Alabama through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. He led the Medical State Partnership Program with Romania and helped their Army establish and build their Medical Service Corps. Additionally, he traveled to Romania to provide training to their doctors and medical care to their citizens, ultimately learning the Romanian language to better care for the people.

His list of awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 Campaign Stars, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization Device, NATO Medal, Alabama Faithful Service Medal, South Carolina Exceptional Service Medal, South Carolina Palmetto Service Medal, and South Carolina Governor's Unit Citation Ribbon with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, as well as, various national, state, and unit awards.

In his spare time, he was active in Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church where he was a founding member of their Knights of Columbus chapter. He had many hobbies that he passed on to his children and grandchildren. He

mastered woodworking and used his workshop to build masterpieces from pens to renovations on his house to cribs for his grandchildren. His love of the outdoors was unmatched and loved spending time with his brothers, son, sons-in-law, grandchildren, nieces and nephews fishing up and down the Cooper, Wando, and Ashley Rivers. He was an avid horseback rider, training and riding his three horses, Jack, Somer, and Holly. He took up long-distance running completing multiple 10km races and half-marathons, ultimately completing the Marine Corps Marathon in 2013. Finally, but not least, he enjoyed upgrading and driving his Jeep in which he would take his grandchildren on off-road rides through his backyard.

Above all his achievements, his greatest love and testament to the world is his family. While juggling his practice and military life, his family was never without his guidance nor his presence. He attended every childhood sports game, served as coach and assistant coach to his children's soccer teams, and became a Troop 357 Scout leader with his son. In addition to his loving wife, Terri, of 38 years, he is survived by his children, Sarah Joyner (Chris), Katie Davis (Mike), Michael Rowland, Jr. (Andrea), Elizabeth Chapman (James), and Anna Rowland; his eight granddaughters, Claire, Kaylin, Caroline, Chloe, Ellie, Emerson, Sadie, and Scarlett; his brothers, Larry Rowland (Susie) and Rick Rowland (Pam); his sister, Lynn Turner (Billy); and many nieces and nephews.

The memory of Michael J. Rowland shines within his family and reflects his mark on the world. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or the Battle Buddy Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Memorial Gardens

1591 Gadsden Hwy
Birmingham, AL 35235

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Holy Infant of Prague
8090 Gadsden Hwy
Trussville, AL 35173

Funeral Mass

NOV 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Holy Infant of Prague
8090 Gadsden Hwy
Trussville, AL 35173

Tribute Wall

VD

“ Dr. Rowland served me and my husband as our medical doctor for 20 plus years. We both truly felt he was our friend while taking care of our medical needs. He was a loyal American, loved his country and his family and we loved him. He is greatly missed by the Doyles. Prayers for his family and especially during this Holiday Season.

Virginia & Emmett

Virginia Doyle - December 16, 2021 at 08:53 PM

JR

“ I never felt more secure and confident in a doctor. The generous time he spent with me, the ONLY doctor practicing on Thanksgiving and still accepting Medicare patients showed me what kind of a man he was. His peaceful nature set the tone for his entire office and I always left feeling calm and cared for. He was the most special doctor I've ever met. I'm very sad that he was taken from his family way to soon but am confident he's home with his Heavenly Father waiting for you all to join him. What a glorious reunion it will be. God bless you all.

Julie Riechert - November 23, 2021 at 05:42 PM

GI

“ I am so saddened to hear this news! I just received a letter from his practice informing me of his passing. I have seen Dr Rowland for too many years for me to count and respected and valued him immensely. He was a great Dr and every appointment was like seeing an old friend. I am so sad to know that I will not be seeing him again. He always took the time to ask questions, answer my questions and to just talk about world events 😊 He was a smart man. A kind man. I will never find another Dr like him. They don't make them like him anymore. Prayers for his family and friends as I know this has left a BIG hole in their hearts 🙏 It has made a hole in mine. May he Rest In Peace

Gina - November 20, 2021 at 07:30 PM

KW

“ I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Dr. Rowland. Prayers to his friends and family during this difficult time. I was a patient for many years. He had a kind heart and was never in a hurry to rush my appointment and get me out the door. Dr. Rowland was always thorough and answered all questions. We shared an interest in the outdoors and hiking. I enjoyed our chats during my visits. Based on his kind nature as a physician I know he must have been a great man to others outside the office. The world lost a good man way too soon.

Kim Winsett - November 20, 2021 at 02:44 PM

BT

“ Dear Terri and Family,

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Beth Byrnes Trenaman

Beth Byrnes Trenaman - November 18, 2021 at 09:25 PM

JM

“ Jean Mcree lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Rowland



Jean mcree - November 16, 2021 at 09:46 PM

SO

“ Dr. Rowland was a wonderful man and a wonderful compassionate doctor. He will be missed. My husband was a patient of his and he always spent time with us on his visits. Prayers and heartfelt sympathy to his family and his staff and nurses at his practice. God comfort each of you. Sue and Howard Odom

Sue Odom - November 09, 2021 at 09:53 PM

LS

“ Linda Sparks lit a candle in memory of Michael Joseph Rowland



Linda Sparks - November 08, 2021 at 11:29 PM

TE

“ Dr Rowland was a wonderful doctor. He did not rush, he listened and tried his best to help you! I pray for peace and comfort for the family!



Teresa - November 06, 2021 at 09:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 05, 2021 at 09:09 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 05, 2021 at 05:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 05, 2021 at 05:07 PM

PW

“ Dr. Rowland was a caring doctor and I will miss him. I was one of his patients that was with him from him starting to be a doctor at St. Vincent's East until the covid 19 came out and he left us for a while. There will never be another doctor as good as he was. I send my sympathy to his family, but always remember he loved each one of you. We use to talk about our children and grandchildren.



Patricia Wilkerson - November 05, 2021 at 03:36 PM

JF

“ Dr. Rowland was my doctor for 20 years. He was a wonderful person, and would always light up when he spoke of his family, especially those grandbabies. I will truly miss him. Many prayers for his family.

Janet Franklin - November 05, 2021 at 03:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



November 05, 2021 at 02:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



November 05, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 05, 2021 at 10:58 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 05, 2021 at 09:01 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 05, 2021 at 08:19 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.*



November 04, 2021 at 11:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



November 04, 2021 at 10:34 PM



“ *With Distinction* was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



November 04, 2021 at 10:33 PM



“ *From the Pender family* purchased the *Ocean Breeze Spray* for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



From the Pender family - November 04, 2021 at 09:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



November 04, 2021 at 09:26 PM

PW

“ I worked with Dr Rowland many years at St Vincent’s East and he was always kind , truthful , soft spoken with great integrity . He enjoyed the military and was proud to be a part of it . His loss is a huge loss for the community and the medical community .. God Bless his family ... penny warren RN

penny warren - November 04, 2021 at 06:57 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



November 04, 2021 at 06:30 PM

-F

“ -Raye & John Albers and Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Michael Joseph Rowland.



-Raye & John Albers and Family - November 04, 2021 at 05:19 PM