



## Michael Elton Braley

July 16, 1956 - November 11, 2025

Michael Elton Braley, Lieutenant Commander, USN (Ret.), age 69, passed away on November 11, 2025, in Reston, Virginia, due to heart complications. He was a resident of Chantilly, Virginia. He was born on July 16, 1956, in Dodge City, Kansas, to Joseph and Carrie Braley. Michael's life was defined by devotion to faith, family, and country, and he leaves behind a legacy of love and service that will continue to inspire those who knew him.

Michael answered the call to serve his country, embarking on a 26-year career in the United States Navy. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, having served aboard several notable vessels, including the guided missile cruisers USS Fox (CG-33), USS William H. Standley (CG-32), and USS Long Beach (CGN-9), as well as the aircraft carriers USS Constellation (CV-64), USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), and USS Nimitz (CVN-68). He also served as the Director of Security at the U.S. Naval Academy, followed by his assignment with Carrier Group Seven, where he contributed to essential fleet operations. He later brought his expertise to the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Virginia, and after his retirement, he continued his service to national security, eventually concluding his career as a government contractor at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. During his military service, Michael earned numerous commendations, including the Navy Commendation Medal awarded for his meritorious service. His dedication, integrity, and steady leadership made a lasting impact on his shipmates and colleagues.

Beyond his naval career, Michael was a man of deep faith and compassion.

He served as a High Councilman in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, reflecting his commitment to serving God and his fellow man. He found joy in helping others—whether through his church callings or quiet acts of kindness—and he had a genuine love of service that touched many lives. Friends and family knew Michael as a gifted storyteller and writer; he had a warm, gentle way with words that could bring a smile or comfort to anyone. Whether around the dinner table or in handwritten letters or emails, he shared wisdom, humor, and encouragement drawn from his rich life experiences. Michael was above all a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Despite the demands of military life, he always put his family first. He made every effort to visit loved ones across the country whenever he could, and if he couldn't be there in person, he kept the family connections strong with frequent phone calls. His children and grandchildren will forever remember the sound of his voice on the line, checking in on their lives and offering unwavering support and love.

In quieter moments at home, Michael loved to gather everyone for card games. He was an avid card player who enjoyed playing Hearts, Spades, and Bid Whist—though his favorite was a lively game called “31.” Many of the grandchildren learned how to play through him, and he took great pleasure in passing down this fun tradition. Laughter and friendly competition around the card table became a staple of family get-togethers, creating cherished memories for all three generations.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife, Teresa Nova Braley, and their four children: Christina (Tom) Hunt, Robin (Pearl) Braley, Christopher (Amanda) Braley, and Dana (Patrick) Weaver. He also leaves behind 14 grandchildren, with 2 more on the way and the first great-grandchild expected by his grandson, Anthony Braley—who were the light of his life. Michael's surviving siblings include Triena (Joe) Phifer, Craig Braley, Ken Braley, and Daryl (Myra) Autry. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Carrie Braley, and by three siblings: Gordon Braley, Dwight Braley, and Pauletta Elliott. A viewing will be held on Friday, November 21, 2025, from 3:00–4:00 p.m. in

the Relief Society Room at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 14931 Willard Road, Chantilly, VA. A memorial service will follow from 4:00–5:00 p.m. in the chapel. Interment with full military honors will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Friends and family are invited to join. If unable to attend here is the link for funeral service zoom broadcast <https://zoom.us/j/95285618192>.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (KJV)

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave  
Arlington, VA 22211  
(877) 907-8585

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 21. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
14931 Willard Rd  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
(571) 390-4930

## Funeral Service

NOV 21. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
14931 Willard Road  
Chantilly, VA

# Tribute Wall

AT

“Mike was like a brother to me, I told him so! We shared a special bond! I loved his bright spirit, he brightened every room he entered! His Christlike love permeated to everyone around him. And I loved to hear him speak in church, or to read his sermons, so I could soak in more of each nugget of wisdom he shared with us. He was not only gifted in delivery, but also in depth of content. I witnessed his spiritual turnaround, his return to Christ and to making those Eternal Covenants with the Lord, and with his family. Mike was such an inspiration! And once he was in, he was ALL IN!!! What a JOY he became to his loved ones! Mike’s faith was a special kind, he was blessed with the long vision of the whole Gospel, not getting caught in the close up “trees” that could blur his vision. Instead, Mike saw the whole picture of God’s eternal plan for him and all of God’s children.

*Thank you Brother Mike, for sharing your heart with us, and shining your light of Christ on all who knew you! Wishing you a wonderful NEW mission now, on the other side!*

*God’s blessings of Peace in Christ be on Teresa and your children...*

*With Love & Admiration, Andrea (& Rochelle) Thornock*

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**Andrea Thornock** - November 21, 2025 at 09:50 PM

LM

“In memory of cousin Mike Braley who always had a warm welcome smile and will be remembered and missed by all who knew him. Condolences, comfort, strength and courage to the Mike Braley family from your Mixon cousins. Amen & blessings for all of you.



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**Laura Mixon** - November 21, 2025 at 12:48 PM

DA

“ *Daryl and Myra Autry purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael Elton Braley.*



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**Daryl and Myra Autry** - November 21, 2025 at 11:54 AM

CA

“ *Christina A. purchased the Enduring Light Casket Spray for the family of Michael Elton Braley.*



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**Christina A.** - November 20, 2025 at 12:02 PM

CB

“ *Craig Braley purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Michael Elton Braley.*



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**Craig Braley** - November 19, 2025 at 07:56 PM

SL

“ *Suzanne, Karen, Paul, Robert & Luther purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Michael Elton Braley.*



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**Suzanne, Karen, Paul, Robert & Luther** - November 18, 2025 at 02:33 PM

KS

“ Ken and Shannon purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Michael Elton Braley.



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**Ken and Shannon** - November 18, 2025 at 02:04 PM

TP

“ Triena (Braley) Phifer purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Michael Elton Braley.



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**Triena (Braley) Phifer** - November 17, 2025 at 09:37 PM