



## Michael H. Dawson MD

May 12, 1945 - November 16, 2020

Dr. Michael Howard Dawson

Dr. Mike Dawson of Adrian, Michigan passed away November 16, 2020 of natural causes. Mike's wife Lynne predeceased him as did his brother Richard, and he is survived by his step-sons Jon and Jay Nicols, his younger brother Pat (Ellen), sister-in-law Elaine, nieces Amanda and Maureen, nephews Andrew and Michael, and his beloved Saint Bernard Barkley. Mike was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan on May 12, 1945, to Howard and Elizabeth (Williamson) Dawson. Early on, he demonstrated a quick mind, a great sense of humor and exceptional athletic abilities. His athletic skills distinguished him and ranged from backyard hockey games to baseball and ultimately football. In 1960, the family moved to Arlington Heights, Illinois where he was a brilliant student at Prospect High School and an All-State fullback in 1962. He earned a full athletic scholarship to Vanderbilt University where he again distinguished himself both academically and athletically, graduating in 1967. Mike went to Medical School at the University of Michigan, followed by an internship at Vanderbilt and later an Orthopedic residency at The Cleveland Clinic. He was Commissioned as a Major US Army in 1975 serving at Fort Jackson Army base in Columbia, SC. Upon completion of his Army duty, Mike moved to Adrian Michigan where he started Southeastern Orthopedics, operating out of Bixby Hospital, where he also served on the Board for a number of years. Over the years in Adrian, whenever he was out in town or at dinner, patients would stop by to tell them how they were doing – seemed like he had operated on just about everyone in town. Doctor Mike or "Doc" (as he was affectionately called) continued to merge his Medical practice with his love of sports. He was the team Doctor for high school football teams for a number of years, and often consulted with the University of Michigan football Orthopods and some pro athletes (Bo Jackson to name one). Mike and his wife Lynne also were ardent supporters of Siena Heights University. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for 21 years, served as the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee for many years, and also a volunteer football coach. Mike and Lynne were also very generous benefactors to Siena, particularly in athletics. The field at O'Laughlin Stadium is named after Mike and his late wife, Lynne.

Due to the on-going coronavirus, a celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Although it is difficult to summarize a life in a paragraph, perhaps these words by his friend Gary Gray help: “his life impacted so many, healed so many and blessed so many – toughest, yet gentlest man I ever knew.”

Contributions in memory of Mike may be directed to Siena Heights University, Lenawee Humane Society or Hospice of Lenawee. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home where online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com).

# Comments

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“ Mike was literally the boy next door when we were in high school in Arlington Heights. We became good friends, flirted a bit, but were really just good friends. He had a good mind, studied voraciously ( while pretending not to), and was an all around student and athlete. I remember a wild New Years Eve with him, fun car rides, and wonderful talks. We were still friends in our early college years when he was at Vanderbilt, and I remember being incredibly impressed during the Civil Rights movement of him going into the Deep South to teach and help out. We unfortunately lost touch with each other in our 20's.....I think the Dawsons moved out of the neighbor and we went our separate ways. I have such fond memories —still fairly vivid—of our coming of age. I'm so sorry “ the boy next door” is gone. Wish we had had a last conversation. My sympathies for your loss.  
Trish Cuny Johnson

Trish Cuny Johnso - November 26, 2020 at 12:53 AM

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“ Dr. Dawson was an excellent physician, a huge sports fan and a great man. I remember when he moved to Adrian to open his practice and the impact he made on the entire community, especially his patients. Student athletes looked up to him and his colleagues respected him. He worked hard and expected others to do the same. Mike will be sorely missed, but he definitely left his mark on everyone who knew him.

Susan Arbaugh - November 25, 2020 at 10:15 PM

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“ Mike was a good friend and will be sorely missed.

Ann Gehoski Beal

ann beal - November 24, 2020 at 01:13 PM

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“ Great man, my great friend. Rhea North

Rhea North - November 24, 2020 at 10:08 AM

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“ I was proud to have this man as my colleague. He gave much of himself to our community, and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. I will miss him very much.

Steven Sherman, M.D.

Steven Sherman - November 21, 2020 at 12:54 PM

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“ Great man and Physican what a Great Boss. RIP Dr.Mike

Susan Rose Evans - November 20, 2020 at 03:16 PM

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“ Rarely in this world I have met someone special enough to model my life after. In 1981 I started working at Bixby and met Dr. Dawson. It has been my blessing to have known a man who truly exemplifies the meaning of the phrase "a life well lived". RIP Dr. Mike and my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

Darlene VandeZande - November 20, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ I met Mike in 1973, at little sisters weekend at U of M, when Lynne and Mike were dating. Little did I know then the love story that would unfold. We have spent the last few days reminiscing the times we spent together. We will hold tight to those times and take peace that you to are back together. Thank You

Amy Cameron - November 20, 2020 at 05:14 PM

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“ The Evelyn Gregg Family lit a candle in memory of Michael H. Dawson MD



The Evelyn Gregg family - November 20, 2020 at 01:30 AM

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“ A great man passed away recently. A great man a lot of people knew, but few knew very well. A private man. A determined man. A man I got to know very well for a while. The man? Dr. Michael Dawson.

He came to this community 40 years ago as the first and only orthopedic surgeon between Ann Arbor and Toledo. He established a level of orthopedic care that was highly respected. I work hard every day to continue that level of excellence.

Mike was a defender of the underdog, a caregiver for the less fortunate. He did worker's compensation for years and never failed to win a judgment for a deserving patient.

Twenty years ago, I needed a place to practice. Doc Dawson let me come to town and share office space with him. I learned quickly that expectations were high. Doc Dawson lead by example. He never expected more of you than he expected of himself. The problem was...he expected so much of himself, it was hard to measure up! He was bold and outspoken and demanding. But really, that's not what Dr. Dawson was all about. He just wanted others to do their best! His competitive nature made him scary at times, but deep down, he just wanted people to try. And by trying really hard you would succeed. He didn't want anybody to be satisfied with average, he wanted their best.

Yes, Michael Dawson was a great man. I am fortunate to have known and worked with him. I will miss my colleague, my office mate, my friend. He was a great man!  
Michael Diment, MD

**Michael Diment, MD** - November 19, 2020 at 11:20 PM

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“ Brilliant Doctor who was a great help to our law practice in caring for our injured clients and testifying when necessary

He overcame so many challenges in his life but to his credit it didn't really slow him down  
Rest In Peace my friend

**David Cooper** - November 20, 2020 at 08:35 AM

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“ Great man. He shared so many wonderful stories. Thank you

**Steve Wilwohl** - November 19, 2020 at 07:59 PM

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“ Fixed my hand. Not a problem in the last 34 years. A great man and Doctor.

**Darin Raymond** - November 19, 2020 at 11:58 AM

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“ Great Doctor and great person , sorely missed  
David Cooper

David Cooper - November 19, 2020 at 10:28 AM

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“ Doc successfully skin graft my youngest daughter arm & explained what he was going to do by writing on the sheet. She thought it was neat to see a Dr draw on her bed. He made a 6yr old fear disappear in the moment. Thank you for your expertise & kindness

Jan Proffitt - November 19, 2020 at 10:22 AM

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“ Mike took care of our oldest son in 1980 after he was hit by a motorcycle. After 8 weeks in traction and physical therapy he recovered completely. Our family has always been thankful that he was such a great surgeon and good friend!

Julie Brittain - November 18, 2020 at 08:46 PM

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“ So sorry to hear this! Even though we lost touch with each other I thought of him often. I remember playing penny ante poker with him - and losing \$14.95 cents in one hand! I had 4 kings and because of wild cards he had 5 aces!! He was ecstatic!! I remember going to his softball and basketball games when he played for Bixby. I enjoyed working with him! I remember him smoking one of his "nasty" cigars and stinking up my house for days! He had a great sense of humor! I will miss you my friend! Rest in peace!

Sally Sauter - November 18, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ What a great guy Mike was, and an even better surgeon! I had the privilege of working with him many years ago, and remember well the tragedies this man has survived in his lifetime....such a strong g, stoic man! Rest in peace Foc! You sure j.g ave left a legacy to be PROUD of!!

Lynne Blocksom - November 19, 2020 at 11:17 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. I worked at the hospital and interacted with him often. He was one tough guy. Rest In Peace.

**Kathy Raines** - November 18, 2020 at 04:25 PM

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“ Dr. Dawson was a great doctor. He was a gifted diagnostician. He did have a wonderful sense of humor that at times might make a person wonder about him. He cared for my husband after a horrific accident left him with many problems. So sorry to hear of his passing.

**Penrod** - November 18, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ My sincere condolences to his family. God bless his family and so thankful for his service and dedication to the community of Adrian. He will be missed.

**Luann** - November 19, 2020 at 07:27 AM

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“ I will never forget when I broke my arm and my mother took me in to see Dr. Dawson. He took one look at me and said, " well its broken, but at least you can still do pushups." When I laughed he stopped me and said, “well if I can do it, you can too” and just like that with his legs outside of the room I was in, he began to count off the one handed pushups. Dr. Dawson is a great man that took care of me as if I was his own. Thank you Doc, I will always remember your kindness to me as well as my family.

**Andrew Wagley** - November 18, 2020 at 03:54 PM