



## Mike Behrbaum

April 1, 1950 - July 5, 2024

Michael Steven Behrbaum, age 74, passed away on Friday, July 5, 2024. Mike was born April 1, 1950 in Renton, WA and lived most of his adult life in Auburn, WA before retiring to the Methow Valley in 2017. Mike was a graduate of Kent Meridian H.S., Green River Community College, Central Washington University, and Pacific Lutheran University. He taught health and physical education at Green River College (1974-2020) and coached track and field and cross country at both Green River (1974-78) and Bellevue College (1979-96).

Mike was an outstanding athlete (sprinter/hurdler/long jumper) and an inspirational coach and teacher. A long time friend and fellow coach said he "loved coaching with Mike. He was good with kids and so much fun to be around...he was such a good coach". Mike's positive encouragement and expertise motivated his students and athletes to challenge themselves, believe in their abilities, and achieve their best. Mike was a caring and loyal spouse, family member, friend, coach, and colleague. He could tell intricate, animated stories and make anyone laugh. Mike was a runner for most of his life, participating in local 5K and 10K races year round. Mike was also an outdoorsman who enjoyed nature, bass fishing and fly fishing, canoeing, hiking, camping, gardening, and cross country skiing.

Mike lived life to the fullest and touched the lives of others in big and small

ways. He will be missed, but always smiling in our hearts. Mike is survived by his wife Anita, mother Wanda, mother-in-law Rosie, sister Kelly, brothers/sisters-in-law Denny, Randy, Wendy, Teri, Darren, nieces/nephews Alec, Nikki, Rick, Megan, Sierra, AJ, and great nephews/nieces Bryce, Jeremy, Lorelei, Delaney, Nora.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Mike in Winthrop, WA, on August 16th from 5pm-7pm.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association.  
<https://www.alz.org/>

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ I never knew Mike but his love for a full life left a mark on me. I found this article in the CWU archives and thought I should share it with you. Such a Wildcat legend!



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David - April 23 at 03:47 PM

BT

“ Mike was my coach at Bellevue Community College. Though I was a mental 800m runner that ran so many terrible races, for some reason he never gave up on me. He would walk up after every horrible race and say "Despite today's result, I KNOW you can run fast". His office door was always open to me and he (and Tommy) gave me all they could give. At the end of the season I did indeed figure it out and ran some huge PR's. I still remember every step of my breakthrough race, and especially the incredible level of pride, joy and excitement Mike had for me after the race. I would not have figured it out without Mike's never-ending belief.

*I later became a college coach and a huge part of my coaching philosophy was to believe in people, especially when they don't, just as Mike kept believing in me. I was a much more successful college coach than I was a college athlete, and Mike had a big impact on my coaching success and heart. Thank you Mike*

*Bill Taylor*

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Bill Taylor - August 29, 2024 at 05:51 PM

DN

“ I'm sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Although we never worked closely together, he was a valued member of Green River College.

*David*

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**David Nelson** - July 26, 2024 at 03:18 PM

CS

“ I was so saddened to hear of Mike's passing. My memories of working with Mike at GR are filled with light and smiles. He was always such a positive force with supportive words of encouragement. Such a genuine guy. My heart is with you, Anita.

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**Cindy Small** - July 21, 2024 at 02:39 PM

AB

“ Larry Turnbull, Doug Carr, Mike and Bob Aubert (GRCC HLED/PE Instructors)



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**Anita Behrbaum** - July 11, 2024 at 04:41 PM

AL

*Mike was such an important part of my beginnings at GRC. During my first year, I taught next door to him in the then OB building. He always encouraged me and made me feel welcomed. I'm very sorry for your loss. Sending you hugs. -Aaron Leavitt*

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**Aaron Leavitt** - July 18, 2024 at 07:30 PM

BA

“ Mike was an outstanding athlete at Green River Community College. After he earned his degrees, he returned to us as a colleague, teaching and coaching track and field. Loved having both Mike and Anita on our Physical Education staff.



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**Bob Aubert** - July 11, 2024 at 02:02 PM

TA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Teresa Ahlf** - July 10, 2024 at 10:13 AM

TA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Teresa Ahlf** - July 10, 2024 at 12:33 AM

AB

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



Anita Behrbaum - July 09, 2024 at 11:39 PM

GW

Nice

Greg Wright - July 11, 2024 at 06:44 PM



Nice

Shawn Johnston - July 11, 2024 at 06:45 PM



“ From all of us at Heritage Memorial Chapel, we send our condolences to you and your family, and everyone who knew Mike. It is our honor to have Mike entrusted to our care.



Heritage Memorial Chapel - July 08, 2024 at 06:48 PM