



## Michael Ashford

*March 5, 1944 - November 18, 2019*

Michael (Mike) Ashford of McKinney, Texas passed away on November 18, 2019 at the age of 75. He was born on March 5, 1944 and grew up in Maud, Texas. He graduated from East Texas State University, and then enlisted in the Air Force where he became a Captain in the Security Services and travelled the world. After retiring from the Air Force, he found his calling in investment banking and enjoyed a successful career with First Southwest Company and as a Managing Director of Dillon, Read & Co. He took great pride and joy in being a mentor to countless people and made lifelong friends with clients and colleagues alike. He was also a Master Mason and longstanding member of the Maud Masonic Lodge. Upon retirement, he returned to his hometown of Maud and enjoyed raising cows and racehorses with his wife, Tori. In 2013, they moved back to the Dallas area to be closer to friends and family.

Though incredibly accomplished in his profession, Mike would have much rather entertained you with one of his captivating stories, such as living aboard a sailboat in the Caribbean for a year with Tori and their English Mastiff, Chloe. He was an eternal optimist who was humble, genuine and kind towards everyone he met. He was a Renaissance man who loved reading, Absolute on the rocks, and winning at the horse races. Above all, he was a wonderful husband, father, mentor and friend who will be missed very much.

He is survived by his wife, Victoria (Tori) Ashford of McKinney, Texas; daughter, Ariel Kidwell and husband Joseph of Dallas, Texas; brother, John Ashford and wife Cathy of Pagosa Springs, Colorado; sister, Amanda Ashford of Albuquerque, New Mexico; nephew, John Ashford and wife Melody of Denver, Colorado; and numerous other loving family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert Ashford and wife Elizabeth; great-uncle, Harvey Ashford and wife Marian; his son, Sean Ashford.

A memorial service will not be held. In lieu of flowers, the family gratefully recommends a donation be made in his memory to the Maud Masonic Lodge, 214 CR 1231, Texarkana, Texas, 75501.

# Memorials

*I had the pleasure of working for Mike at Dillon Read straight out of college. He was such a kind man and a stable presence. I am sure that he is so missed. I've thought of him so often during these many years.*

**KELLEY DEL DUCA, AUGUST 19, 2021**

*I lost contact with Mike and only now just found out he passed two years ago. Mike and I worked at Lackland together when he was waiting to get into the AF pilot training program in 1967-68. As an apprehensive and naive immigrant from the Virgin Islands, he often engaged me in discussions about St. Thomas and other Caribbean islands from where my family hailed and made me feel so welcomed, not only to the Air Force but also to Texas. We lost contact with each other when I transferred to Hawaii but will always remember and appreciate his friendship and many kindnesses. I was ecstatic to read in his obit that he and his wife actually lived in the Caribbean for a year. I hope I may have had a little something to do with his decision to choose the Caribbean to live/visit. Since his obit reads he enjoyed telling stories about his year there, I assume he had a wonderful time. So glad! I would have loved to have heard his stories. I send my sympathies to his daughter Ariel. You had a wonderful and kind dad.*

**ANNE BERNIER WITT, JULY 19, 2021**

*Mike was a good friend back when we were young men beginning our professions as Vietnam veterans. He was a great help to me. The world lost a good man.*

**RICK PORTER, NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

*I'm saddened to learn of Mike's Passing. Although we rarely saw one another, I'll always remember spending the summer of 1963 in Maud with him and his parents - while AMANDA was out of state on some kind of archeological adventure, I think. I remember only occasional "Mike sightings," which were*

*much more interesting to me at barely age 16, than to him - at age 19! Happy Trails on the next part of your journey, cousin!*

**TONI ERWIN FERRELL, NOVEMBER 22, 2019**

*Mike was my first cousin; our mothers were sisters. I only met Mike a couple of times in my life. We didn't live far apart, but our life paths never seemed to cross. I remember my aunt Patsy telling me about the castle he owned at one time, and I always dreamed of going there. May he rest in peace in a castle in heaven.*

**SUE PARKER, NOVEMBER 21, 2019**

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