



Mirko "Mike" Ecimovic

September 10, 1931 - September 17, 2021

Our beloved Mirko Ecimovic passed away at home with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Josefina; sons John (Kelly) and David (Laura); grandchildren Kiel (Holly), Sean (Stephanie), Tiffany Hetrick (Brandon) and Brittany Granados (Joe); great-grandchildren Maverick, Tori, Lexi and Zoey; sister Sofi Sattelmaier; and so many other cherished family members. He was preceded in death by parents Marko and Jelena; brothers Ivica, Anto, Nikola, Josip and Ivica "Duda"; sisters, Mara and Ana; and granddaughter, Veronica "Roni".

Born in Bosanska Gradiska, Yugoslavia, as a child during WWII, he suffered the loss of his oldest brother and, shortly thereafter, the untimely death of his mother-leaving him and the rest of his siblings struggling to survive-running and hiding to avoid capture or worse. He endured starvation and cold winters without shoes or warm clothes.

As a young father, he worked all day and attended school at night to become a skilled brick mason. His refusal to join the communist party resulted in much hardship for him and his family, but he refused to compromise his principles. With the sponsorship of family members, on February 16, 1969, at age 37, with his wife and two young sons, he fulfilled his dream of freedom and self-reliance by immigrating (legally) to America with the mere \$60 he was permitted to take with him from Yugoslavia-leaving behind the house he had

built brick-by-brick, his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews, his language-all he had ever known-to start from scratch without regard for his sense of belonging or the comfort of understanding and being understood-everything set aside for the promise of America. He worked hard, learned English, and ultimately fulfilled his dream of becoming an American citizen. He lived the American dream and regularly declared "God Bless America".

He personified values that today appear so out of fashion that they seem almost quaint- patriotism, decency, integrity, honesty, and resolute dedication to family – often without praise or gratitude. He demonstrated a shameless and selfless love for his family with a complete disinterest in ego and materialism. He is our hero. We will strive to be worthy of his many sacrifices by following his example of caring for family and thinking of others first.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 22nd at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140 with the funeral service beginning at 11:30. Interment will follow in Washington Memorial Park, Sandston, VA.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Park

6217 Memorial Drive
Sandston, VA 23150
<http://www.washingtonmemorialparkva.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 22. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Service

SEP 22. 11:30 AM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I am so sorry that I did not hear of Mirko's passing until today. I definitely would have come to Vincent's last week to pay my respects to your family. I worked with him at New Kent Schools. He was such a nice and caring person. Whenever it was time for his "green card" to be renewed, he would come to me in the School Board office, and I would help him complete the paperwork and notarize it for him. He always wanted to pay me for helping him, and I would tell him, "no", that it was my privilege to do it for him -- just to help keep him here in New Kent with us! Without fail, a day or two later he would come back with a bucket or bag of homegrown grapes for me. I would use them to make grape jelly for the winter -- and they were probably the best grapes we had ever tasted! My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time.

Carolyn Smith - September 28, 2021 at 05:57 PM

RH

“ The Hathaway family is praying that you will find comfort in knowing that our community is united in prayer for your family.



Rev Milton Hathaway - September 22, 2021 at 12:33 PM

AL

“ Sending my prayers and condolences David
You all will be in my prayers With Love Alicia
L Akrie-Williams



alicia - September 21, 2021 at 03:00 PM

PH

“ Pam Webb Henry lit a candle in memory of Mirko "Mike" Ecimovic



Pam Webb Henry - September 21, 2021 at 01:55 PM

TM

“ So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was truly a wonderful person and friend. I am honored to have known him.
Tom Mears

Tom Mears - September 21, 2021 at 11:01 AM

HE

“ Holly Ecimovic lit a candle in memory of Mirko "Mike" Ecimovic



Holly Ecimovic - September 21, 2021 at 07:40 AM

LA

“ Lisa Austin lit a candle in memory of Mirko "Mike" Ecimovic



Lisa Austin - September 20, 2021 at 08:55 PM

KB

“ Karen Burley lit a candle in memory of Mirko
"Mike" Ecimovic



Karen Burley - September 20, 2021 at 06:48 PM

TB

“ Tammy J Boyd lit a candle in memory of Mirko
"Mike" Ecimovic



Tammy J Boyd - September 20, 2021 at 02:14 PM