



Michael Ralph Russo

September 24, 1946 - March 3, 2026

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Michael Ralph Russo. Mike passed away on March 3, 2026, in Santa Barbara, CA, after a brief illness.

Mike was born on September 24, 1946, in the borough of Queens in New York, New York, to Michael A. and Mildred Masucci Russo. After moving to Santa Barbara, Mike graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1964.

Mike attended Santa Barbara City College, and then served in the military with the 472nd Military Police Company based at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. Upon his release from the military, Mike worked with his father, uncle and other family members at Renga Brothers on State Street. That building backed up to a dental office on Islay Street. That is where Mike met the love of his life, Alma Tabacchi, who worked at the dentist office. They were married on December 5, 1970, and celebrated 51 happy anniversaries together before Alma passed away in 2022.

In 1982, Mike and Alma purchased property in Woodlake, CA, where they had a home built and planted grapes. Both Mike and Alma worked for the United States Post Office, with Mike retiring in 2001. He and Alma enjoyed taking cruises, including the Panama Canal, Mexico and the California Coast. Mike also enjoyed fishing, camping and barbecuing.

Mike was preceded in death by his wife Alma, and parents Michael and Mildred Russo.

Mike is survived by his nephew Fred (Cindy) Tabacchi, niece Julie (Joseph) Grimes, grandniece Laura Tabacchi, and many cousins here in Santa Barbara.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 10:00 am at Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to your favorite charity.

Arrangements entrusted to Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapels (805) 965-5145.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 6. 10:00 AM (PT)

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

(805) 687-8811

http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Tribute Wall

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“ Mike was one of the nicest guys I ever knew. We were in MP Training at Fort Gordon together then we were both sent to Fort Wainwright to the 472nd MP Co. He and I shared a cubicle where we amassed three double lockers each. On an inspection Captain Petenbrink asked why we each had two extra lockers. Mike told him that we were just keeping them there for new guys so they wouldn't have to go down to supply and lug the heavy lockers back upstairs. "And you have locks on these lockers because...?" he asked. Mike told him that was to prevent any nefarious characters from storing contraband in them. Petenbrink thought for a moment, then slowly nodded his head, "Sure glad you two outstanding young men are doing such a good job with the Army's equipment!" and walked out with what sounded suspiciously like a snicker. I won't list what all we had in 'our' extra lockers but it wasn't all extra military goods. Glad Petenbrink didn't make us open them. My condolences to Mike's family.

Richard Young - March 07 at 01:05 AM