



Michael Tay Goforth

February 2, 2026

Michael Goforth was a man of rare presence, unmistakable intellect, and singular style — a towering figure in both stature and spirit who left an indelible impression on all who were fortunate enough to know him.

At 6'9" and 300 pounds, Michael commanded any room he entered, yet those closest to him understood that his true power lay not in his size, but in his mind, his wit, and his deeply considered way of moving through the world. He spoke with unusual eloquence and possessed an almost encyclopedic knowledge of history, politics, art, and world affairs. Conversations with Michael were never ordinary — they were layered, thoughtful, and quietly dazzling.

Michael had an exquisite appreciation for fine wines, rare spirits, exceptional food, and impeccably tailored clothing. He enjoyed the rituals of refinement — a well-chosen cigar, a perfectly poured glass, a carefully prepared meal, and the company of people who could keep pace with his curiosity. To many, he seemed like a gentleman out of another era — part scholar, part aesthete — a man who carried himself with the quiet assurance of someone accustomed to moving in rarefied circles.

Yet beneath this polished exterior was a man of deep sentiment, generosity, and quiet tenderness. Michael cared profoundly about the people in his life —

often more than he revealed. He had a habit of checking in on others, remembering small details, and offering thoughtful support in ways that went largely unseen. His kindness was not performative; it was steady, intentional, and sincere.

Michael was deeply loved by Teresa, his found love — whose life was strengthened and steadied by his presence — and by her sons, Chris (Avery) and Luke (Sophia), who became his family in every meaningful sense. Much of their life together unfolded over long meals at favorite restaurants, conversational evenings in the living room, and in the easy intimacy of everyday life where laughter was ever present. Their bond was rooted in mutual respect, curiosity, and an unmistakable, once-in-a-lifetime connection.

Though Michael seemed to know everyone, his circle of true friends was deliberately small. To them, he was not simply brilliant or impressive; he was warm, disarmingly candid, fully present, and unfailingly loyal.

Michael leaves behind a legacy of conversation, beauty, and quiet generosity — and a family who loved him deeply.

He will be remembered not only for his intellect and presence, but for the rare, abiding connection he created with those who truly knew him.

Michael lived with the confidence of a man who knew his own story — unafraid of the stage, attentive to every act, and prepared, when the time came, to meet his final curtain with quiet composure.

Michael Goforth's life concluded on February 2, 2026, at 4:56 p.m. at St. Luke's Aurora Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Michael is survived by his mother, Rosalie Gillespie; his beloved partner,

Teresa Jackson; and her sons, Chris (Avery) and Luke (Sophia). He is also survived by his sister Darlene (Kevin) Schmidt, and by many friends who valued his companionship and counsel. Michael was also a proud Master Mason of Freemasons Lodge #363, where he valued the fellowship, tradition, and camaraderie of his Brothers.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Those who wish to honor Michael may do so with a kindness to something living — rooted, feathered, or four-legged — in keeping with his love for trees, birds, and his beloved dog, Eddie.

Tribute Wall

SO

“ For over thirty years he and I were friends, in fact most of that time he was my best friend. We traveled a lot of road together good and bad. Other than my brothers, he’s the only man that I ever loved. I’ll continue to keep him and that love until my last breath. Lord knows I miss my friend. : : : : : sleep well my friend 🌹❤️

Sonny - February 12 at 06:04 PM

RP

I met Michael through my husband Sonny, we welcomed him in our Home every time he stopped over and made sure he felt at Home. We could discuss anything and everything Michael was full of knowledge, History, Art and so much more. Our dog Teddy absolutely loved him, jumping up on his lap every time he stopped over and Michael loved him. Still remember you sitting on our couch having amazing wine and wonderful conversations. We miss you. You came over to our place when my sister was dying, we where on our Balcony , you wanted to be a support. It meant so much for me. Sleep in peace.

Ruth Patterson - February 12 at 09:47 PM

AH

For over 10 years, you were such a significant part of my life. We shared so many memories — laughter, challenges, growth, and moments that will forever stay in my heart. No matter where life took us, the time we spent together shaped me in ways I will always carry with me.

But even more than what you were to me, I will always be grateful for what you were to my daughter. You stepped into her world with patience, kindness, and love. You showed up. You cared. You made her feel supported and important. That is something I will never forget. You were part of our everyday life for so long — holidays, dinners, conversations, milestones. Your presence became woven into our story. And while our paths may have changed over time, the impact you had never did.

Grief is complicated, especially when it holds years of history, love, and growth. Today, I'm choosing to honor the good — the memories, the lessons, and the love that was real.

Thank you for the years we shared. Thank you for loving my daughter. Thank you for being such an important chapter in our lives. You will be remembered. Always.

Ali Hedrick - February 13 at 12:52 PM

DK

We were friends of Michael's through Ali and shared many good memories together. We were shocked and saddened to hear this news. Please keep us informed about any future service arrangements, as we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to pay our respects.

*Sincerely,
Jeff & Dionne King*

Dionne M King - February 20 at 01:27 PM

LJ

I always saw Micheal as a father figure. Someone to lean on during tough times. Someone who would always drop everything to get me a nice meal when I was struggling. Through thick and thin, he has always been a voice of reason. A voice of advice. A voice of direction. He played a large role in growing my brother(Christopher) and I into the men we are today. I will forever cherish everything you did for the ones you loved, in every stage of life.

Rest well big guy.

Luke Jackson - February 24 at 07:04 PM

TJ

We think about you every day. We still cry. We still bring you into conversations, noting what you would have said. It still makes us laugh — like you're still at the table with your big, rumbling voice and steady presence.

We miss you. Life without you is heavier.

You were a great teacher. You should have been a history professor. I had never really enjoyed history before you, but learning from you was never dull. One of the hardest things is feeling like you still had so much more to teach us.

Missing you always.

Teresa Jackson - April 06 at 04:27 PM