



Michael E. Sumner

February 12, 1958 - February 22, 2025

Michael Ernest Sumner

February 12, 1958 - February 22, 2025

Michael Ernest Sumner died unexpectedly, yet peacefully, working in his yard on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

Mike was born at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee on February 12, 1958, to Ernest L. Sumner and Majorie Meadows Sumner. The Sumner family moved to Decatur, Georgia in 1959. Mike graduated from Lakeside High School in 1976, the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia in 1980, and the University of Georgia Lumpkin School of Law in 1984. Mike was a member of Kappa Apha Order and was later inducted into KA Hardeman Province Court of Honor and Gridiron. Mike interned with U.S. Senator Herman Talmadge while in college where he first met his wife-to-be, Leah Fallin, playing softball on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. After completing college and spending a year on the ski slopes in Aspen, Colorado, he entered law school where he began dating Leah. They were married in 1985. Mike began a successful legal career in Newnan at Glover and Davis. In the early 1990's, he worked with Parker, Hudson, Rainer, and Dobbs in Atlanta before returning to open his own practice in Newnan in 1996 which continues today as Sumner Meeker, LLC.

Mike was passionate about his family, his church, and his community. Mike and Leah have made Newnan home for forty years. They have three boys, Brady, Stuart, and Thomas, who graduated from Newnan High School and received their degrees from either the University of Virginia, the University of Georgia, or both. In 1990, Mike and Leah, in what would be the first of many projects they tackled together, purchased and restored "Buena Vista", one of Newnan's historical homes on LaGrange Street. Buena Vista continues to be the Sumner's family home with open doors, having hosted countless gatherings of family and friends over the last 35 years. Mike was an active member of Central Baptist Church where he and Leah taught the Connections Sunday School Class. Mike sang in a gospel quartet and the chancel choir, attended the weekly Men's Bible Study, and served as a deacon over five decades. In 1994, Mike was elected as an at-large member of the Coweta County Board of Education where he served for sixteen years, five years as Board Chair. As a school board member, he was instrumental in the founding of the Nixon Centre for Performing and Visual Arts, developing the Central Educational Center as Georgia's first technical charter high school, and implementing Coweta County's senior tax exemption. Mike was a committed supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, leading numerous scout adventures and was the proud father of three Eagle Scouts. He was a past president of Newnan Rotary Club, Newnan Coweta Cancer Society, and Newnan Coweta Heart Association.

Mike loved traveling, snow skiing, and golf. His favorite family vacations were to the Rocky Mountains, the Greenbriar, and Europe. He insisted his entire family learn to snow ski and to play cards, backgammon, and golf. Mike especially enjoyed playing poker, learning the game from his great Uncle Ed and his father. In recent years, the Sumner family enjoyed a second home on Amelia Island where golfing, walking on the beach, sunset cocktails, and grilling on the patio were a welcome respite from the law practice. Mike was an avid fan of Georgia football, Virginia basketball, and was passionate about

the Atlanta Braves whether in person, on TV, or his favorite, listening on the radio. Although Mike took pride in knowing the personalities, statistics, and intricacies of these teams, his family always kidded him when in 2016, upon seeing a Braves employee in a stadium elevator, Mike introduced himself and said, "You look familiar," to which Brian Snitker humbly introduced himself as the new Braves manager.

For the past 19 months, Mike loved spending time with his granddaughter, Mary Frances, reading books, playing the piano, sharing animated "conversations" over dinner, splashing in the Atlantic Ocean, and most of all, being her "Pop." Mike enjoyed life, his family, and his friends.

Mike is survived by his wife, Leah, of 39 years, his sons Ernest Brady Sumner (Margaret), Stuart Fallin Sumner, and Thomas Meadows Sumner (Kate), and his granddaughter Mary Frances Sumner, his sister, Melinda Barger, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A service honoring Mike's life will be held at Central Baptist Church in Newnan on Wednesday, February 26, at 1:00PM with the Reverend Matt Sapp and Dr. Joel Richardson officiating. Visitation will follow in the church fellowship hall. The family will have a private burial. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Central Baptist Church Building Endowment Fund or the Nixon Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Newnan.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Central Baptist Church
14 West Broad St./P.O. Box 1221
Newnan, GA 30264

Visitation

FEB **26**. 1:45 PM (ET)

Central Baptist Church
14 West Broad St./P.O. Box 1221
Newnan, GA 30264

Tribute Wall

JT

“ I am devastated to hear this. I worked for Mike and Leah nearly a decade ago while in high school. It was my first introduction into the legal field and Mike was always very generous and attentive to my amateur level questions. On my last day, he bought the office a big box of pastries from across the street to celebrate me going to college.

All the best,
Jacob Tranter

Jacob Tranter - March 13, 2025 at 12:09 PM

IS

“ Dear Leah and Family, and Melinda Barger and family, We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Michael. Please accept our sincere condolences. We were fortunate to have seen him six months ago. Take good care. Love, Indy and H. Allen Sumner

indy Sumner - March 02, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



March 02, 2025 at 09:07 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

March 02, 2025 at 09:07 AM



“ *I'm so sorry Leah. Mike was always such a nice guy. Big hugs. You had a good one. -- Melissa Heath (from UGA)*

Melissa Heath - March 01, 2025 at 05:37 PM



“ *Dear Sumner Family,*

You do not know me, but my name is Lori Dechert. I have lived here in Newnan for many years and am very familiar with the name and good works of Michael Sumner. I wanted you to know that I am from the very small town of Macon, Illinois and grew up with Brian Snitker and his sisters. When I read his obituary and the chance meeting with Brian in an elevator, I sent the obituary to his sister Angela, who then sent it on to Brian. He was very touched that Michael remembered him and that he enjoyed telling the story over the years. Please accept my condolences and may God bless your family in these difficult days ahead. Sincerely, Lori Dechert

Lori Dechert - February 28, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ *Kathy Prisant lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner*



Kathy Prisant - February 28, 2025 at 01:11 PM

RH

“ I am a fellow member of the bar. I met Mike when we jointly worked on a case. About 15 years ago. Since then, we have worked on numerous cases together. I am shocked by Mike's passing. I will miss his words of wisdom greatly.

*Robert Hughes
Lawrenceville, GA*

Robert Hughes - February 28, 2025 at 12:46 PM

MH

“ Dear Leah, I heard the tragic news from Mildred and wanted to send our deepest sympathies along to you. It sounds like you and Mike have had a wonderful marriage and life. We pray that you will find healing now and figure out how to move forward. Love, Maryellen Smith Hittel

Maryellen Hittel - February 27, 2025 at 06:19 PM

SF

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that our thoughts are with you and your family.

Scott and Alex

Scott Friedlander - February 27, 2025 at 09:46 AM

ST

“ Dearest Leah and the entire Sumner family, please accept our heartfelt condolences on the unexpected passing of Mike. He was a fine southern gentleman, and a pleasure to have known. Our prayers are with you. Scott & Adrienne Tigchelaar

Scott & Adrienne Tigchelaar - February 26, 2025 at 07:53 PM

PD

“ Leah, neither Kari nor I can come up with thoughts fitting Mike. Having known you two for many years, this was such a shock. We are comforted in knowing that Mike is in good hands now, as are you and the boys having deep roots with all your family and friends.

Kari and Peter Daane

Peter Daane - February 26, 2025 at 12:01 PM

SN

“ Steven N. Newton purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



Steven N. Newton - February 26, 2025 at 11:21 AM

SN

“ Steven N. Newton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

Steven N. Newton - February 26, 2025 at 11:21 AM

NT

“ I met Mike when I started working at Glover and Davis as a paralegal. He was always friendly, kind, and caring to all. I met Leah before their wedding and knew it was a perfect match! I had the great honor of teaching their son Thomas when I was a 6th grade teacher. What a special family. My hearts go out to them all.

Nancy Twomey

Nancy Twomey - February 26, 2025 at 10:44 AM

JC

“ *Sincerest Heartfelt Condolences to the Entire Sumner Family. I will ALWAYS remember when 'the guys' were Pledges @ SAE, it might have been 'the first Parent's Weekend' (for all of us) and we were all out to dinner and 'the Dads' quickly acknowledged that 'our son's' spoke in 'inaudible grunts' that none of us could understand - I remember Mike laughing hysterically in support of that observation. The Chaudoin Family is w/you - Mr. & Mrs. C.*

Joe Chaudoin - February 26, 2025 at 10:23 AM

LE

“ *My condolences to your family.*



Lynnette Edwards - February 26, 2025 at 10:03 AM

MR

“ *Dear Leah and boys, Kathy and I are heartsick over the loss of Mike. I have always treasured the years we worked together as compatriots and friends; and I have admired Mike for his character and for all he has done since as a lawyer and for his many contributions to church and community. He was special.*
Marbury

Marbury Rainer - February 26, 2025 at 09:50 AM

RW

“ Dear Leah,
I am so sorry to hear of Mike’s sudden passing. Praying that God will wrap his arms around you and your family during your time of grief.
Ruth Jones Warren

Ruth Jones Warren - February 26, 2025 at 09:06 AM

TP

“ The team at Lindsey & Lacy, PC purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



The team at Lindsey & Lacy, PC - February 26, 2025 at 08:58 AM

TP

“ The team at Lindsey & Lacy, PC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

The team at Lindsey & Lacy, PC - February 26, 2025 at 08:58 AM

HD

“ Sending prayers to your family. Mr. Sumner was a very nice man. I was Thomas’s TA at Atkinson. Great family.

Hazel Dominick - February 26, 2025 at 08:09 AM

TF

“ *The Strickland Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Michael E. Sumner.*



The Strickland Family - February 25, 2025 at 11:01 PM

TF

“ *The Strickland Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael E. Sumner.*

The Strickland Family - February 25, 2025 at 11:01 PM

CH

“ *Charlotte Hollins lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner*



Charlotte Hollins - February 25, 2025 at 10:48 PM

AD

“ *I am so very sorry to hear of Mike's passing. We met back in the mid 1980s through Glover & Davis. What a super nice guy. To his family, God Bless You. You will see Mike again in his Heavenly Home. My prayers are with each of you.*
Angela Bentley Dendy

Angela Bentley Dendy - February 25, 2025 at 08:54 PM

CS

“ Leah, my heart goes out to you and the boys. Mike always took the time to explain legal issues to a degree that made sense. You both have wonderful memories of Newnan and Newnan is honored to have you call her home.

Charlotte Sewell - February 25, 2025 at 07:35 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



February 25, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

February 25, 2025 at 06:47 PM

JK

“ Barbara, you and your family are in my prayers. Joyce Crosby Knight

Joyce Crosby Knight - February 25, 2025 at 06:39 PM

JW

Keeping you all in our prayers 🙏 Josette Whatley (Pierre) mom.

Josette Whatley - February 26, 2025 at 08:53 AM

DI

“ Sending up prayers for Leah and Boys during this sad time. Mike was always in the middle of all the fun at our parent gatherings at UVA and he will be remembered fondly. With deepest sympathy,
Debbie Igou and Bill Igou

Debbie Igou - February 25, 2025 at 05:59 PM

JW

“ Joy Williams lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner



Joy Williams - February 25, 2025 at 05:55 PM

DI

“ Debbie Igou and Bill Igou planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

Debbie Igou and Bill Igou - February 25, 2025 at 05:51 PM

DI

“ Debbie Igou and Bill Igou purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



Debbie Igou and Bill Igou - February 25, 2025 at 05:51 PM

PC

“ Pam Clemons lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner



Pam Clemons - February 25, 2025 at 05:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

February 25, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



February 25, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael E. Sumner.

February 25, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Michael E. Sumner.*



February 25, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ *From Henry and Yen Yu purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Michael E. Sumner.*



From Henry and Yen Yu - February 25, 2025 at 04:31 PM



“ *My heartbreaks for you and family. Mike was one of the kindness men as well as attorney in Newnan. Will always remember how kind he and you, Leah, have been to my family. May the Lord comfort you during this time of need! Sincerely, Joan Smith Hanson ❤️*

Joan Smith Hanson - February 25, 2025 at 04:08 PM

JH

“ Mike was always so kind and encouraging to me. We shared a love of music, golf and a February birthday. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that he was born on the same date as Abraham Lincoln and died on the birthdate of George Washington. May God comfort and bless Leah and family with his strong arms of love and mercy.



Julia Huster - February 25, 2025 at 01:17 PM

EH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Leah and the family.

Ed and Myra Hortman - February 25, 2025 at 12:45 PM

MK

“ Leah,
We were shocked at the news. Mike always had a smile on his face and I can't remember when it wasn't.
May his memory be a blessing

Michael Kam - February 25, 2025 at 12:40 PM

WS

“ With deepest sympathy, H&H Solutions purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



With deepest sympathy, H&H Solutions - February 25, 2025 at 11:37 AM

RE

“ Will miss my brother at bible study, poker games and on the golf course. Praying for his family and all who knew Mike. He touched a lot of lives in his community and will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. He served his clients, community, family and friends well. Gone from us too soon but never forgotten. Love you my friend. Randy and the boys.

Randy J Ebersbach - February 25, 2025 at 11:10 AM

RS

“ Words cannot express the shock and sadness I feel for the Sumner Family. Mike Sumner was a genuine soul with a strong love for his family and community. He will be greatly missed.

Rachel Stevenson - February 25, 2025 at 10:10 AM

KB

“ Kaye Burson lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner



Kaye Burson - February 25, 2025 at 09:28 AM

TF

“ Leah, so sorry to hear about Mike. I always enjoyed talking to him when we would run up on each other during our daily routines downtown. Always had a smile on his face. He was an asset to our community and will be missed by all who knew him. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Tommy Ferrell

Tommy Ferrell - February 25, 2025 at 08:58 AM

LF

“ Love, The Robert Gude Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Michael E. Sumner.



Love, The Robert Gude Family - February 25, 2025 at 08:39 AM

GP

“ Gerrie Petty lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner



Gerrie Petty - February 25, 2025 at 07:21 AM

FH

“ Leah and boys, I cannot express the sorrow the Hendersons feel for you and your loss. Mike was a great man who always treated us, especially the kids, kindly. Our prayers and love go out to all of you.

Frankey Henderson - February 24, 2025 at 11:01 PM

MY

“ Our prayers to Leah, the boys and family. Mike is a good man and a good friend. Always enjoyed running into he and Leah around town. Enjoyed our many conversations through the years. Mike was a tremendous asset to our community and did much to keep our community a great place to live and raise a family. He will be missed. May God's peace and comfort be with each of you in the days ahead. Retired Sheriff Mike and Bev Yeager Family

Mike&Bev Yeager - February 24, 2025 at 08:35 PM

BB

May God keep all of you in the circle of his love.

Betty Bowden - February 24, 2025 at 10:29 PM

CS

“ *Connie Stamper lit a candle in memory of Michael E. Sumner*



Connie Stamper - February 24, 2025 at 06:43 PM

LS

“ *So sorry to hear of this. Mike was a great friend to us when we needed help for our son. Damon had the privilege of teaching all three boys in math and Mike was always supportive of that role. Please accept our deepest sympathies.*
Damon and Lisa Skelton

Lisa Skelton - February 24, 2025 at 04:54 PM

KT

“ *My thoughts and prayers to Leah, the boys and all the friends and family. I was Mike's first secretary out of law school. Fond memories of the old days.*
Kristi Cash Thompson

Kristi Cash Thompson - February 24, 2025 at 04:52 PM