



*I'm free in your loving memory
Don't grieve for me for I'm free
I'm following the path God laid out for me
I took His hand when I heard His call
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play
Things I left undone must stay that way
I found peace at the close of day
If my going home has left a void
Fill it by remembering the joys of my past
My life's been filled with good friends and good times
Do not let grief and sorrow burden you
God wanted me now
Let joy come to your heart as you rejoice with me
God has set me free*

*And He will raise you up
on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath
of dawn
Make you to shine like
the sun
And hold you in the palm
of His hand*





Michael Blasco finished his life's journey on August 20, 2023, at his home under the care of hospice when our Lord called him home.

Michael (Mike) R. Blasco was born August 18, 1931, on the southwest outskirts of Chicago, IL. He was the youngest of seven surviving children born to the Italian immigrants, Carmelo and Sadie (Vanerio) Blasco. He was raised and educated in Illinois until 1950 when he enlisted in the US Air Force. After boot camp (1951), he married his high school sweetheart, Jean Peto. He was then stationed at the airbase in Cheyenne, WY for further training. His next assignment was to George Air Base, Victorville, CA. In September of 1951, he was transferred to the airbase in Honshu to provide mechanical and fueling services to the troops during

the Korean War. During these years, Mike and his wife, Jean, welcomed their four children: Michael, Marcella, Thomas, and Mark.

In 1954, after completing his military service, he continued honing his aircraft skills by attending an 18-month training program at Northrup Aeronautical Institute where he earned his civil Aeronautical (A&E) Certificate. At the same time, he began his 40-year career at the United Airlines. Beginning as a mechanic, he advanced to the positions of maintenance controller, inspections, and corporate quality assurance. During his time with the airlines, he served in Los Angeles, Omaha, and San Francisco.

In May of 1991, Jean passed away. Grief support advised Mike to become involved with outside groups, so he became involved in church activities. It was here that he attended a seminar and met Marianne Schaff. In the months that followed, their love grew and they were married on September 12, 1992, in Belmont, CA. Mike always said he felt blessed the way Marianne accepted his family and the way his children accepted her. His family grew with the births of 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. In 2001, Mike and Marianne decided to leave California and move to Mandan. During his time of retirement, Mike picked up a variety of part-time jobs. He worked at McDonalds, the Radisson Hotel as a bellman, and Puklich Chevrolet as a courtesy driver. He enjoyed meeting the people and being helpful. A couple of his favorite phrases were: "Let me help you" and "What do you need?". For many years, he was the most reliable altar server at Christ the King and got the nickname "Mr. Volunteer". Also, after moving to Mandan, he joined the military honor guard. Providing military honors for those men and women who served our country was a joy for him. Mike was a member of the American Legion Post 40, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Elks, and the Knights of Columbus.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Marianne; daughter, Marcella; sons, Michael (Christina) Blasco, Thomas Blasco, and Mark (Connie) Blasco; his brother, Joseph; and his 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Carmelo and Sadie; his wife, Jean; sister, Mary; and brothers, Peter (Helen), John (Nan), Sam (Margaret), and Santo (Florence); sister-in-law, Ann; son-in-law, Danny; and great-grandchild, Elizabeth (Lily).

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Christ the King Catholic Church of Mandan, the University of Mary, or the Diocese of Bismarck-Michael & Marianne Blasco Seminarian Fund.

Michael Blasco

August 18, 1931 — August 20, 2023

Knights of Columbus Rosary/Parish Vigil **Wednesday, August 23, 2023; 7:00 PM**

Weigel Funeral Home

Fr. Fred Harvey

Presider

Funeral Liturgy

Thursday, August 24, 2023; 10:30 AM

Christ the King Catholic Church

Fr. Fred Harvey

Celebrant

Musicians

John Morrison & Vance Krebs

Prelude

"I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say"

Opening Song

"How Great Thou Art"

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 24:6a, 7-9

Lector

Mark Blasco

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 122

"I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord."

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

Lector

Marcella Kawato

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-6

Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song

"I Have Loved You"

Presentation of Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Song

"I Am The Bread Of Life"

Communion Meditation

"What Wonderful Love"

Final Commendation

"Song Of Farewell"

Closing Song

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Pallbearers

Michael Sausman ~ Cameron Kawato ~ Matt Blasco

Edward Schaff ~ Kelly Schaff ~ Clair Gullickson

Honorary Pallbearers

Jeffrey Sausman ~ Keith Blasco ~ Mark Blasco ~ David Blasco

Graveside Service

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

Mandan, North Dakota

Following the burial, the family invites you for lunch and fellowship at the Agnes Lark Parish Life Center.