



## Clayton J. Michel

May 16, 2003 - April 4, 2025

Clayton "Clay" J. Michel, 21 of Fredericktown, formerly of Zanesville, passed away Thursday, April 3, 2025. He was born Friday, May 16, 2003, in Zanesville, the son of Patrick Michel and Karri (Arnold) Chopson.

Clayton was a graduate of Mt. Vernon High School and Knox County Career Center, Class of 2021. He was very involved in Future Farmers of America and received the FFA Green Hand Award. Clayton was an avid baseball fan and enjoyed playing many hours with his stepfather, John; he also enjoyed playing football and baseball in high school.

Clay was a diesel mechanic by trade, and was employed by United Aggregates, Inc. He was so proud of his Dodge diesel truck, and the work he put into it. Clayton was a kind hearted young man who would give anyone the shirt off his back, and the first to lend a hand to anybody who needed help. Clayton enjoyed the time he spent with his family and was the protector of his younger brothers.

In addition to his parents, Karri (John) Chopson & Patrick (Bonnie) Michel; Clay is survived by three brothers, Pvt. Connor Michel and Braxton & Brantley Chopson; grandparents, Robert & Karen Arnold and Dennis Michel; several aunts & uncles, Stori (Dan) Harper, Brian (Shannon) Michel, Rebecca Michel, Scott (Kari Flowers) Michel, Stephen (Jacqueline Prince) Michel; numerous

cousins, Jarrett, Gaige, Tucker and, Stella Harper, Colton, Kylie, Parker, Aiden, Deacon Michel, Kyle & Alaina Dennis; his girlfriend, Mackenzie Rine and their unborn child; many great aunts, great uncles, extended family; a host of friends, including Landon Reed, Andrew & Adam Green and Colton Snyder and his great grandmother, Pattii Smythe.

Clayton was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Vicki Michel; great grandparents, Tom & Joan Aronhalt, John Smythe, Jr., William "Old Papaws" Arnold, Jean Yarger, Regis "Mike" & Leona Michel and Bernie & Patty Barnes and three cousins, Joseph Barnes, William "Billy" Wilcox and Heidi Doyle.

Friends may call 4:00 to 8:00 PM, Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the Hillis, Combs & Nestor Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, and one hour prior to services from 11:00 AM till 12 Noon, Friday. Funeral Service to Celebrate Clayton's Life will be held 12 Noon, Friday, April 11, 2025, at the funeral home with Envoy George Bates officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Clayton Joseph Michel Memorial Fund c/o Park National Bank, to assist Clayton's unborn child. To sign the online guestbook or leave a personal note of condolence please visit [www.hilliscombsnestor.com](http://www.hilliscombsnestor.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **10**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home  
935 Forest Avenue  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
(740) 452-5494  
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com  
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

## Funeral Service

APR **11**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home  
935 Forest Avenue  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
(740) 452-5494  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Hillis Combs Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Clayton J. Michel*



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**Hillis Combs Funeral Home** - April 09, 2025 at 03:34 PM

RH

“ *Karri and Family, I am so very sorry for your loss, prayers for the difficult days ahead. May the good Lord wrap his arms around you and give you strength.*

*Rena Hill*

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**Rena Hill** - April 10, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clayton J. Michel.*



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April 10, 2025 at 03:03 PM

LC

“ Love, John & Rose Clark purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Clayton J. Michel.



Love, John & Rose Clark - April 09, 2025 at 08:46 PM



“ 317 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hillis Combs Funeral Home - April 09, 2025 at 03:23 PM

TP

“ The Mount Vernon Football Program purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Clayton J. Michel.



The Mount Vernon Football Program - April 08, 2025 at 07:56 PM

TP

“ *The Mount Vernon Football Program planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clayton J. Michel.*

**The Mount Vernon Football Program** - April 08, 2025 at 07:56 PM

SB

“ *Karri/John- I am so deeply sorry for this terrible loss. You and your family are in our thoughts. Clayton has always been such a kind soul. -Steph Cross*

**Stephanie Berry** - April 08, 2025 at 03:03 PM

FV

“ *From Your Rural King Family Mount Vernon purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Clayton J. Michel.*



**From Your Rural King Family Mount Vernon** - April 08, 2025 at 08:05 AM

RS

“ So blessed to have spent the time I did with Clayton , didn't matter where he was always putting a smile on someone's faces , I'll never forget how goofy and loving he was. He wouldn't hesitate to give the shirt off his back ! My favorite memory of Clayton is when I was having a party at my house and he wanted to ride my quad, and swore he knew how to drive a manual so I started it up and let him hop on it while it was still in the garage . He puts the quad in gear revs it up and drops the clutch and goes to turn and just kept going straight and he ran the quad straight up the wall of my barn ! Everyone had a good laugh once we realized he was okay and went on with our night. Rest easy brother I'll catch you on the flip side 🙏

Reece silvery - April 08, 2025 at 07:54 AM

AB

“ Patrick and family so very sorry for your loss. Prayers

Amy Barnes - April 08, 2025 at 04:05 AM

TS

“ Dennis, Family and Friends,  
So very sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers for all. RIP. 🙏❤️🙏



Tammy Ayres Swingle - April 07, 2025 at 11:26 PM

KB

“ A light lost too soon. Sending comfort to family and friends during this difficult time. I will always remember Clay the football and baseball player. May his memory be carried on during this difficult time.

Katie Beach - April 07, 2025 at 05:58 PM

EF

“ We are so very sorry for your tragic loss of Clayton. We continue to pray for y'all. We are always here for you guys! Today, tomorrow and in the coming weeks.

We love you guys!

Brad, Emily, Little Brad, LeiLani & Emmitt Ferguson

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**Emily Ferguson** - April 07, 2025 at 04:45 PM

CH

“ Karri, I'm so sorry for your family's loss, keeping all of you in my prayers 🙏🙏



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**Cheryl Hunt** - April 07, 2025 at 04:42 PM