



Mr. Michael Friesinger LaPlante

October 13, 1947 - January 31, 2026

Michael Friesinger LaPlante, 78 of Zanesville, OH, died Saturday, January 31, 2026, at his home following a sudden illness. He was born Monday, October 13, 1947, in Tucson, AZ the son of Walter and Ruthe (Friesinger) LaPlante. He married Catherine (Kenzie) LaPlante on Saturday, June 27, 1970, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Homewood, IL, and was a dedicated member of St. Nicholas Catholic Church.

He was a 1965 graduate of Zanesville High School, and a 1969 graduate of Davidson College. Michael served his country as a veteran of the United States Army. While serving as a linguist in the Army Security Agency in West Berlin, Germany, he earned a master's degree in international relations from Boston University, and after his service, a doctorate in medieval history from the University of Chicago.

He returned to Zanesville and worked with his father and brother at the family business, Friesinger's Inc., where he designed and fabricated museum quality wrought iron projects.

In addition to his wife, Catherine, Michael is survived by two sons, Charles (Connie) LaPlante, and Thomas LaPlante; grandchildren, Cora, Curtis, Clark and Colette; his brother, Peter (Connie) LaPlante; two sisters-in-law, Mary Clare (Crawford Honeycutt) Kenzie, and Amy (Chelgren) Kenzie; brothers-in-

law, Patrick (Terri) Kenzie and William (Karen) Kenzie, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Michael was preceded in death by his brother, Kristopher LaPlante, and brother-in-law, Daniel Kenzie.

Friends may call 3:00 to 7:00 PM, Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Hillis Combs Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, where a Christian Vigil will be held at 6:45 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:30 AM, Saturday, February 7, 2026, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 925 East Main Street, Zanesville, with Fr. Martin J. Ralko as celebrant. Mike will be laid to rest in Zanesville Memorial Park with full military honors conducted by the United States Army, and VFW Post 1058. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Michael's memory. To sign the online guestbook or leave a personal note of condolence please visit www.hilliscombsfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Zanesville Memorial Park

1475 Military Road
Zanesville, OH 43701

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 3:00 PM - 6:45 PM (ET)

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

Prayer Vigil

FEB 6. 6:45 PM (ET)

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935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
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Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
925 Main St.
Zanesville, OH

Military Honor Guard Service

FEB 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Zanesville Memorial Park
1475 Military Rd.
Zanesville, OH 43701

Tribute Wall

RM

“ Our family has your family in our prayers. The Shumate’s, Murphy’s and Nestor’s. 🙏



Robin Murphy - February 07 at 08:17 PM

KG

“ Kerry Gannon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Friesinger LaPlante



Kerry Gannon - February 06 at 08:22 PM

LS

“ Mrs. LaPlante we are very sad for you. Please know that my family held your husband in high regard, he like you, a true gem. Lynn Jason Jeffrey Joey and Jared Shaffer



Lynn A Shaffer - February 05 at 10:03 PM

TR

“ Connie and Family,
So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to all.
🙏❤️🙏



Tammy Ayres Swingle & Rick - February 05 at 07:46 PM

GC

“ *may the Lord our God grant him everlasting life in His kingdom--
george n. cretekos, davidson class of 1969*

GEORGE CRETEKOS - February 05 at 08:49 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this
difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Michael Friesinger LaPlante, give you peace,
comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom.
You will not be forgotten...*

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

*US Army Veteran, Michael Friesinger LaPlante, is “A True American
Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life
for his friends. John 15:13 †*

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - February 05 at 06:43 AM

MW

“ *We have all of you in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mike Wion and family

Mike Wion - February 04 at 09:51 PM

RK

“ Dear family, I am so sorry to hear this news. Kris and I were best friends all through our school years. We miss them when gone but know they are at peace. Blessings, Rev. Terry Krouskoupf

Rev. Terry Krouskoupf - February 03 at 07:48 PM