Michael Edward Connolly, 73, passed away peacefully on July 8, 2021. Mike was born July 28, 1947. A native Houstonian, Mike graduated from St. Thomas High School and then he attended Rice University, where he received a Bachelor of Science and Masters degree in Electrical Engineering. Mike then began his career at Houston Lighting & Power Company, which later became CenterPoint Energy. Mike was a respected and well-known expert at performing complex computer simulations to plan and operate electric power systems. Among his many accomplishments, he led the Company’s efforts to simulate, analyze, and plan for the successful integration of thousands of megawatts of new generating capacity in the greater Houston area after the power industry transitioned to a new market structure in 2002. Throughout Mike’s career, he mentored countless numbers of engineers, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to this day. One of Mike’s many passions was spelunking (cave exploring). It was on one of his spelunking adventures that he met the love of his life, Theresa. Mike and Theresa were married 46 years and had three daughters: Christina Squires, Katherine Baker, and Kimberly Connolly. Along with his wife and daughters, Mike is survived by his sister Patti Connolly; son-in-law, Mark Squires; Grandsons Christopher Squires, Seth Squires, Stephen Baker, and Gregory Baker; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Besides spelunking, Mike also enjoyed traveling, geocaching, and driving jeep trails in Utah, all with Theresa at his side. He also had a great love for trains, from model trains to riding Amtrak trains. Along with Theresa, Mike was an avid bowler. In his life, Mike bowled two perfect (300) games and, with his bowling partner, won a USBC national mixed tournament doubles title. Mike had a rich, full life and was deeply loved by his family and the many friends he and Theresa made along the way. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Mike’s memory to the American Heart Association. Visitation will be held at Earthman Southwest Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 13 from 5-8pm. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, July 14 at 10 am at Earthman Southwest Funeral Home. Tribute and or condolences can be left at earthmanssouthwest.com.
Services

Visitation
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

EARTHMAN SOUTHWEST FUNERAL HOME
12555 South Kirkwood
Stafford, TX 77477

Funeral Service
10:00 am - 11:00 am

EARTHMAN SOUTHWEST FUNERAL HOME
12555 South Kirkwood
Stafford, TX 77477

DONATIONS
American Heart Association
Memories

Michael Edward Connolly

Toni Benavides
July 12, 2021

Tina and your sister’s

Our most deepest condolences and prayers for the loss of your dear dad.
May the perpetual light shine upon him.

💐 Rest In Peace Mr Connolly. 🌸

From: Toni and Izzy Benavides
Cypress, Tx

Larisa Loyferman
July 12, 2021

I had the opportunity and the privilege to know and work with Mike. He was a brilliant engineer, one of the most knowledgeable I have ever met, great mentor and a good friend. He will be dearly missed by all who had an honor to know him.
Mike was a wonderful person. I enjoyed visiting with him when he and Teresa made it to the labor day campouts in northern Minnesota. RIP.

Paul Rocha
July 10, 2021

I was fortunate to meet Mike 41 years ago, when I was a summer intern at HL&P. He has been a tremendous mentor and friend to me all the years since we met. Mike’s engineering knowledge, and his ability to teach that knowledge, is well known to all the folks who had the opportunity to work with Mike. But Mike was so much more than an incredible technical expert. Mike was fun!! I remember so many parties at the Connolly home and all the adventures he had with Theresa and friends. Fortunately my wife, Lizzy, and I were able to go with Mike and Theresa on countless bowling tournament trips. It won’t be the same without him. He was a good man and lived a good life, and I’m so glad to have known him as a colleague and friend for so many years.

Don Chandler
July 10, 2021

I worked with Mike at HL&P/CenterPoint throughout my career. When I hired on, I joined in the same work group as Mike, where, as a young engineer I learned a great deal from him and got to share the experience of some very interesting and high-profile projects with him.
Years later, after I left the group, we served together on a restructuring team. By Mike’s own words, he did not suffer fools gladly. On this team he occasionally had to demonstrate that with some of the team members, and he did so more effectively than I could have. Those were some of the most memorable, albeit necessary and valuable, recollections I have from that project. I greatly appreciated his contributions then and still do today.

Toward the end of Mike’s tenure with the Company, reorganizations brought us back together again in the same department. Here, his extensive knowledge of power system voltage became even more evident. Mike probably understood better than most electrical engineering PhDs how a generator provides and projects voltage onto a power system; and if he did not know it better, he certainly could explain it better so others could comprehend it as well. Mike understood not just what setpoints to enter on some control, but the physics of what was really happening. His knowledge was particularly valuable at this time because the generating companies were no longer under the Company’s control and they sometimes needed convincing of their responsibilities.

Aside from being a brilliant engineer, Mike was knowledgeable about a wide variety of other topics: politics, economics, and finance. Many in our group sought his sound advice on investing, which was appreciated by all. And of course, he was a great raconteur: on breaks he would regale his co-workers with hilarious tales of some episode on a caving trip to Mexico or some scandal in the daily news. We’ll miss him.

Charles Fromen
July 9, 2021

Mike and I were close. We worked together in Electrical Systems on the 11 floor at the Electric tower for many years. We had coffee together on the 14th floor where we planned our caving trips to Mexico. We had so many adventures together I could talk about them all night and into the next day. Copper Canyon on motorcycles, Baha California before the road was paved, …… but most of the trips were to the Eastern Sierra Madre Mountains of Northern Mexico where we found Systema Purificacion which was for a time the longest and deepest cave in Mexico. 90km long and 900 meters deep…….

Mike was a great friend and fellow adventurer….Charles Fromen
Tim & Rhonda Driver  
July 9, 2021

Rhonda and I know Mike through the outdoor sport, Geocaching. The first time we met Mike and Theresa was during the game and at later player events. Every time we were around them, we enjoyed their company. The news of Mike’s passing really saddens us and we pass along our condolences to his family during this very sad time.

Patti Connolly  
July 9, 2021

My big brother Mike was 5 years older than me & he was always thinking up something. When he was 12, he played a joke on the twins, friends of the family. He wired up a microphone to a radio. A song played which was interrupted by an alert that a gorilla had escaped from the zoo. The announcer, Mike, said the gorilla was getting closer and closer to the house until he was on the corner outside. The twins were terrified. One of them decided to call the police. That’s when I had to tell them Mike had played a joke! That memory still makes me smile. The twins dad is the one who gave Mike a recommendation to the light company several years later.
**Kenneth Furstenfeld**  
July 9, 2021

Mike and I were close boyhood pals. We were first cousins and spent a lot of time together riding our bikes and getting into mischief! He was also a very intelligent man and I was his sidekick! As we grew older, we lost touch but the memories are still there! He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Love you Mike!

**Karrin Krall**  
July 9, 2021

Mike will be greatly missed! A few years ago, a friend and I were in Las Vegas. Mike and Theresa met us for dinner. It was a great time and wonderful to see them and get to know them a little better. (I live in Minnesota, so only met him a hand full of times that I can remember.) Sending love and hugs and prayers from Minnesota! 💖

**Postscript from Kenny McGee:** Mike was one of the originators of the Greater Houston Grotto.