

Michael Glen Cagle
April 10, 1957-Jan. 12, 2022
by Karin Cagle and Jay Jorden

Mike Cagle, a scientist and caver who was active in the Maverick and Dallas-Fort Worth Grottos, has died bravely and peacefully after a short, intense battle with ALS. He was 64.

Mike, NSS 25805, of Fort Worth, Texas, is remembered along with other cavers on [The Hall of Texas and Mexico Cavers](http://www.hall.cavetexas.org/) at www.hall.cavetexas.org/ — the Texas Speleological Association website. There, you can find stories and achievements of those who discover, explore, map, and preserve caves.



Known as “Big Daddy” to friends and family — and going by the handle “MC Ribosome” — Mike was larger than life, always with a smile and a joke. He had many loves - from cooking spicy meals to cave exploring, which took him south of the border starting in the 1980s.

During Thanksgiving in 1985, he went to Gruta del Palmito and Bustamante Canyon in Nuevo León, México with other cavers including Steve Dalton, Bobby Moore, Kerry Rowland, Jerrald Saulsberry, Brian Burton, John Brooks, and Andy Grubbs. With family members, Steve and other friends recounted more caving adventures with Mike at his Celebration of Life in Fort Worth on April 10, 2022.

“So, it’s kind of tough realizing that your dad is cooler than you are,” Calvin Cagle joked in his eulogy for the celebration’s crowd. “But seeing everyone in this room speaks to who he was and how he touched everyone’s lives ... especially all of his friends that he’s had for longer than I’ve been alive.”

A transplanted Texan who was born in Florida on April 10, 1957, Mike attended Everman High and the University of Texas at Arlington, where he graduated with a B.A. in chemistry. Michael retired as a principal scientist in chemistry from Alcon Labs after a 40-year career that started in 1977. There, he was recognized for technical excellence, appreciated for his mentorship, valued for his lunchtime culinary adventures, and known for his integrity and humor.

Mike’s adventures combined the outdoors, music, and new experiences of all kinds. He was passionate about music, attending concerts and festivals featuring electronic dance music, rock and beyond. And he shared his love of music plus science, cooking, caving and the outdoors after retirement in 2017 — like canoeing on the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park. He was also generous to those he did not know, especially those not as fortunate, listening to their stories and donating food.

A beloved husband and adoring father, Mike is deeply missed by innumerable good friends and a large, extended family. Survivors include his soulmate and partner in crime, Karin Knowles Cagle; their fabulous children, Grace and Calvin, whom he loved beyond words; their wonderful partners Perry and Chloe; his loving mama, Betty Thatch; his dear sisters, Cindy Finch and Nancy Perez; seven wonderful nieces and nephews; and a fine host of bonus family members. Mike was preceded in death by his much-loved father, Ron Cagle, and his grandparents.

Sporting “More Saved Than Killed” gimme caps, members of Mike’s caving team, GFKAM (Group Formerly Known As the Manscouts), met at Mineral Wells State Park on the weekend of Oct. 22, 2022 following the Texas Cavers’ Reunion to eulogize Mike and find ways to remember him in perpetuity.

For memorials, the family requested donations to organizations that support Michael's passions: Tarrant Area Food Bank, DRC-Solutions, KNON, Fort Worth Nature Center, plus our state and national parks. Or ... go outside, plant a garden with your kids, listen to some live music, cook something good and share it, "don't burn the garlic" and "mean not to."

Mike Cagle - Photos



Manscouts’ tribute to Mike in October 2022: (from L) Steve Dalton, Troy Shelton, John Brooks, Jay Jorden, Calvin Cagle, and Dave “Cave” McClung



Manscouts group remembering Mike at Mineral Wells State Park in October 2022: (from L) Greg Mooty, Dave “Cave” McClung, Steve Dalton, John Brooks, Jay Jorden, Woodrow Thomas, two unidentified cavers, Troy Shelton, and Calvin Cagle, Mike’s son



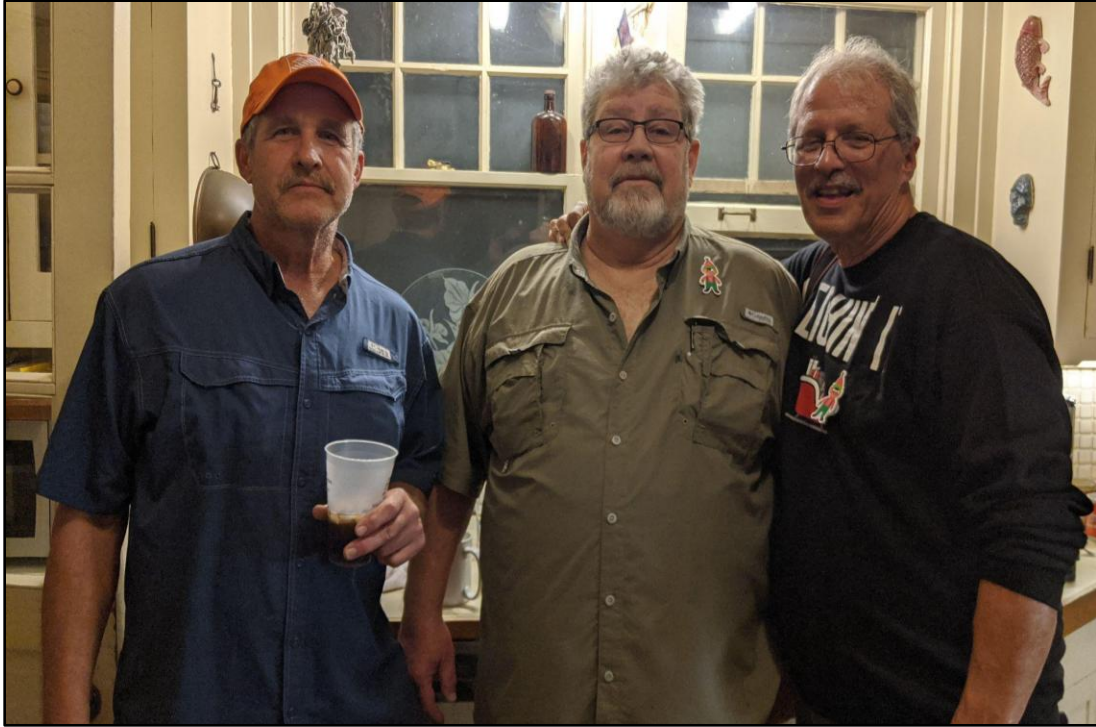
At Mike Cagle’s Celebration of Life on April 10, 2022 (from L) Sheila Knight, Mike Ponder, Don Metzner, Steve Dalton, Woodrow Thomas, Troy Shelton, [unidentified], Greg Mooty, Bobby Moore, John Brooks, and James Savage, with Dave McClung, Jay Jorden in front.



Karin Cagle in humorous moment during Christmas reception with friends



Karin Cagle visits with friends and neighbors following Celebration of Life



Dave “Cave” McClung, Steve Dalton, and Jay Jorden at Cagles’ Christmas reception, 2019



Mike Cagle’s Celebration of Life at Arts Fifth Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas on April 10, 2022



Calvin Cagle chats with Dave “Cave” McClung and Troy Shelton during Celebration of Life, April 10, 2022



Woodrow Thomas performs during Celebration of Life for Mike Cagle, April 10, 2022



Dave “Cave” McClung, Jay Jorden, and Steve Dalton at Christmas reception, Cagles’ home, 2019



Mike Cagle in his caving element

YouTube videos honoring Mike Cagle

- [Calvin and Grace Cagle](#) at Mike Cagle's Celebration of Life, Fort Worth, Texas - April 10, 2022
- [Greg Mooty](#) at Mike Cagle's Celebration of Life
- [Troy Shelton](#) at Mike Cagle's Celebration of Life
- [Steve Dalton](#) at Mike Cagle's Celebration of Life
- [Karin Cagle](#) at Mike Cagle's Celebration of Life

Tributes for Mike Cagle

"Remembering an old friend today. RIP Mike Cagle. I will never forget those caving trips we were on together." — *Joe Robertson at Arts Fifth Avenue*

"Mike was a fun person to be around and my wife had the pleasure of working with him. He will be dearly missed, rest in peace Mike." — *Patrick Butler*

"Karin, you and your family are in my prayers. Mike will certainly be missed by many people. It was a true pleasure to have known him. He always had a smile on his face." — *Barbara Forshey*

"We are bereft without our friend. Our memories of travel, food and general mayhem are rich with our many years of Mike's company. He will live on in our adventures and remembrance." — *Laura and Charlie Blaylock*

"Fantastic man. Sorry for your loss is just words that don't heal the pain. My prayers are with you all at this time." — *Lori Vail Watson*

"I am touched by how beautifully you have captured the essence of Mike in your words. He will be very sorely missed. Vaya Con Dios, my Brother." — *Jim Broiles*

"My most heartfelt sympathy for the whole Cagle family. My prayers are with you." — *Teresa Perkins*

"We are sad to hear of Mike's passing. We will miss his friendly greetings as we walk by all those beautiful peppers in the Cagles' front yard." — *Ellen Warthoe / Blake Hardy*