



# Michael George Heick

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



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## **Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015

**M**ichael George Heick, 96, of Hilo, HI, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at his residence. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA on January 22, 1919. He was a retired Athletic Director for Birmingham Seaholm High School, swimming coach for the Western Golf and Country Club, and a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army during WWII. He was a Soldier's Metal of Valor recipient. Services will be held at a later date. No flowers and donations may be made to the Hospice of Hilo (1011 Waianuenue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720). He is survived by 2 sons, Michael (Jinny) Heick of Boyne City, MI and Jim Heick of Hilo, HI; 3 daughters, Renee Heick of Homer, GA, Susan Heick of Royal Oak, MI, and Carol (Steven) Ris of Laguna Nigue, CA; companion, Renee Verstraelen of Flemalle, Belgium; seven grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren.



## Tribute Wall

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015

BE

**Bruce Wright, Esq.** posted:

I am belatedly learning of Mr. Heick's passing away, and I am very sorry to hear that he has passed on. As a young man I was fortunate to know and swim for Mike Heick and I want to add to all of the good things that are said about him here. Resoluteness, good sportsmanship, humility, and how to swim very fast, were some of the things that I learned from watching, and swimming for, Mike Heick at Birmingham Seaholm. Like others writing here I can also say that he had a large impact on my life. Each swim meet without fail started in the locker room with the team together saying the Lord's Prayer and each swim meet, whether we won or lost, ended with a cheer for the opposing team. Between those two points and at practices as well we would be sure to hear honest helpful and sometimes humorous observations of our performance and our character. I am older now than Mike Heick was when he was my swim coach, but it is a rare week that goes by without reflecting back on the lessons that I learned as his swimmer. He was Mr. Heick to all of us then and we held him in high respect. It is heartwarming to see that he had such a loving family and that he had such a good long life. - Bruce A. Wright, Esq.

March 29 at 6:11 AM

BB

**Bruce Black** posted:

What a great man. Mike drove my sister and I out to Western every day in the summer and taught us not only how to swim but how to compete. Both valuable skills lasting a lifetime. I still swim 3-4 days a week and occasionally in the Senior Olympics. The obituary brought back many fond memories of sunny days at Western and competing against Mike's teams at Cody and Seaholm. He set an example for a lot of young men and women. The world is a better place because of Mike. Bruce Black

August 8 at 4:49 AM

TL

**Thomas Lees** posted:

Mike taught me most everything I ever knew about swimming starting around 9-10 at Western and helping me acquire a scholarship to FSU. I know he positively influenced many many young people's lives over the years. Fondest memories. Good man, Mike! Thomas LeesTslees@msn.com

August 8 at 12:44 AM



# Tribute Wall

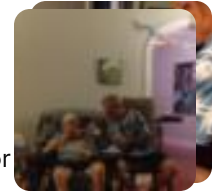
**Michael George Heick**

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**Maria** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dear Jim and Family, We are so sorry for the loss of your father. We feel so grateful to have known Mike. He was an amazing man in many ways. We loved his good nature and fun personality. He always seemed content wherever he was - at home or at the beach. He was always a pleasure to be around and we enjoyed when reminded anyone who rushed him "I am retired now" which is an example of his easy going philosophy we can probably all learn from. One of my favorite memories was when Mike was asked how he liked living in Hawaii and he said he hadn't made up his mind about whether to stay yet. It was just one of many instances of his quick wit and independent spirit. He loved his family and had the capacity to include others in his extended family including neighbors and friends. We will miss him dearly! with much love, Maria, Steve and family



February 17 at 9:53 AM

**JC** **Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** March 5 at 4:41 PM  
Thank you Maria



**Dennis Boyd** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My deepest sympathies to the family. One would be hard pressed to find a father more well loved by his children and a father who loved his children more. He led a wonderful life because of all of you. Coach Heick mentored me as an age group swimmer and in high school. Outside of my parents he had far more impact on my development than anyone else. He shall always have a special place in my heart. That is true for so many he coached and counseled during his remarkable career. We shall all remember "Alright boys, into the pool!", and "what's the matter with you, you're swimming like a tomato"



February 28 at 9:46 AM

**JC** **Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** March 1 at 4:54 PM  
Thank you Dennis

**JC** **Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** February 28 at 5:51 PM  
Thank you Dennis



# Tribute Wall

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



**Bruce Pollock** posted:

We are greatly thankful for the life of Coach Mike Heick. He touched so many, many lives; including all of ours! With fondest memories of, and kindest regards to the whole Heick family, Bruce Pollock

February 22 at 11:50 PM



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** February 24 at 4:25 PM

Thank you Bruce



**Curt Carson** shared an album called **Coach Heick**.



February 20 at 11:27 AM



**Sharon Watson** November 21 at 8:04 AM

Was looking thru internet looking @ Seaholm h.s. pictures History discovering many staff pictures that I enjoyed knowing and working with over 35 years teaching. Coaching drivers education etc. I taught and was Blessed to work in a great school district.

In Nirmingham..michigan Fond memories. Great kids kids..it is hard to visualize that a time has passed so quickly.. it was THE BEST OF TIMES.. I ASK FOR CONTINUED BLESSINGS ON THIS COMMUNITY AND IT'S COOL STATE..COUNTRY WORLD..CARRY ON KEEPING IT A SUPERB PLACE TO LIVE AND WORKS. EATSON



**Curt Carson** shared an album called **New Album Name**.



February 20 at 11:21 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Michael George Heick**

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**Curt Carson** posted:

I have many fond memories of Mike Heick as a Coach, mentor and friend. Coach Heick was one of, if not the winningest swim coaches in Seaholm High School history, located in Birmingham, Michigan. You will see, in the photo section, that the team presented him with a trophy in February of 1976 when he won his 100th dual meet at the school. He won many more after that, as well as capturing 13 league championships in his 14 years at the helm. Though the State High School, Class A Championship alluded him, his teams placed 2nd twice and the majority of the others placed in the top 10. It was all about the kids and his effort to mold them into confident young men. He never called you by your first name, until you were a senior. He also made sure you took your vitamin C every day! Coach Heick persevered during trying times. He rallied his team to a 2nd place finish, after losing 4 top swimmers to an auto accident, a week before the State Championships in 1966. Mike's beautiful wife would come to all of the swim meets to cheer on the team and support him until she succumbed to cancer in the mid 70's. He did not quit. My brother swam for him from 1970 through 1972. Later, Coach Heick would visit him at the hospital after he had a severe auto accident in 1975. It is easy to be considered a good coach when you are winning, but probably his best coaching performance of his career, was with his worst team in 1976. Seeded to lose his only league championship, by 150 points, he got the most out of these young men. In the end they fell short by 14 points. I learned a lot from Mike Heick in the 3 short years I was in high school. The principals and values he taught me, I have used and relied on over and over throughout my life. I will never forget this man. God Bless you and your family. Curt Carson, Class of 1976

February 20 at 11:19 AM



**Curt Carson** February 22 at 9:49 PM

Though, I only met Coach Heick's wife and youngest daughter, it is evident from the photos displayed here, that the family is very close and there is love in abundance. So sorry for your loss and God Bless you. Curt Carson



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** February 21 at 6:19 PM

Curt, Thanks so much for sharing your fond memories of your time spent with my father. Hearing from his students who were touched by him is a great comfort to myself and my family. How lucky us Heick kids were to have grown up at his side. Can't thank you enough for sharing.....Sincerely, Jim



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** shared an album called **New Album Name.**



February 18 at 5:49 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** shared an album called **New Album Name.**



February 18 at 6:38 AM



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** shared an album called **Dad 1.**



February 18 at 6:29 AM



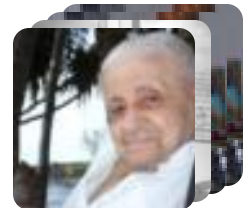
**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** shared an album called **Dad 1.**



February 18 at 6:20 AM



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** shared 10 photos to the **Dad** album.



February 17 at 9:53 AM



**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** shared an album called **Dad.**



February 18 at 6:00 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Michael George Heick**

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IF

**Irene Fleming** posted:

Dear Heick Family, Seeing your father's obituary in the paper today brought back many happy memories of the days when my brothers and I were growing up and the Heick and Pollock families were friends. Your father was a wonderful man. My parents loved Mike and Cee, and I remember many good times in the neighborhood and at Western when we were together. Thinking of all of you-  
- Renee Pollock Fleming

February 17 at 10:32 PM

JC

**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** February 18 at 5:26 PM

Thanks Renee, It's comforting to hear your fond memories of Dad and reminisce on the good times the Pollock and Heick kids shared thanks to our wonderful parents. Jim

SB

**Sharron & Bernie Ris** posted:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the entire family of Mike Heick. We knew Mike as a good friend and neighbor in Michigan. He was very devoted to his family as we observed with our son Steven and wife Carol and their children. He enjoyed life in Hawaii and will be missed by us all. Sincerely,  
Sharron and Bernie Ris

February 17 at 9:53 AM

JC

**Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com** February 18 at 5:39 PM

Thanks for the kind words Sharron and Bernie. We hope to get together this summer in Michigan for a memorial for Dad. We will keep everyone posted.



# Media

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



Maria shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 4 at 2:32 PM



96th birthday - reading cards with no glasses - amazing!



## Media

**Michael George Heick**

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**Dennis Boyd** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 28 at 9:46 AM



**Coach Heick and Denny Boyd**



**Curt Carson** shared a photo to the **Coach Heick** album.

February 20 at 11:27 AM



Coach Heick receives trophy for his 100th victory from his 1976 team



**Sharon Watson** November 21 at 8:04 AM

Was looking thru internet looking @ Seaholm h.s. pictures History discovering many staff pictures that I enjoyed knowing and working with over 35 years teaching. Coaching drivers education etc. I taught and was Blessed to work in a great school district. In Nirmingham..michigan Fond memories. Great kids..it is hard to visualize that a time has passed so quickly.. it was THE BEST OF TIMES.. I ASK FOR CONTINUED BLESSINGS ON THIS COMMUNITY AND IT'S DCOOLS STATE..COUNTRY WOROD..CARRY ON KEEPING IT A SUPERB PLACE TO LIVE AND WORKS.EATSON



## Media

**Michael George Heick**

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**Curt Carson** shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

February 20 at 11:21 AM



Coach Heick receives a trophy for his 100th victory from his 1976 team



# Media

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com shared 3 photos to the **New Album Name** album. February 18 at 5:49 PM





## Media

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

February 18 at 6:38 AM





# Media

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com shared a photo to the **Dad 1** album.

February 18 at 6:29 AM



Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com shared 2 photos to the **Dad 1** album.

February 18 at 6:20 AM





# Media

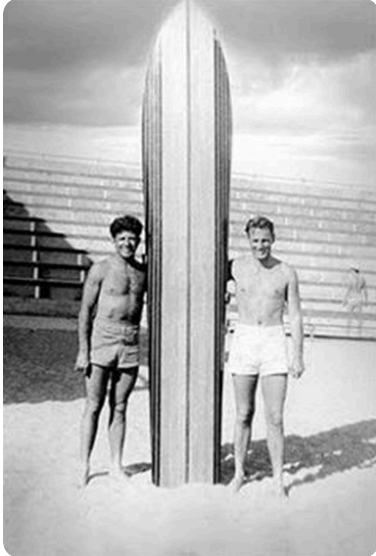
**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com shared 10 photos to the **Dad** album.

February 18 at 6:15 AM





**Media**

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015





# Media

**Michael George Heick**

JAN 22, 1919 - FEB 14, 2015



Jim.Heick@Gmail.Com shared a photo to the **Dad** album.

February 18 at 6:00 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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