



## Michael Boyd Denney Sr

June 1, 1965 - April 4, 2021

Can one ever say enough about a man who impacted so many? To sum up the life of Michael Boyd Denney Sr. between June 1st, 1965 to April 4th , 2021, is quite the daunting task. Born into the world in the usual way to his mother, Judy Lynn Tjardes, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he would become anything but ordinary.

Out of the womb came a baby fully equipped with a fishing rod, a 12-gauge shotgun, rifle, can of chewing tobacco and a camo outfit to match. Anyone who truly knew Mike, understands how fitting that description is. Mike had three addictions he battled with his entire life, "Hunting, Fishing, and Biscuits and Gravy", which he had no intention of ever quitting. Until March 14th of 1984, Mike had lived a simple country boys' life of working, fishing, hunting and good times with family and friends. He had plenty of great times with his brothers: Robert, Raymond and Brian.

Mike became active duty for the US Army, in order to serve his friends, family and protect those that could not protect themselves. He excelled in his time in the Army. Earning his Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Expert Qualification with the M-16. Completing one of the toughest training courses for which an Army soldier can volunteer, he became an "Airborne Ranger". This etched in stone that Michael was not one to shy away from hard work and dedication. Furthermore, earning

him the right to use the phrase “I GOT HEART!” for years to come.

Nothing but death could keep him from it, fishing and hunting that is! As the itch grew stronger to get back to what he loved doing, he ended his enlistment with the Army. He spent many a day following his passion. He was even able to find someone he could adult-nap on most days to spend time at the fishing bank. His new fishing captive named Donna would go on to learn all his fishing secrets and techniques.

He would later go on to marry the love of his life, Donna Smith. They wed in Tacoma, Washington on January 19th , 1987, they would continue to have 34 years of marriage. Trouble with finding hunting and fishing buddies is they are always too busy. What better way to solve that problem then to make your own! Michael and Donna would go on to raise three boys: Deshaun of (Las Vegas, Nevada), Michael (Kansas City, MO), and Clinton of (Kansas City, MO). They would instill in them the morals, ethics, and very essence of what it is to be upright men of integrity... and to “Have Heart!”

Respected by many, Michael lived true to the saying “Your word is your bond”. He still believed that a handshake and eye contact were all you needed to make a deal. Young at heart was always up for taking any of the five grandkids to the outdoors. He enjoyed showing everyone what it was like to feel the wind on your face, the water run through your hands, the sound of nature as your crept through the woods, to have the sun turn you into a bright red tomato because you forgot your sun tan lotion during your rush to get to the lake....well we can't win'em all.

Believing that the simple things that God created were all he needed to get by, we all learned to see through the same goggles he did. We all continue to learn from him to this very day. He did it all so that we could all have the

courage to do it, but also so that we didn't all have to.

Ordinary is not a word used to describe Michael Denney Sr. He is a son, brother, friend, cousin, uncle, father, husband, a real man's man, but of all the things, he was never a quitter and everything but ordinary.

Your presence will be missed by so many Dad. Speaking for each and everyone of us, your legacy lives on in our everyday. Every smile, laugh, every fish hooked, hunting season, every big meal shared with the family, every time we lay up against a big cottonwood tree for a nap in the woods, every hard lesson you taught us to better our lives for years to come, and for sure every time we see someone buy a can of that nasty skoal, we'll be thinking of you.

We love you so very much and thank you for everything a country boy from Missouri taught us, you will always "Lead the Way, X-Ray".

"Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be, one-hundred-percent and then some" - Ranger Creed (Partial)

# Tribute Wall

TO

“ *Mikey was one of my best friends. He was an ASTUTE outdoorsman, but taught me a lot of things about blue catfish and crappie. So many memories in the time I knew him from working on the RR together. We had the world by the horns when we parked trucks by the lake shore or by a running creek. Your family was and is always so kind to an outsider. I will never forget you Brother! Love ya Mike.....Thad Owens*

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**Thad Owens** - April 14, 2021 at 09:25 AM