



## Michelle L. Mezger

August 6, 1971 - March 8, 2026

Sussex- Michelle L. Mezger, age 54 peacefully passed away with her loving family by her side on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at Newton Medical Center after a two year battle with cancer. Michelle fought her battle with cancer with remarkable strength and courage, giving it everything she had and inspiring those around her with her determination and resilience. Born in Newton on August 6, 1971, Michelle attended Newton public schools and graduated Newton High School in 1989. While she was in high school, she began working for the County of Sussex, which was the beginning of her lifelong career of 36.9 years. Michelle held several titles over the years, working for many departments and divisions before she proudly served as secretary to the Department Administrator of Engineering and Planning, serving the current and past two County engineers. Above all, she deeply cherished the friendships she built with her co-workers, who meant so much to her throughout the years. These friendships she formed with her co-workers meant so much to her. They became like family, and even after her retirement they continued to check in on her, a testament to the deep bonds she created throughout the years. Despite the challenges she faced, Michelle continued to cherish life's simple joys that brought her happiness. She especially loved trips to the beach, with Myrtle Beach holding a special place in her heart. At home, she proudly kept an extensive collection of "snow people" that brought her great happiness all throughout the year. Sunflowers were among her favorite flowers, and she looked forward each year to the beauty and comfort

of the autumn season. Michelle also enjoyed shopping and spending time out and about. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her, but her warmth, strength, and the memories she created will live on in the hearts of those she touched. Michelle was predeceased by her grandparents, the Rev. Daniel and Dorothy Kantenwein; her uncles, Russell Kantenwein and W. Daniel Kantenwein; her step-father, George Sherman, Jr.; and her step-brother, George Sherman, III. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Michael Mezger; her son, David Gardner and his fiancé Jessica; her mother, Sara Sherman; her brother, Stan Gardner; nieces, Victoria and Hanna Gardner; and her aunts, Patricia Kantenwein and her late husband Russell, Sophia Kanteinwein and her late husband W. Daniel, and Amy Garrett and her husband Bill; and her cousins and their families.

Friends may pay their respects to the family from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Funeral services will immediately follow at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Michelle's memory to the Wantage Township First Aid Squad, P.O. Box 721, Sussex, New Jersey 07461. Michelle supported this organization because of the positive work they do for the community. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Private Cremation Services**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**MAR 23.** 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
(973) 875-3272  
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

### Service

**MAR 23.** 6:30 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
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# Tribute Wall

EE

“ My deepest condolences to Mike, David, and the entire family. I was shocked to hear that Michelle had passed. It seems such a short time from her retirement party last July. I knew Michelle since she started to work for the County of Sussex. She was also my administrative secretary for almost 10 years before I retired. She was a very dedicated and professional employee who was always very thorough & well prepared. I counted on her continually to assist me with the work of Engineering & Planning Dept and as secretary for the County Construction Board of Appeals. She was an exceptional employee who was always ready to tackle anything. She will be sorely missed by many, but I am happy to know that she is free of her earthly challenges. May Michelle rest in Heavenly Peace with Our Lord. See you someday again Michelle. Eric Grove, Ledgewood, NJ

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**Eric Grove, Ret. Sussex County Engineer** - March 23 at 02:36 PM

BF

“ A warm and caring Friend, always shared a gentle Hug.

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**Bill Solley n Family** - March 23 at 08:32 AM

PA

“ Paula A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michelle L. Mezger.

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**Paula A.** - March 22 at 08:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michelle L. Mezger.*



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March 18 at 02:32 PM



“ *I only knew Michelle from the dental office that she was a patient at she was such a lovely person and I love to chat with her every time she came in. I am so sorry for her family to hear this.*

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**Nancy Orr** - March 13 at 02:27 PM



“ *Thankful to have been able to cross paths with Michelle for the first 7 years of my career, when I worked at the Sussex County Division of Engineering! Michelle was an invaluable asset to the team and always fun to talk to and always willing to help!  
I'm sorry to hear of how life took a turn at the end, but praying she rests in peace!  
Thank you for everything Michelle!!!*

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**Elizabeth Rophael (Awad)** - March 12 at 11:59 PM



“ *Cathleen M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michelle L. Mezger.*

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**Cathleen M.** - March 12 at 01:18 PM

KT

“ Michelle,

*Miss you so much already. We know how much more organized Heaven will be with you there for sure. We will forever remember your contagious laugh and appreciate your friendship and guidance at the County, "Amy".*

*Mike and family, our deepest condolences on your loss of Michelle. May you feel her presence always.*

*Much love and many hugs, Karen and Travis Tracy*

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**Karen Tracy** - March 11 at 11:30 AM

MM

“Michelle was the very first person I met when I started at the County. As I sit here writing this, I realize I still have the voicemail she left offering me the job – something I don’t think I’ll ever bring myself to delete. It’s a small reminder of the kindness and warmth she showed from the very beginning.

*Michelle was such an integral part of our Department. Her presence and guidance helped shape the culture of our team in ways that will last beyond today. I know with complete confidence that we will remember her always and continue telling stories about her for the rest of our careers.*

*During her battle, Michelle showed a level of strength and perseverance that was nothing short of inspiring. She would often say that she always knew she was a strong person, but she never knew she was THIS strong. Those words say so much about who she was – resilient and determined even in the hardest moments.*

*Michelle’s strength left a lasting mark on all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with her. My prayer is that the same strength she showed every day now surrounds her family and loved ones, bringing them comfort and support during this difficult time.*

*Michelle will be deeply missed, but she will never be forgotten.*

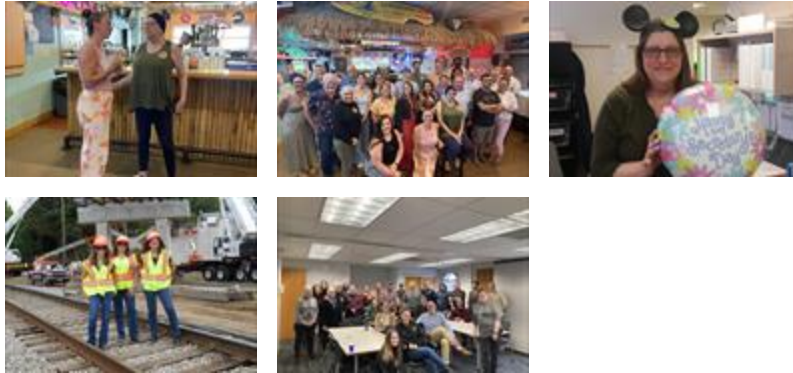


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**Michelle Melhus** - March 11 at 09:07 AM

MM

“ 6 files added to the album *Our Friend & Colleague*



**Michelle Melhus** - March 11 at 07:43 AM

W(

“ *Michelle was my “go to” person & trusted assistant when I served as the Sussex County Engineer and Administrator for the Department of Engineering & Planning from 2009 to 2016.*

*To say I was lucky to have her by my side is a professional understatement. Aside from being a colleague, she was a gift, a person who never stopped giving. A person who fulfilled all her responsibilities with the drive & determination few could ever match. Her quiet presence often concealed that she was a force of nature. With all due respect, she was not my secretary, rather she was my full partner in our years of working together in service to the people of Sussex County.*

*To Mike & her family, while I cannot fathom the depth of Michelle’s loss, I am one of many witnesses to the beauty of her very special presence here on earth who also mourn her passing.*

*Walter H. Cramp, P.E. (Retired)  
Former Sussex County Engineer*

**Walter H. Cramp, P.E. (Retired)** - March 10 at 10:29 PM

TW

“ I worked with Michelle for all of her 36.9 years with the County. She was always smiling and laughing. Such a great person and she will be missed by so many.

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**Tina Wurzbach** - March 10 at 06:22 PM

PC

“ I worked with Michelle for 10 years, and always found her to be helpful, welcoming, and very good at whatever role she had during my time at the County.

*She will be missed, but remembered often.*

*- Phil Crabb*

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**Phillip R. Crabb** - March 10 at 06:11 PM

BG

“ Shelly, Your long battle is over. May you rest in peace !  
Condolences to Mike, David, Sara and Bud !

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**Barbara Gray** - March 10 at 04:57 PM

JP

“ We had a lot of great times through the years. We love you  
Michelle!

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**Janet, Eric and Colin Price** - March 10 at 04:10 PM

JB

“ I worked with Michelle for many years. She was a liaison from our offices to hers, Engineering. Michelle was an easy going and sweet person who always seemed to be smiling. She certainly helped make the County offices a better place.  
Please accept my condolences for Michelle’s family and friends and take comfort in knowing what a kind and caring person she was who left many friends behind who enjoyed her warmth.  
We should all strive to be thought of with such kindness and compassion as Michelle is remembered. 🌸

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**Joe Biuso** - March 10 at 03:56 PM

RL

“ Michael , My sincere condolences.

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**Rose Lee** - March 10 at 03:22 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Michelle L. Mezger.



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March 10 at 03:05 PM