



# Michael Thomas Cron

APR 28, 1949 - JUL 15, 2019



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## **Michael Thomas Cron**

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**D**r. Michael Thomas Cron, O.D., M.S.

Michael T. Cron, 70, of Canadian Lakes, exceptional husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 15th, surrounded by his loving family.

Michael was born in Celina, OH on April 28th, 1949, the son of Thomas H. and Evelyn L. (Reichard) Cron, the oldest of seven children. He attended the University of Michigan and the Illinois College of Optometry and began his career as an Optometrist by opening a private practice in Spring Lake, Michigan. Michael joined the faculty of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University in 1977, and assumed the position of Dean of the college prior to his retirement in 2012, after serving Ferris State for 35 years.

While always dedicated to his work at the University, Michael also enjoyed spending time in his garden and feeding the birds, fishing off his dock, playing bridge and visiting casinos, traveling the world, including visiting all 50 United States, watching University of Michigan and Detroit professional sporting events (particularly those in the Big House), and performing on many community choral and theater stages.

Most of all, Michael loved his family. He married Connie J. Hall on June 22, 1974 in Spring Lake, Michigan. Together they raised Cara and Andrew in Big Rapids, and delighted in the joys of their grandchildren.

Michael is survived by his daughter Cara (Jason) Baker, son Andrew (Rachelle Martin) Cron, grandchildren Lilly, Maya, Porter, Molly, Jared, Celia and Taylor, brothers Steve Cron, Ken (Jolene) Cron, Ron (Kathy) Cron, and Joe Cron, sisters Barb (Doug) Nastally and Sue (Mike) McDermott, sisters in law Susan and Mary Jo (Dawn Phillips) and Julie Hall, and many nieces and nephews, many cousins and countless friends. He was preceded in death by the love of his life, his wife Connie, his parents, sister in law Jill, brother in law John, nephews Jeffrey, Jay and Daniel, and niece Marie.



## Obituary

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The heart of Michael's life was his family and his devotion to Optometry. His legacy is left behind in both his grandchildren and the remarkable Michigan College of Optometry and new facility, of which he played an integral role in its existence. His loss to both his family and optometry is immeasurable.

The Funeral Mass for Michael will be 11:00 am, Thursday, July 18, 2019, at St. Paul's Catholic Campus Parish in Big Rapids, with his brother, Father Steven Cron officiating. His family will greet friends at the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. A Memorial Visitation will follow from 2-5 p.m. in the Atrium of the Michigan College of Optometry, Ferris State University, and at 5:00 pm a revelrous "Irish Wake" will begin in the Ballroom at the Holiday Inn, Big Rapids

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan College of Optometry George Holcomb Scholarship Fund or Alumni Scholarship Fund, the University of Michigan Cancer Center, or the World Wildlife Fund.



## Tribute Wall

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KJ

**Kulsoom Jafri** posted:

Very saddened to hear of the loss of Dr. Cron. He was an excellent teacher and a kind man and will be greatly missed. My condolences to his friends and family.

September 18 at 8:00 PM

GM

**Geraldine Mcgaw** posted:

My life is more enriched because I knew Mike and Con. God bless them.

July 17 at 8:00 PM

TH

**Trina And Darin Hooker** posted:

Cara and Andy, We were so sorry to hear about your dad. He and your mom were so kind to us when we first moved here and taught with your mom at Hillcrest. They would have us over for dinner and games. They loved to make jokes about having The Hookers over

July 17 at 8:00 PM

GH

**Gary Huey** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a great colleague and a wonderful person.

July 17 at 8:00 PM

MS

**Michael Shansky** posted:

I met Mike when he was a student in the first optometry class I ever taught in Chicago in 1971. We continued as colleagues at Ferris for many years. He was a strong, rather quiet, dignified person with a dry, warm wit. I also had an opportunity to see him

July 17 at 8:00 PM

JS

**Jeff Schafter** posted:

So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He and I had offices across from each other for 8 years at MCO. I would give him a hard time about the Lions every year. Loved his laugh and sense of humor. One of the kindest and most balanced people I have ever met. A

July 17 at 8:00 PM



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MO

**Mary Ohlsen** posted:

I am so sorry that I am unable to be there with you all today. May you be surrounded and comforted in each other's company and love. Sending thoughts and prayers to you all.

July 17 at 8:00 PM

DR

**David Russell** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a wonderful colleague, respected by all who knew him.

July 16 at 8:00 PM

VR

**Vandana Rajaram** posted:

Dr. Cron, was a fabulous optometric educator, peer and administrator. I dearly miss his silent and yet commanding presence and his dry sense of humor. My deepest condolences to his family!

July 16 at 8:00 PM

JS

**Jeff Schafter** posted:

Mike had his office right across from mine for 8 years. Always a gentleman. Loved his laugh and sense of humor. We would always banter back and forth. A real humanist. Really classy man. Sorry for his family.

July 16 at 8:00 PM

JR

**Joe Reichard** posted:

My cousin Mike was quite the figure in my life. The oldest and biggest of the Cron cousins that we came to know and love during summer visits, he was always kind, gentle and funny. Much later with his own family, he opened his home to extended family for

July 16 at 8:00 PM



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BK

**Bob Krueger** posted:

Andy and Cara: I was shocked to read about your Dad's passing. I regret that I will not be able to attend his funeral as I am currently in Madison, WI driving to Detroit tomorrow to catch a flight to Portland ME. I will always remember your dad as the con

July 16 at 8:00 PM

KT

**Khagendra Thapa** lit a candle in honor of Michael.

I am so sorry to hear that Dr. Michael Cron passed away. My heartfelt condolence to the family. He was a true gentleman. He served in the faculty senate for many years. That is how I got to know him. May his soul rest in peace.

July 16 at 8:00 PM



MA

**Marie & Dan** lit a candle in honor of Michael.

Cara and family, we are so sorry for your loss. I know it's cliché, but we really do hope that thoughts and memories of better times will get you through this trying time. Love and friendship, Dan & Marie

July 15 at 8:00 PM



CR

**Cheri And Randy Riemer** posted:

Dr. Cron was an amazing mentor, colleague and friend. He will be missed. We thank him for all he has done for our profession. See you someday Dr. Mike

July 15 at 8:00 PM

RV

**Rick Vendlinski** posted:

Andy, Cara and everyone in the family, I'm really sorry to hear this. Your dad was a hilarious and amiable man. I really enjoyed spending time playing cards with him and just hanging out when we were younger. He always made me feel welcome in your

July 15 at 8:00 PM



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RI

**Rita** posted:

Dr. Cron taught both my husband and me in Optometry school. He was a kind man. I'm sorry for your loss. We will remember him fondly.

July 15 at 8:00 PM

SH

**Susan Herington** posted:

Oh Michael what will we do without your sense of humor, your integrity, your Love and compassion. You will be dearly missed.

July 15 at 8:00 PM

PM

**Paul Marvin** posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He molded many lives over his career and I am personally grateful for his teaching expertise.

July 15 at 8:00 PM

SW

**Sara Weidmayer** posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of Dr. Cron. He was an excellent teacher, and I often wish I had retained more from his neuroanatomy class! I remember he always brought a dish of pistachios to clinic to share with us students. His humor was funny in

July 15 at 8:00 PM

DM

**Danise Miller** posted:

Dr. Cron's Soft-spoken art of instruction was one-of-a-kind! I remember how he kept it together while a little girl was testing with the Beery VMI. My thought? "How did he keep a straight face? (When the little girl started putting random marks on a p

July 15 at 8:00 PM

RC

**Ron Cron** posted:

It is impossible to describe the loss of this person, my oldest brother. I have included one picture, my last picture of him out of the hospital, taken at the end of our sibling gathering in early May.

July 15 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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