



## Mitchell R. Sawochka

October 18, 1961 - January 12, 2017

Mitchell Robert Sawochka, age 55, peacefully passed away while surrounded by his family and friends on January 12, 2017 after losing the hardest battle of his life to esophageal cancer. Mitchell was born October 18 in Gary, IN to parents Robert and Rose (Nemtuda) Sawochka. He attended St. Bridget school and graduated from Hobart High School, Class of 1980. A Brickie football player, Mitch was a gifted athlete. Football fans remember him for his game ending quarterback sack in the “biggest game ever played in Brickie Bowl.....The Hobart v. Penn semi-state championship”. In 1985, like his father Bob and grandfather, Andy, Mitchell became the third generation of Sawochkas to serve the International Brotherhood of Teamsters local 142. His work in the organization proved to be more than a job to Mitch, it became his life’s calling. He served faithfully for over 30 years proudly as the Local’s President and Business Agent; Director of the Construction Division; a Joint Council 25 Delegate; an Organizer; Trustee of all four funds: Pension, Health and Welfare, Training and Apprenticeship, and the Annuity Fund. He was also the Vice President of the Northwest Indiana Building Trades for over 15 years. Throughout his career, Mitchell fought fiercely for the benefits of the members. His efforts were instrumental in securing one of the best economic construction agreements in the country. On May 7, 1988 Mitchell married his best friend and love of his life of 28 years Lisa (nee Hedger). They shared everything together and raised their beloved daughter Tiffany. Mitchell was a devoted family man and there was nothing he wouldn’t do for his two girls. He

worked hard to keep his family safe, happy, and secure. He was never more proud than when his only daughter graduated from Ball State University and immediately accepted her dream job as a landscape architect at one of the World's most respected engineering firms. His hobbies included hunting, shooting, and fast cars – especially his 1971 Nova. He loved to golf and was proud of scoring two holes in one. He was a good man, reliable, and solid. He willingly shouldered big responsibilities and he never assumed any obligation in his life he didn't fulfill. For all of these reasons he will be missed beyond words. Mitchell was preceded in death by his father- Robert Andrew Sawochka; grandparents- Andrew and Mary Jane Sawochka, and John and Mary Nemtuda. He is survived by his loving wife- Lisa; daughter- Tiffany; mother- Rose; brother- Daniel "Danny" (Melissa Cohen) Sawochka; sister- Cathy (Pat) Rigdon; father and mother in-law -Dave and Karole Hedger; sister-in-law -Brenda Bailey; nieces- Alisha (Shawn) Robb, Alizabeth (Brian Sohaney) Bailey, great niece and nephews – Evan, Braden, Avrie, and Abraham Mitchell (his namesake). Funeral service for Mitchell will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point. Services will terminate at the funeral home. Friends may visit with Mitchell's family on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 from 2 pm – 8 pm at Burns. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation. [www.salgi.org](http://www.salgi.org). [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 17. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## funeral

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
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# Tribute Wall

OF

“ Dear Lisa , Tiffany, family and friends who loved Mitchell. There are just no words to describe your loss and what you are feeling today. Know that many are praying for you that God will give you the strength needed during on difficult and the days to follow. God called home another great individual to be an angel and Mitchell will now watch over you always. Keeping you close in thought and prayers.



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**O'Malley Family** - January 19, 2017 at 12:17 AM

JR

“ It's sad to hear the news. The Reeves family have sincere condolences for Lisa, Tiffany and all the friends and family of Mitch. May each tear be replaced with a memory that brings a smile to your face as you go through this difficult time.

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**John & Sherryl Reeves** - January 18, 2017 at 10:25 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mitchell R. Sawockka.



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January 17, 2017 at 05:24 PM

DY

“ Dowd, Bloch, Bennett, Cervone, Auerbach & Yokich purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.



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**Dowd, Bloch, Bennett, Cervone, Auerbach & Yokich** -  
January 17, 2017 at 05:00 PM

T7

“ The Executive Board & Staff of Teamsters Local 731 purchased the *A New Sunrise Spray* for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.



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**The Executive Board & Staff of Teamsters Local 731** -  
January 17, 2017 at 02:29 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.



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January 17, 2017 at 11:53 AM

LM

“ Lisa Morgan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mitchell R. Sawochka



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**Lisa morgan** - January 16, 2017 at 06:49 PM

HM

“ Our condolences and thoughts go out to Lisa, Tiffany, and Mitch’s whole family.

We considered Mitch to be a good friend for many years. He was a hard working, dedicated President of our Local 142 for years. Our fellow brother is going to be extremely missed.

Sincerely yours,

Hank and Barb Maul

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**Henry Maul** - January 16, 2017 at 05:16 PM

RG

“ My prayers go out to the entire family.

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**Randy Godshalk** - January 16, 2017 at 04:29 PM

MS

“ Michael & Livia Sasser purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.



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**Michael & Livia Sasser** - January 16, 2017 at 02:32 PM

RB

“ So sorry to hear about this Dan and family. My fondest memory of Mitch is when I would pick him and Dan up during two a days in my AMC Ambassador and they had a bacon sandwich in their hand about every morning. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Sawochka family.

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**Ray Brooks** - January 16, 2017 at 01:36 PM

U9

“ *Union of Painters and Allied Trades ~ DC 91 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.*



**Union of Painters and Allied Trades ~ DC 91** - January 16, 2017 at 12:40 PM

LC

“ *Loving Cousins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.*



**Loving Cousins** - January 16, 2017 at 10:55 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.*



January 16, 2017 at 10:17 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.*



January 16, 2017 at 09:50 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.*



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January 16, 2017 at 08:56 AM

 Dawn Taylor

“ *You have all the memories both Good & Bad to give you Strength..Prayers to you and your family! Dawn Taylor (Rodriguez)*



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**Dawn Taylor** - January 16, 2017 at 08:15 AM

LH

“ I share in your sorrow. I pray for comfort in your hearts.. This is a good man. My dad was a Teamster and lost a friend. My father Charles (Chuck) Holmes retired as a Teamster.I pray for his family and just people who have ever met this man would have a positive influence. He helped me with a loop hole on their pension. He held the door open for me to be successful. I know what a great dad and husband he must had become.



*He flew up to Heaven on the wings of angels  
By the clouds and stars and passed where no one sees  
And he walks with Jesus and his loved ones waiting  
And I know he's smiling saying  
Don't worry 'bout me*

*Loved ones he left behind  
Just trying to survive  
And understand the why  
Feeling so lost inside  
Anger shot straight at God  
Then asking for His love  
Empty with disbelief*

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**Laura and Chuck Holmes** - January 16, 2017 at 07:39 AM



“ I can't believe you, Lisa and your family were right down the hall from my John who past the following day. Such a small world and I pray for the peace of God to comfort you and your family Sincerely, Susan Grisell



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**Susan Grisell** - January 16, 2017 at 04:28 AM

DC

“ *In the memory of Mitchell Sawochka, in whom I am proud to have called a very dear friend of mine. My heart and prayers go out to the entire Sawochka family and the many friends and loved ones of our dear brother Mitchell.*  
*Sincerely David Chandler.*



David Chandler - January 16, 2017 at 01:18 AM

JH

“ *Our heartfelt prayers & sympathy to the entire Sawochka family & dear friends. RIP Mitch Mike & Jeanette Hamacher*



Jeanette Hamacher - January 15, 2017 at 10:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mitchell R. Sawochka.*



January 15, 2017 at 10:45 PM

HM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Hank Maul - January 15, 2017 at 08:36 PM

DB

“ *David E Brant lit a candle in memory of Mitchell R. Sawochka*



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**David E Brant** - January 15, 2017 at 05:53 PM

DC

“ *Mitch loved a good beer. Conversations about hunting or shooting his guns. He was a strong man who loved his family dearly. Lisa & Tiffany I am so very sorry for your loss. I love you guys as if you were my family. Christ has Mitch in his arms.*

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**Donnie Cobb** - January 15, 2017 at 04:05 PM

TB

“ *Lisa and Tiffany, I'm so sorry for your loss. It was a privilege and honor to work with Mitch. He was a great leader and changed the face of the construction division. Without his leadership, the Training Trust and Apprenticeship program would not be where it is today. I will always remember him as my brother, partner, and friend.*

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**Ted Bilski** - January 15, 2017 at 03:49 PM

SM

“ *Lisa and Tiffany. I am so sorry for your loss. Mitch was a great person and a wonderful friend to my brother Ray Wright. Never seen him when he didnt have a smile on his face. Sheryl (Wright) Moore*

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**Sheryl Moore** - January 15, 2017 at 02:19 PM



*You have all the memories both Good & Bad to give you Strength..Prayers to you and your family! Dawn Taylor (Rodriguez)*

**Dawn Taylor** - January 15, 2017 at 03:46 PM



*though we were separated by many miles and many years even on his busiest days he would always take my call and it would be like we just saw each other yesterday.he was a great friend through out our school years and though we were in different locals he will always be a union brother,, he will be missed . my heart goes out to his family dave soltys class of 80*

**dave soltys** - January 15, 2017 at 06:42 PM



*Jeff and I send our deepest condolences to you, Lisa and your daughter, Tiffany. Thinking of you.*

**Michele Robertson** - January 15, 2017 at 09:22 PM



*I bet heaven is a better place already if I know Mitch he has a grievance filed and making it even better.*

**otis** - January 16, 2017 at 04:41 AM