

Burlyn “Mike” Everett Michel Classic City Squares Celebrating 100th Birthday



Born March 7, 1923, Burlyn “Mike” Everett Michel will celebrate his 100th birthday with his growing family who will travel to Athens, GA, where he has lived for 65 years.

Married in 1946, he and his wife, Florence “Mary” Schalkle Michel, met at a dance in South Dakota where she was born and raised and where he was stationed with the Army. Interestingly, Mary was born April 15, 1923 in South Dakota only 7 weeks after Mike had been born in Indiana. They moved to Athens in 1958 when Mike started teaching Plant Biology, a major in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences at UGA, until he retired in 1988.



Mike and Mary enjoyed ballroom dancing during their courtship and continued dancing through their 70-year marriage. Mary passed away in 2016 at age 93. Their family includes three children, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

They graduated from the former Oconee Whirlers Square Dance Club’s class (taught by Rudy Saunders) on their classmate, Sam Rowan’s, 16th birthday, June 22, 1973. Sam and his entire family took lessons and belonged to Oconee Whirlers for many years with Mike and Mary. Sam and Mike have remained friends and dance colleagues. Next Mike and Mary learned Round Dance 2-step from Sis Morgan, an honorary member of Classic City, and Laurin Morgan; they were selected as valedictorians of that class.

Mike and Mary also took Round Dance waltz lessons from Delmar and Joyce Allison, who were long time caller and cuer respectively, for Happy Squares, first club in Athens. Later in the 1970s Mike started cueing rounds and lines.

Mike and Mary served as Co-Presidents of the Northeast Georgia Federation of Square Dancers. He also served as President of Classic City Squares and Happy Squares, the two Athens clubs. Mike danced and cued until the covid pandemic shut down all area clubs in March 2020.



Classic City Squares will celebrate Mike Michel’s 100th Birthday at their dance on Sunday, 26 March 2023 with Sam Rowan calling and cueing. The festivities begin at 3:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, 780 Timothy Road, Athens, GA 30606.

2022 Celebrating 99 Years!