



Mr Michael Torchia

August 7, 1946 - September 6, 2025

Michael Torchia passed away September 6, 2025 at Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst, Illinois. Born August 7, 1946 in Melrose Park, Illinois son of Anthony and Josephine (Trobbiani) He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Toni Lynn Torchia; wife Susan (Pittman) and son Michael.

“Torch” to his friends and colleagues had vast experience shooting, directing and producing TV news, commercial and industrial projects plus, magazine formats. Traveling the globe, he worked with every major broadcast outlet in the country.

After attending Southern Illinois University, Torch began his broadcast career at WSNS-TV Chicago. While there he worked on live talk shows and sports events directing broadcasts of the DePaul Blue Demons, the University of Illinois men's basketball, the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago White Sox. Torch was the director of the double header at Comiskey Park when the infamous Disco Demolition riot erupted between games in 1979.

Eventually, ABC7Chicago hired him as a cameraman shooting news and programming. Following this, he freelanced his camera skills with The Oprah Winfrey Show and countless “Torch Productions”.

Eventually, Torch co-founded Pixel Brothers which produced corporate and commercial video projects. During this time, he was Operations Manager for NBC Universal’s Jerry Springer Show and Steve Wilkos Show delivering 2

one-hour daily talks shows for syndication.

Later Torch was founding partner and executive producer of Kinzie Street Studios. Besides program development he was Executive Producer for the syndicated Treasure Hunters Roadshow.

In the past twenty-five years, Torch continued working part time for ABC7 Chicago in their programming department. His last broadcast 'gig' was the 2025 Bud Billiken Day parade.

In 2005, the Chicago Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Presented Michael Torchia with The Silver Circle Award for his outstanding contribution to the broadcast industry.

Known by all as a gregarious, positive, and generous friend. He always claimed everywhere was his "old neighborhood". Torch was also a legend behind the broadcast scene. If a picture is worth a thousand words, his work spoke volumes.

Celebration of life will be held Sunday, February 15, from 1-5pm at Muggs-N-Manor BAr and Grill. 437 S Addison Rd. Addison Il

Tribute Wall

DF

“ Mike- I remember you from SIU days and even after. You ran with a very cool Chicago crew who were so much fun and not your typical college guys. You were a great guy then, and judging from the wonderful tributes, you continued to be throughout your life. How blessed you were to do what you loved. God bless you, and my condolences to your family. ~Dede Sayadian Frank

Dede Sayadian Frank - February 17 at 03:49 PM

BS

“ Michael Torchia , Today on Feb . 15.2026. Is your life celebration . We all your ABC Family and some relatives and Elmhurst Illinois Friends gather at Mugs Manor to celebrate you and also Susan , little Michael It was a memorable event the Live we all have for you all. Peace to you as you reunite in heaven. Miss you all 📧

Bonny Jum Lithas sr. - February 15 at 06:03 PM



“ Torch - We worked together briefly a long time ago but I will never forget you. In addition to being a consummate professional, you are one of the kindest, positive, and sweet guys ever! Rest well my friend! No more gear to lug around! 💜🌈👉

Andi Townsend - September 21, 2025 at 05:22 PM

CL

“ My early and very fond memories of Mike at St. John Vianney elementary school, was knowing him as one of the nicest "guys" in our class. Mike, rest now in peace, knowing the success you achieved was in doing what you loved. 🙏
~ Charis (Pohlmann) Lehnert

Charis (Pohlmann) Lehnert - September 19, 2025 at 01:37 AM

RJ

“ *Rest in peace Mike!!*
Ray Janz

Raymond Janz - September 16, 2025 at 08:35 PM

MA

“ *Mentor to many. Forever in the web of fabric keeping Chicago so exceptional and distinct. With gratitude. Mary from Fletcher*

Mary - September 16, 2025 at 01:28 PM

MS

My Packard Husband, Jim Friedrich, has been a Regional and National Trustee for more than 43 years. We married 12 years ago at my family church, Holy Family Parish on Roosevelt Rd , Next to St Ignatius College Prep. We extend our deepest sympathies to Family & Friends as fellow antique car lovers 🇺🇸🙏🇮🇹 Jim Friedrich & Mary Lou Soldato.

Mary Lou Soldato - September 16, 2025 at 02:19 PM