



Morris "Hap" Mills III

October 9, 1978 - June 3, 2023

It is with great sorrow that we write this obituary to honor Hap Mills, formally Morris Eugene Mills

III, who died in his sleep on June 3, 2023. Hap was lovingly birthed at home in Benson, Arizona

on October 9, 1978, a rather large baby who would go on to become a gifted musician, an

incredible builder and problem-solver, a lover of cats, a proud father, and a gentle giant with a generous heart.

Hap took great joy and pride in his abilities as a musician. At the age of three, he told his mom

he wanted a drum and a copy of "Another One Bites the Dust," by Queen. His interest in drums

and music continued, and he became a section leader in his nationally recognized high school

band. Hap died with his high school drumline t-shirt still folded at the bottom of his dresser drawer.

One could miss seeing Hap's genius, as he was a humble man. Yet he was a gifted writer, a

natural mathematician, and was quick to learn Spanish without the benefit of formal instruction.

Employers and family called upon him for all manner of projects—one day he might be fixing doors that no one else could figure out, designing and building counters and office spaces, fixing irrigation, or welding and the next he might close a shrewdly negotiated business deal.

Hap once saw an intricately built swing at a home show and went home and recreated it,

balancing and fitting joints of wood together perfectly without the benefit of nails, and lovingly

decorating it for his first daughter, who he affectionately called “Little.”

Hap’s heart was large, generous, and loving. He could not say no to rescuing a cat and could

be found coaxing them out of drain pipes, rescuing them from parking lots, and dreaming of a

time when he might be rich enough to start a “kitty city” teaming with rescued felines. If you

called late enough you might catch him laying down with his cats, crooning to them as if they were babies.

Hap loved his family dearly. He is survived by the greatest joys of his life, his children Emily,

Gage, and Savanna Mills; by his siblings, Amanda Blacow, Justin Mills, Janna Cook, and

Tiffany Dee; and by his mother Melanie Cook (Don Cook). He was preceded in death by his

father, Morris Eugene Mills Jr., who he remained devoted to all of his life.

In the end, Hap’s heart was perhaps too large and too gentle for this world.

Hap’s favorite

childhood stories included Ferdinand, a story about a bull who would rather sit and smell the

flowers in the arena than fight the matadors who taunted him. Like Ferdinand, Hap attracted people who looked to prove themselves tough on an oversized man who wanted peace, respect, and friendship. He struggled with the wounds of abuse that eventually broke his heart. Hap, we hope you are free to smell the flowers now and rest without the pain and the shame you carried for so long. We love you.

Request for Memories

Hap Mills' Memorial Book and Celebration of Life

When Hap passed away on June 3, he left three children and a grieving family. At just 44 years old, he should have been with us much longer. As his mother, I am putting together a book of memories that will allow his children to know him better and to provide comfort and a smile to all of us. It is my hope that people will also share a memory with the group during Hap's service (time and place to be determined).

Please write up your memory of a time with Hap or something about him you admired and send it to Melanie Cook at mcook8979@gmail.com. You could also take a picture of a handwritten piece and text it to me at (970)560-2680. It needn't be long and could even be a song or poem. Please have these to me by July 3 so that I have time to compile them and make the book.

Thank you very much. It means a lot.

Please join us for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Morris Eugene

Mills, III, better known as Hap. We will gather together at 5:00 pm on August 5, 2023, at The Sea of Glass at 330 East 7th Street in Tucson, Arizona to remember this amazing man who will be greatly missed. Please bring your fondest memories of Hap to share with family and friends.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 5. 5:00 PM (MT)

The Sea of Glass
330 East 7th Street
Tucson, AZ 85705

Tribute Wall

MC

“ It has been two years to the day since I last saw you. We visited Kartchner Caverns together and stopped by Zearings, as we had done when you were little. You bought me two rolls of hard root beer candy. I still have half of one in my backpack. I carry it there in your memory; it is as though we may see each other again. How I miss you . . . I wish I could have saved you.

Melanie Cook - April 19, 2025 at 10:46 AM

MC

“ Melanie Cook lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



Melanie Cook - April 19, 2025 at 10:43 AM

AM

“ April Mills lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



April Mills - July 31, 2024 at 07:48 AM

MC

“ In just a few hours, it will be a year since you left us. I think of you every day and am so grateful I had you as a son. The last time I saw you was in the chapel at Westlawn. I asked you to come back. I still wish for it. I will love you for all time.

Melanie Cook - June 03, 2024 at 12:41 AM

ME

“ Melanie lit a candle in memory of Morris
"Hap" Mills



Melanie - February 23, 2024 at 09:16 PM

ME

“ Hap, I never stop loving you and thinking about you. You are there
in the early spring birth of the livestock babies, the roaring of a
jacked-up diesel truck, the quiet of a star-filled night.... Oh, God,
how I miss you....

Melanie - February 23, 2024 at 09:15 PM

AP

“ April lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap"
Mills



April - September 28, 2023 at 08:08 AM

MC

“ Melanie Cook lit a candle in memory of Morris
"Hap" Mills



Melanie Cook - September 26, 2023 at 01:21 PM

AM

“ Emily and I miss you so much!! Our life will be much different without you. We will love you until we see you again ❤️❤️

April Mills - July 22, 2023 at 10:25 AM

JB

“ Janna Brunson lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



Janna Brunson - July 21, 2023 at 07:21 PM

AM

“ A memory of Hap is ☐ at skate country holding hands and the feeling of being in love with a handsome, amazing father, courageous and humorous man. As Savannah (6yrs), Gage (5yrs) skate along with us as I'm pregnant with Emily. Thanks to Hap, Emily's picture is on the table top at Skate Country! He entered her picture and it was chosen. Emily and I miss you Hap/ daddy . My condolences to his family and friends in time of mourning

April Mills - June 26, 2023 at 09:13 PM

DC

Deborah Butler

I am a first cousin to Gene Mills, Haps dad. I didn't know Hap personally and only met him briefly at Gene's service reception. The Obituary for Hap left me in tears. I have so many cousins that I do not see very often and I hardly know any of their children. From what is written about Hap he was such a talented , gifted , compassionate, loving man. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Deborah Butler 2nd cousin - July 26, 2023 at 03:06 PM

JM

“ Hap was my uncle I didn't know him for long I only knew him when he would come over to help my grandpa before he died hap was very nice to me and his kid Emily before my grandpa died he went to a car show with him and I remember him putting the cars out and having fun with my grandpa:)



jamie maidlow - June 23, 2023 at 03:11 AM

MC

“ Melanie Cook lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



Melanie Cook - June 22, 2023 at 01:09 PM

AB

“ Over the weekend I was thinking of Hap as I took my kids to a BMX race. I remember building bike jumps with him when he was about six years old, making our plywood ramps higher and higher until we flew off and crashed. I also remember him doing BMX, balancing expertly in the gate, and clearing tabletops even though he did not have much experience in the sport. Hap was always a natural athlete.

When Hap heard my kids were doing BMX he was so excited. One afternoon we found some bikes for sale posted on Facebook and he drove across town right away in heavy traffic to pick them up for us; he even wanted to pay for the bikes! Hap had such a generous soul. We miss you, Hap.

Amanda Blacow - June 20, 2023 at 06:23 AM

AB

“ Amanda Blacow lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



Amanda Blacow - June 17, 2023 at 08:16 AM



“ Vickie Reza Romero lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



Vickie Reza Romero - June 16, 2023 at 08:13 PM

EM

“ Ed Marcinkowski lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills



Ed Marcinkowski - June 12, 2023 at 06:14 PM

FA

“ I first met Hap when we were young school boys. His humor and sincerity touched my life. His measured style was a counterpoint to the cacophonous reality in which we live. Vaya con Dios, brother.

F. Abraham - June 12, 2023 at 03:28 AM

CC

“ *Chuck Collier lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills*



Chuck Collier - June 11, 2023 at 04:33 AM

SG

“ *My sincerest condolences for you at this time. You have my deepest sympathy, My heart goes out to you at this difficult time. Wishing you peace, comfort, courage, and lots of love at this time of sorrow.*

Susan Gehman - June 11, 2023 at 04:31 AM

SG

“ *Susan Gehman lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills*



Susan Gehman - June 11, 2023 at 04:27 AM

AM

“ *April Mills lit a candle in memory of Morris "Hap" Mills*



April Mills - June 09, 2023 at 09:28 PM

AM

“ April Mills lit a candle in memory of Morris
"Hap" Mills



April Mills - June 09, 2023 at 06:52 PM

JI

“ All of our deepest heart felt sympathies in your loss

Jim and Kathy Cook

James B Cook II - June 08, 2023 at 08:50 AM