

# *Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

The family of  
Richard Michael St. Clair

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*Richard Michael*

*St. Clair*

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2025

VISITATION: 2:00 PM

SERVICE: 3:00 PM

HALL AND JORDAN

11400 WINTON RD. CINCINNATI, OH 45240

# HOMEGOING CELEBRATION OF LIFE

## Richard Michael St. Clair I

Richard Michael St. Clair I. was born on September 2, 1953, to the union of Mary “Bell” St. Clair and Arthur St. Clair of Cleveland, Ohio.

He was the fifth child of their union, his siblings all preceded him in death; brothers Arthur, Robert “Chubby”, Roger “Butch” and his sister, Mary St. Clair.

Michael was educated in the Catholic Schools and the Cleveland Public Schools from elementary thru high school. He went on to attend college at Iowa Central Junior College and graduating with a Bachelor of Art degree from Gambling State University (1976).

While in high school, Michael excelled in sports. Michael was a versatile athlete whose talent was evident from an early age, where he played ball with his friends at the P.O.C. recreation center. He participated in Pee Wee Football Leagues and the Cleveland Brown Muny Leagues, and even served as quarterback for Kennard Jr. High School football team. Michael was Call & Post All Star Scholastic; he was the East Technical High School Most Valuable Defensive Player, and he was the “All-Star Player of the Year”.

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## Richard Michael St. Clair I

Michael continued to excel in dual sports (basketball and football) when he attended East Technical High School. Michael played high school football under the leadership of the Mr. Edward Merchant and Mr. Greg Nackley.

Michael also excelled in high school basketball under the leadership and coaching of Mr. John Chavers and Mr. Ralph Chabert, where in 1971-72 he and his teammates won “The Ohio State Championship”. This would amount to East Technical High School 3rd “Ohio Basketball State Championship” by defeating Cincinnati’s Princeton High School with the score of 78-67, finishing the season for East Technical High with a record of 23-1, what an amazing feat! Michael often spoke of the royal treatment he and his teammates received from East Tech High School and the City of Cleveland, he was very appreciative of this. The City of Cleveland held a parade in honor of the team's outstanding win and recognized the team and Michael for their achievements. Family and friends were very proud of this recognition.

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## Richard Michael St. Clair I

During his football career it was recorded he had 21 sacks, 6 fumble recoveries with 1 defensive touchdown. During his exit from the Cincinnati Bengals, he would join the United States Football League (USFL) and play for the San Antonio Gunslingers before retiring from professional football. Michael would set down roots in Cincinnati, Ohio. After his retirement from football, he started a new career path in Education. Michael spent many years teaching in the Cincinnati Public School District (CPS). Michael would later become the defensive linemen coach at Central State University. In 2013, Michael was selected as one of Ohio's top fifty football players by the "Cleveland Plain Dealer" Touchdown Club. In 2015, Michael would be inducted into Iowa Central Junior College, Tritons Hall of Fame. Michael was inducted into the East Technical High School Hall of Fame in 2019. In 2022 Michael was inducted into the Cleveland Metropolitan School District Hall of Fame as the best "Defensive" player in Cleveland, OH.

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## Richard Michael St. Clair I

Michael graduated from East Technical High School in 1972 and was voted the most "popular" in his class. Michael would leave his beloved East Technical High School to embark on his dream of playing college football. He pursued his academics in business at Iowa Central Junior College, then he was recruited and awarded a full scholarship to play under the guidance of the late, great "Mr. Eddie Robinson" at Grambling State University. Michael flourished in college football Michael and was on the "First Team All-American College football 1972-1973; First Team All-Conference for Southwest Athletic Conference (SWAC); First Team All-American Black Colleges. Michael received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Grambling State University 1976. In 1976, he was selected by the Cleveland Browns during the 4th round of the draft. Michael played for the Cleveland Browns from 1976-1979, marking the start of his National Football League (NFL) professional career. Michael would later join the Cincinnati Bengals where he played from 1980-1982 (on the Super Bowl Team during this time period).

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## Richard Michael St. Clair I

Among Michael's achievements, playing in Super Bowl XVI against the San Francisco 49ers was a highlight of his career. In 2016, the NFL celebrated 50 years of the Super Bowl, and the participating players were gifted \$5,000 to donate to their perspective high schools.

Michael donated his funds to his alma mater, East Technical High School, in Cleveland, OH.

Along with the donation was a monetary gift of a golden football with his name inscribed on it that will proudly sit in the halls of East Technical High School for the duration.

To Michael union with Kimberly Yolanda "Evans" St. Clair, two children were born: Richard Michael II and Yolanda Nicole St. Clair, and Dwight St.

Clair was born from a previous relationship. Michael departed this life

November 5, 2025, at the age of 72 years. Old. He leaves to cherish his

memory: sons Dwight, Richard Michael II, and daughter Yolanda St. Clair. Also, two sisters-in-law, a host of nieces, nephews, family, and church, members. many friends, classmates, teammates from high school, college and the National Football League.

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## Richard Michael St. Clair I

Rest in peace," Big Mike", "Saint", and "StClair"—you made us proud and left behind a legacy of excellence, love, and laughter. You will be greatly missed.

