

Michael Reagan, Son of Ronald Reagan, Dies at 80: A Life Marked by Faith, Family, and Legacy

Michael Reagan, the elder son of former President Ronald Reagan and actress Jane Wyman, died Sunday at the age of 80 after battling cancer, surrounded by his family in Los Angeles. His passing marks the loss of a man whose life was defined not only by public service and steadfast conviction, but by a deep and enduring faith in God.

“It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Michael Edward Reagan,” his family said in a statement released on their behalf. “Michael was and will always remain a beloved husband, father, and grandpa. Michael was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 4th, surrounded by his entire family.” The family added, “Our hearts are deeply broken as we grieve the loss of a man who meant so much to all who knew and loved him,” and asked for prayers and privacy during their time of mourning.

Throughout his life, Reagan spoke openly about his Catholic faith, which shaped both his personal journey and his public voice. A conservative author, nationally syndicated radio host, and sought-after speaker, he believed that faith, humility, and moral clarity were essential not only to individual lives but to the health of the nation. Those who knew him well often noted that his confidence in Christ gave him peace, especially in later years.

Reagan dedicated decades to preserving and sharing his father’s legacy, working closely with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute and with Young America’s

Foundation. The Foundation described him as “a steadfast guardian of his father’s legacy,” adding that “Michael Reagan lived a life shaped by conviction, purpose, and an abiding devotion to President Reagan’s ideals.” Quoting President Reagan’s autobiography *An American Life*, the organization recalled the elder Reagan’s words about his son: “When I read his book, I had even more of a fatherly pride in Mike than I had had before... He was happy and at peace with himself.”

That sense of peace was rooted in faith and family. Reagan was especially passionate about mentoring young Americans, frequently addressing students at the Reagan Ranch in California.

According to a tribute by Andrew Coffin, Vice President and Director of the Reagan Ranch, Reagan was a gifted storyteller who spoke without notes, believing authenticity mattered more than polish. He often reflected on how his father’s faith, humility, and time at the ranch shaped his leadership, once remarking while standing there, “Without this place, the Berlin Wall still stands.”

The Young America’s Foundation tribute emphasized that Reagan’s life ultimately pointed beyond politics. “We are grateful for Michael’s life, for his friendship, for the family he raised, and the way the Lord has blessed the labors of his hands for the good of so many others,” the organization wrote.

Michael Reagan is survived by his wife, Colleen; his children, Cameron and Ashley; and his grandchildren.

Those closest to him remember a man who bore the weight of a famous name with honesty, who spoke boldly about his faith, and who finished his life confident in the hope he professed. His legacy lives on in his family, in the countless young people he inspired, and in the enduring testimony of a life grounded in God.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.