



Michael Leon Winkle

February 5, 1963 - November 7, 2025

Michael Leon Winkle, 62, of Kansas City, Kansas, passed away peacefully at home on November 7, 2025. He was born on February 5, 1963, in Kansas City, the son of Delbert and Thelma Winkle. Michael lived his life with the heart and joy of a child, bright, curious, and full of wonder. Born with autism, he saw the world through a lens of kindness and imagination. “It’s not easy being green,” Kermit once said, but Michael reminded everyone around him that being yourself is the most beautiful thing of all. He loved Sesame Street, the songs, the lessons, and the laughter, and his collection of stuffed animals and characters brought him comfort and joy every day. He could often be found watching his favorite episodes, playing with his train sets, reading magazines, painting, or tapping his foot to oldies music. Like his friends on Sesame Street, Michael made everyone feel welcome. His gentle smile and endless enthusiasm filled each day with warmth. Michael was surrounded by a loving circle of family, friends, and caregivers who helped him live independently and happily for more than 20 years through ResCare. To them, and to all who shared in his story, the family offers heartfelt thanks. He is survived by his sisters, Melody Jackson (Allen) and Michelle Winkle; nieces and nephews Amanda, Jeremy, Jonathan, Steven, Amber, Casey, and Robin; and many great friends and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, Delbert and Thelma. A visitation will begin at 1:00 PM, followed by a Celebration of Life at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at Maple Hill Funeral Home. As Big Bird might say, “You don’t need to look up to see

the stars. They're the friends and loved ones who shine in your heart forever.”
Michael's light will forever brighten our neighborhood.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **19**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life

NOV **19**. 1:30 PM (CT)

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