Mike Rogers passed away on December 18, 2018, at home surrounded by his family, after a yearlong battle with an extremely rare and aggressive sinus cancer. His was the 40th case of this particular cancer ever recorded, and in some of his last months he expressed hope that his experience might help researchers find more effective treatments for it. In the last year of his life, Mike proved that he would die as he had lived: in service of others, while also lighting up rooms with his stories and sense of humor. Soon after the family moved to Vermont in 1997, Mike completed one of the country’s first “deep energy retrofits” on their historic 1920s home in Burlington, with the help of his brother, Chris.

Driven by his passion for and sense of duty to the planet, Mike worked in residential energy efficiency for more than 20 years and became a leader as well as a mentor and true friend to many in the industry. He presented at national conferences, worked on policy at the state and federal levels, led trainings and peer groups, and provided business coaching to support contracting companies. A spirited advocate for bringing more voices into the room, he encouraged women, minorities and young people. He helped raise funds for the Home Performance Coalition Scholarship Fund, which has fostered more diverse participation at national conferences. In 2017 Mike was inducted into the Building Performance Industry Hall of Fame in recognition of his many contributions.

Mike was a generous guy who made friends easily everywhere he went. His love for his family and wide circle of friends was undisputed— from his college gang affectionately dubbed “Ye Olde Pipe ’n’ Nub” to his beloved Peace Corps friends and so many others—and he often credited them with making him the man that he was.

Mike was an adventurer through and through: a cyclist and marathon runner and, ultimately, an extreme hiker. He inspired his family and many friends to join him on long treks and canoeing trips and shared his deep love for the Grand Canyon with everyone he could. He hiked all 210 miles of the John Muir Trail in just two weeks during the summer of 2017 and was able to hike it once more with family just months before he died.

He is survived and will be missed greatly by his wife, Karen Sokol, and daughters Mika and Sabine, as well as by his younger siblings Chris Rogers, Jodi Rogers-Reichensperger, and Dana Rogers, and his parents Carol and Dan Rogers.