



# R. George DeVries

MAR 17, 1938 - APR 27, 2021



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## **R. George DeVries**

MAR 17, 1938 - APR 27, 2021

**R.** George DeVries was born in Detroit, MI on March 17, 1938. He recently passed away on April 27, 2021. His parents, Genevieve and Raymond DeVries born in Washington, MI, lived in Michigan until 1948 when they moved to Lowell, MI just east of Grand Rapids. George graduated from Lowell High School in 1956. At Lowell High School, he was president of his Junior and Senior classes. In High school, he won numerous regional tennis championships and was a state finalist as a Senior. He also represented the state of Michigan in a Junior Davis Cup. Also, during his senior year, he scored 40 points in a basketball game, a record that stood for many years. After spending a semester at Western Michigan University, he transferred to Alma College in Michigan where he was president of his fraternity. At Alma, he played Varsity Basketball and Tennis. As a Senior he won the MIAA singles championship and was awarded the Dr. Allen B Stowe Sportsmanship trophy. He is in the Alma College Hall of Fame. George received his bachelor's degree from Alma College in 1961, a master's degree from Western Michigan University and a graduate CLU degree from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA. He taught and coached at Spring Lake High School until 1974 when he pursued a long career with the Northwestern Mutual Financial Services Company of Milwaukee, WI. He was inducted into the Spring Lake Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. George was a member of Spring Lake Country Club and President from 1992 to 1994. He resigned as a member after 50 years. He also was a member of Venice Golf and Country Club from 1995 until 2021. Beverly, George's wife of almost 52 years pre-deceased him in May of 2014. While alive, Bev and George enjoyed and shared golf, Tennis, cooking, and visiting major cities. George is survived by daughter, Patricia (Trisha) Kay Larsen, son in law, Scott Larsen; Grandchildren, Ryan Larsen, Georgeanne Green (Jeremy Green) and Rebecca Larsen and, great grandchild, Charlie Rae Green. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 7, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic



## Obituary

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Church with Rev. David Gross as celebrant. Interment will be in Spring Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials to Gracious Grounds or Spring Lake Athletics - Hall of Fame are appreciated. Arrangements by The Spring Lake Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 213 E. Savidge St., Spring Lake, MI 49456





# Events

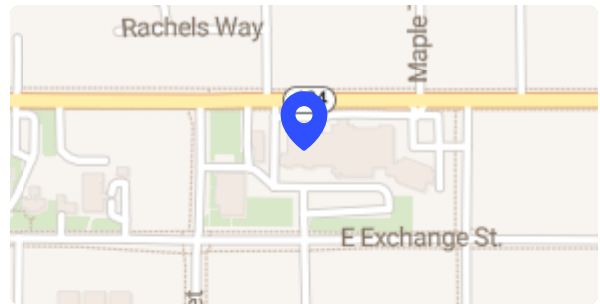
**R. George DeVries**  
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## Mass of Christian Burial

 **Friday, May 7, 2021**

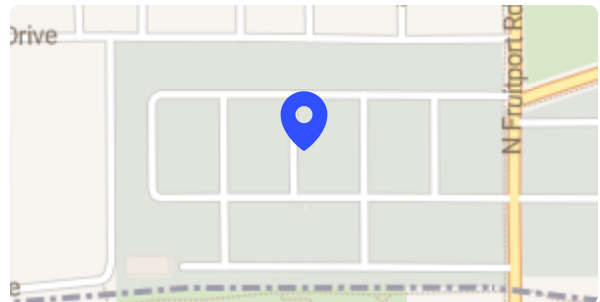
 11:00 AM ET

 **St. Mary's Catholic Church of Spring Lake**  
406 E. Savidge St., Spring Lake MI 49456



## Cemetery Details

 **Spring Lake Cemetery**  
17181 North Fruitport Road, Spring Lake MI 49456





## Tribute Wall

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JB

**John Bryson** posted:

Good memories of teaching with George and Bev at SLHS. They came to SL a year after I did and made SL our home and our career. A great place to live and teach. Trish, Please accept our sincere sympathy at your dad's passing. Sending you love and comfort. Claire & JGB (and all the kids)

May 8 at 12:31 PM

JN

**Jim Nienhouse** posted:

"Coach Devries open the door....let those Lakers on the floor" Good memories of playing for a Great Coach and Mentor. RIP George Jim Nienhouse Class of '71

May 7 at 10:23 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the DeVries family.



May 7 at 7:45 AM

BV

**Barb Vanshelven** posted:

Trisha and family, We were so sad to hear about your Dad. Your Mom and Dad and Jack and I spent lots of time together mostly laughing and having fun----great memories!! I'm sure you have some great memories too. We aren't able to come on Friday but will be thinking of you and sending lots of hugs God Bless, Barb VanSchelven

May 5 at 5:44 PM

MS

**Mike And Peg Secory** posted:

George was the first AD I worked under way back in 1968. A wonderful man. Thank you George for all you did for me! Our sympathies and prayers to you Tricia and the whole DeVries family!

May 2 at 5:43 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CS

**Carol Scholler** posted:

Dear Tricia,Dick and I were so shocked and saddened to hear of your loss of dear George! His quick smile, great wit and personality will be greatly missed at SLCC.Please accept our deepest sympathy and know you are in our hearts and prayers. Carol and Dick Scholler

May 2 at 2:33 PM

JW

**Judy Walsh** posted:

Tricia and family,I was so saddened to learn of George's passing. The four of us had such fun together. We spent many New Year's Eves at each others homes in Florida and usually got a little crazy. Loved his sense of humor. The world will be a little less fun without Georgie. I remember I couldn't say a word if Notre Dame was on.My condolences to all of you.Love,Judy Walsh

May 2 at 12:01 PM

CF

**Clive Francis** posted:

George was the best. I was on his first basketball team on his first year out of college. He was my coach for 4 years. I cannot count the number of times I shuffled around our gym in a crouch with one hand up and one down practicing our defense stance and moving our feet. I cannot count the number of "wind sprints" I ran in that gym. He would work us hard but he made it fun. I have the utmost respect for for him as he taught basketball skills but he also taught respect and team. May he rest in peace.

May 2 at 6:00 AM

NB

**Nancy Merz Boese** posted:

I was a student worker with George. One day in the spring so he gave me the keys to his convertible to take a few of my friends for a ride. He was great to work with. He also was the study hall teacher for my freshman year where I met my future husband.

May 2 at 4:08 AM

BR

**Barbara Ryan** posted:

Mr. DeVries was my favorite teacher in Jr. High. I remember his smile and bubbly personality. He loved to tease and always made me laugh. May he Rest In Peace. My condolences to his family in this time of great sadness.- Barb Wilson Ryan

May 1 at 2:54 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring R. George by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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