



Ray E. Griffith

NOV 2, 1929 - JUL 22, 2021



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



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Ray E. Griffith, age 91, passed away early Thursday morning, July 22, 2021 at home. He was born on November 2, 1929 to John and Bertie (Adams) Griffith in Kentenia, KY. He was a proud veteran serving his country in the U.S. Navy for four years as an Aerographer's Mate First Class during the Korean War. Ray graduated from the University of Maryland in 1959, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. He then received his professional engineering license while working at Standard Oil. After leaving Standard Oil of Ohio, he was employed by Chemstrand Chemical in Decatur, AL, Monsanto Chemical, in St Louis, MO and Ott Chemical in Muskegon, MI. After the closure of Ott Chemical, Ray decided to open his own business called Instrument Engineering, where he worked until his retirement in 1999. On March 8, 1997 he married the former Norene Upson-Botten in Muskegon, MI. Together they cherished 24 years of marriage full of love, laughter and endless memories. Ray was a man gifted with many talents of all genres. He was an avid golfer, skier and fisherman. He had a passion for the arts and was a skilled painter and poet. Ray enjoyed dancing and was a member of the Lumbertown Cloggers, Cedar Creek Cloggers and the West Michigan Bootscooters. He was a patient and kind mannered man who was always willing to help others and loved spending time with his family and friends. He was especially fond of his constant canine companion Brady Lou. Ray was the type of man who could fill a room with laughter with his sense of humor. His tender-loving and gracious spirit will truly be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his loving wife, Norene (Upson-Botten) Griffith; 2 sons, Raymond "Scott" (Lori) Griffith and Jeffrey (Lynette) Griffith; mother of Scott and Jeffrey, Rose Tipton; 2 step-children, Brenda Lee (Richard) Hodge Jr and James (Sheila) Botten; 4 grandchildren, Allison Griffith, Danielle Griffith, Ashley Griffith and Hudson Griffith; mother of Allison and Danielle, Nancy Hall; 7 step-grandchildren, Allison (Kevin) Harrington, Brandon



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(Kelly) Karis, Britney Karis, Richard Hodge III, Zachary (Kelsey) Hodge, Kevin Hodge and Olivia Botten; 10 step-great-grandchildren, Lauren Harrington, Aubree Karis, Morganne Karis, Karleigh Karis, Khloe Karis, Calyn Karis, Liam Hodge, Emerson Hodge, Ava Bentley and Madden Bentley; brother, Jerry (Anne) Griffith; niece, MaryHolly (Ben) Crosby; and 1st practice grandchild, Terry Upson. He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, June (Jim) Barrett; 2 brothers, William (Louise) Griffith and Eugene (Fayette) Griffith; step-daughter, Debra (Mark) Karis; and nephew Arthur Allison. A Memorial Service will be held at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. A visitation with the family will be held one-hour prior. Memorial contributions in Ray's honor can be made directly to Grace Hospice. Please share memories with the family at www.sytsemafh.com.



Events

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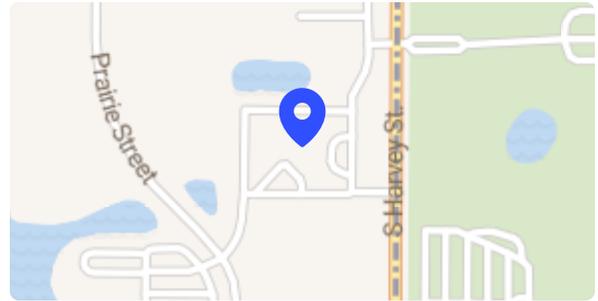
Visitation

 **Tuesday**, July 27, 2021

 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



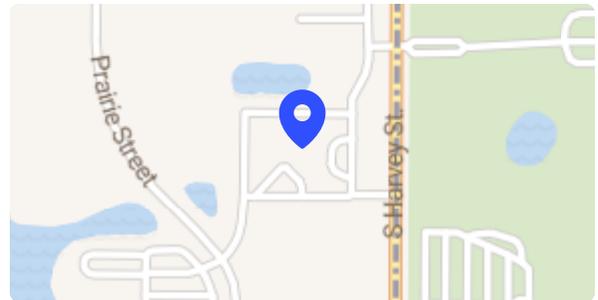
Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall

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DA

Duane Aerts posted:

Ray was such a gentle man to work for. May he Rest In Peace Duane

July 28 at 6:12 PM

LC

Lois Carter posted:

So sorry for your loss . Sending thoughts and prayers your way. Love, Dick & Lois

July 28 at 6:39 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Griffith family.



July 27 at 4:48 AM

EF

Elaine & Wayne Folsom posted:

So sorry for your loss. Ray was such a wonderful gentleman. We all have such nice dance memories.

July 26 at 8:53 AM

KA

Ken Arends posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. Keeping you and your family in our special prayers. Ken and Dana Arends

July 25 at 4:13 PM

JG

Jerry Griffith posted:

Rest easy now and enjoy the rest of the family. I'll see you all before long. Love and miss you all Enjoy some golf on that beautiful heavenly golf course.

July 25 at 10:01 AM



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Lisa Hartman lit a candle in honor of Ray.

Ray was such kind and gentle soul. One good memory of him is when we helped Rick & Brenda with a catering job. Ray patiently helped me scrub all the sticky rib pans one by one...even making this job enjoyable. Our hearts go out to all of you... Rest in Peace Ray...Love, Lisa & Tony Hartman



July 25 at 9:09 AM



Brenda Hodson posted:

Love to you, Norene, and your family. Ray was a wonderful guy! Our Deepest Sympathy. Brenda & Randy.

July 24 at 11:51 AM



Gail Thompson " Dawn Drive" sent a Spirit - Memorial Globe Candle Holder to the Griffith family.



July 24 at 9:00 AM



Gail Thompson posted:

I knew Ray for about 13 yrs and always remember him as a warm, friendly and smiling man. He was a true dancer and quite good at line dancing. He never seemed to tire. He will be missed and remembered with affection. He and Noreen were a neat, happy couple. My thoughts are with the family. Gail Thompson (Dawn Drive neighbor) now residing in South Carolina

July 24 at 8:21 AM



Steve And Millie Kelly Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Griffith family.



July 24 at 8:12 AM



Cathy Lichodziejewski posted:

Oh, Aunt Noreen, my deepest condolences for your loss.

July 23 at 5:49 PM



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Jane Leach posted:

So sorry to hear about Ray. He was a special person and will be missed. I will always remember the fun times in Florida and in Las Vegas. Love, Jane Leach

July 23 at 3:58 PM



Pat Deitz posted:

Norene and family, Dick & I remember well when Ray started dancing when he was smitten by Norene. It was a joy to watch the relationship grow and then to share with them their wedding day. We played the music at their reception for Ray & Norene and their loving friends and relatives to dance to. Watched the beaming couple dance to their chosen favorite melody. What a joy that was!! Over the years we shared many events with them and had a fantastic time when they graciously opened their home to us. Norene of course trying to get us hyped about fishing and Ray of course was smiling because his love was so enthusiastic. We remember the many dances Ray was present at and actively dancing. I know that all of us were saddened when he no longer could participate and I know it was sad for him also. He was a kind gentle man and loved by all. I will never forget his wonderful smile and open arms for a big hug. May the wonderful memories created by family and friends help to carry you through this sad, trying time. God Bless all of you. Love, Pat Deitz

July 23 at 1:51 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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