



Richard James Siemion Sr.

MAR 14, 1947 - MAY 11, 2024



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Richard James Siemion Sr., age 77, of Norton Shores passed away on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at the Poppen Residence in Fruitport Township. Rich was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 14, 1947 to Stanley and Lucille (Wittkowski) Siemion. Following graduation from Spring Lake High School, Rich attended auto mechanic school in St. Louis, Missouri. After school he was a Service Manager of Miller Chevrolet in Grand Haven before owning and operating his own business, Rich's Auto, for 26 years. He married the former Paula Johnson on March 18, 1987. Rich retired at the age of 47 and they moved to Manistee, Michigan where he started a new journey in cabinet making, built his own log home, pole barn, and grew his love for woodworking. Rich also enjoyed hunting, camping with his family at McCarthy Lake, and spending winters in Texas where he loved to fish. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 37 years, Paula; children, Tracy (Ray) Bytwerk, Rich Siemion, Sherri (Brent) Bowser, and Sandy (Dave) Machler; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers, Mike (Marty) Siemion and John (Wendy) Siemion; sister, Kathy (Martin) Berg; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter-in-law, Amy Siemion. According to Rich's wishes, cremation has taken place, and he had a final party with his family and friends two years ago. No additional services will be held at this time. Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. His family wishes to thank the staff of Hospice of Michigan and The Harbor Hospice Foundation for the care they showed Rich and family. You may sign his online guestbook at www.sytsemaf.com



Tribute Wall

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MB

Michael Brye posted:

Rich and I became fast friends when my parents move from Muskegon to Spring Lake. We went to St Mary's together and then Spring Lake High School. In 1961 i was run over by a truck on the way to Rich's house and we still remained buddy's. We had many great times together such as road trips and occasionally a little street racing. We remained friends until he fell in love and we lost track of one another. I have missed one of my best friends in life. Hopefully I will see him again on the other side. Rest in peace my friend....Mike Brye

May 13 at 6:17 PM

JS

John Siemion posted:

A memory that Rich and I talked about recently at my oldest brother Mike's 80th birthday always gave us a good laugh over the years. It was back in 1964 I believe, that Rich wanted to impress a girl by driving our older brother's car over to visit her. Our brother was out for the night and Rich thought he'll never know. Unfortunately when Rich was backing the car out of the driveway at the girl's house when he came too close to a tree and it rubbed up against the right rear passenger door. When Rich got home and got a better look at it in the light of our parents garage. The tree did a nice job of scratching up the paint on the door. We got our heads together and decided to paint the door with some black enamel paint that our dad had in the basement. We got to work painting the door with brushes we found in the basement and worked tirelessly to work out the brush strokes. It was getting late and we decided to let it be and because it was on the passenger side of the car we thought Mike would never see it. Fast forward about forty years and we were at a family function with our brother when Rich and I started talking about that night. Mike looked at us wondering what we were talking about. We proceeded to tell him the story and he responded with "I wondered why there were brush strokes in that door." For the privacy of the girl that Rich went to see I will not reveal her name. But those of you who knew Rich in high school may be able to figure her out.

May 13 at 2:36 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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