



Janice Rae Hammond

JAN 5, 1935 - JAN 17, 2026



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Janice Rae Hammond

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Janice Rae Hammond, age 91, of Spring Lake, Michigan, was welcomed into the presence of her Savior after a life marked by faith, love, and devoted service. She was born on January 5, 1935, in Spring Lake, Michigan, to Floris and Winnifred Wierenga.

Janice was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 68 years, Cecil Hammond; her cherished granddaughter, Ashlyn Rynbrandt; and her great-grandson, Chandler Thompson.

She is lovingly survived by her ten children and their spouses: Bruce (Gerale), Sherri Spear (Kent), Bryan (Vickie), David (Marci), Craig (Dionne), Jan Rynbrandt (Randy), Joseph (Amber), Cecil Jr. (Shelly), Julie Juntunen (Chris), and Kristen Vander Heide (Chad). She was a proud grandmother to 28 grandchildren and a joyful great-grandmother to 9 great-grandchildren.

Janice was the quiet strength of her family—humble, patient, tender-hearted, and so much more. She gave unconditional love, modeled forgiveness, and contentment without seeking recognition. She was a lifelong learner and teacher whose Christlike spirit led her brother and in-laws to affectionately refer to her as “a saint.”

Music was one of Janice’s greatest gifts and lifelong passions. She served as a church pianist and organist for approximately 50 years, primarily at Spring Lake First Baptist Church, where her music was an integral part of worship for generations. She gave piano lessons for 40 years, shaping not only aspiring musicians but lives through her patience and encouragement.

Janice was a member of the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association for 25 years and served as an Ensemble Festival Chairperson. She attended summer piano teacher workshops at Michigan State University for many years, continually refining her craft and deepening her love for piano music. In the 1960s, she was the accompanist for the Tripp Sisters and played piano on their album, *Only a Prayer*



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Away.

Her greatest accomplishment, was her role as an amazingly devoted wife and mother. She highly valued her family and poured her life into loving and nurturing her children with grace, faith, and consistency.

Janice Rae Hammond leaves behind a legacy of faith, music, service, and unconditional love—a legacy that will continue to echo through her family and all whose lives she touched.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, January 22, 2026, at The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417. Friends may meet the family Thursday from 12:30 p.m. until the funeral at 2:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials in memory of Janice may be given to [Michigan Music Teachers Association](#). Interment will be in Spring Lake Cemetery. Please sign the family's online guest book at <https://www.sytsemafh.com>.



Events

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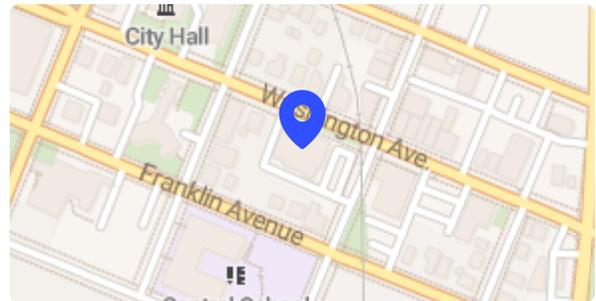
Visitation

Thursday, January 22, 2026

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



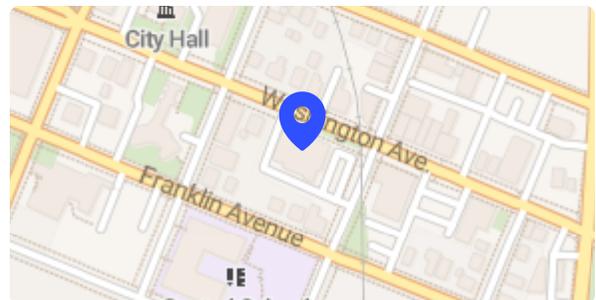
Funeral

Thursday, January 22, 2026

2:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel

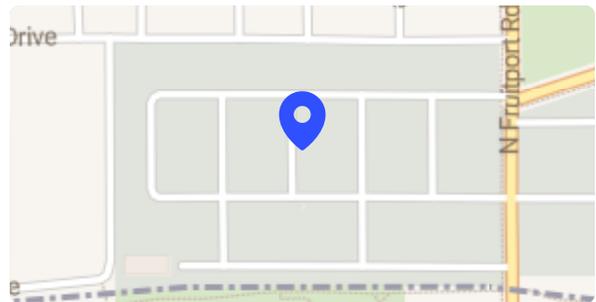
620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



Cemetery Details

Spring Lake Cemetery

17181 North Fruitport Road, Spring Lake MI 49456





Tribute Wall

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Susan Tindall posted:

As the past president of the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association,(GMMTA) I would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Janice on behalf of her friends in GMMTA. Janice was an integral and active member of GMMTA. She gave of her time and talent to assist in the many endeavors GMMTA provided for our piano students and teacher education. She also shared her love of the piano by playing for Tempting Tables, a local funder to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research in the Michigan.As a GMMTA member, president, and friend to Janice, I could rely on Janice for her help with many of our sponsored events. I held the highest regard for her professionally and personally. She was missed when she retired, now missed even more by those who knew her as a piano instructor, friend, and colleague.May Janice rest in the light of her Lord and Savior and eternally enjoy the musical feast of heaven.With sympathy and prayers for her family,Susan Rogalla TindallPast president of GMMTA

January 25 at 1:01 AM



Iris And Don St.Clair And Amber Hammond sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Hammond family.



January 21 at 4:17 PM



Love, Chad, Kristen & Noah Vander Heide sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Hammond family.



January 20 at 3:44 PM



Love, Chad, Kristen & Noah Vander Heide planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Janice.



January 20 at 3:44 PM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Hammond family.



January 19 at 12:22 PM



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BR

Bruce, Gerale Hammond & Paul, Cadie Rae, sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Hammond family.

January 19 at 11:32 AM



BR

Bruce, Gerale Hammond & Paul, Cadie Rae, planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Janice.

January 19 at 11:32 AM



Anonymous sent a Tender Tribute to the Hammond family.

January 19 at 10:50 AM



TF

The Mount Calvary Church Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Janice.

January 19 at 10:50 AM



LF

Love, Charlene, Shannah, Chuck & Faith sent a Serene Retreat to the Hammond family.

January 19 at 10:15 AM



DG

Debi M Guzman Debi M Guzman posted:

Hope this song gives you some comfort <https://youtu.be/mNs4vYgRt-4?si=EfXn6aRjskMaZBRg>

January 19 at 9:42 AM



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DG

Debi M Guzman Debi M Guzman posted:

There are so many memories of Janice. She was my neighbor for so many years. She was my piano teacher for a couple years - sorry all those who lived in the house then for having to listen to my lessons. LolJanice also was our church organist and pianist at First Baptist Church of spring lake. She was there to play and help us worship when the doors were open.Janice was the mother of many friends as she was my neighbor. She was a strong woman who kept a house in order. She was a great woman of God.My

January 19 at 9:06 AM

DD

Dan-Susan Dehaan posted:

We met Janice at First Baptist Church in Spring Lake. She was a dedicated teacher of piano. Our nephew Justin Miller took lessons from Janice and guided him to learn the organ also. He continued with both instruments and is a teacher in England of piano, organ, and many church choirs.

January 18 at 4:57 PM

GG

Gigi Green posted:

Many wonderful memories of an exceptional neighbor. What a great example she was for all the kids in our neighborhood. My sincere condolences to all the Hammond's. Your mom touched all of us. ♥
Gigi Frietchen-Green

January 18 at 4:16 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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