



## Gordon L. Rinard

November 4, 1940 - May 5, 2019

Gordon L. Rinard, age 78, passed away Sunday afternoon, May 5, 2019, at the Poppen Residence. He was born November 4, 1940 in Arcadia, MI to Gordon and Gladys (Ashcraft) Rinard and had resided most of his life in the Muskegon area. Gordon had received his Bachelor of Arts from Western Michigan University, where he was also a 4-year member of its ROTC program. He then spent the next 20 years in the military, retiring as a Captain, in 1982, from the U.S. Army Reserve. Gordon had many life interests, including his Fuel Consumption Patent, registered with the US Patent Office, Washington DC, serving as the Director of the Muskegon Coast Guard Exchange; and then serving as the Director of the Institute for Healing Racism, from which he retired, in 2009. He was a member of the Christian Science Church; and of the NAACP. On March 1, 1980 he married the former Stephanie Garn and she survives him along with his children, Rob (Jennifer ('nee Stapp)) Rinard, Sara (Scotty) Mussman and Tierza (Simon) Moblo, Christine (Troy) Hamel, Amy (Mike) Trumbull and Jennifer (Joe) Alpers; 21 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; 1 sister, Sandy Hosko. He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter, Catherine. A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Gordon will be held 3:00PM Saturday, May 11, 2019 at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., (231-798-1100) with VISITATION 1-hour prior to the service. For a more lasting memorial you are asked to consider the Lighthouse for Veterans, P.O.B 5024, Muskegon, MI 49445. You are invited to sign the family's Online Guestbook at [www.sytsemafz.com](http://www.sytsemafz.com).

# Events

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**MAY**   **Visitation**            02:00PM - 03:00PM

**11**

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The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI, US, 49444

**MAY**   **Memorial Service**                            03:00PM

**11**

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The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI, US, 49444

# Comments

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“ To an awesome loving learned man, too many and from many he grew until his home going. I will miss him. I know he is at peace. No more worries. He has joined my loved ones. I believe we will see them again.

from another soul on this same journey, for we are all just visitors here.  
Emmaj

**Emmaj Hardiman** - May 12 at 10:07 AM

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“ I first met Gordon in the Institute for Healing Racism – Muskegon. The impact on me was so emotional that I decided to attend a second Institute. Soon after, I became a facilitator for the Institute.

Gordon changed my life. When participants were urged to write a plan for how we would fight racism in our life, I simply wrote, “Confront Confront Confront.” I have not varied from that plan, thanks to Gordon. I can only hope I have impacted others the way Gordon and the Institute for Healing Racism changed my life forever. Rest in Peace, Gordon. And Peace to you, Stephanie.

James Bol

**James Bol** - May 10 at 04:32 PM

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“ Sad to hear of Gordon’s passing. I so enjoyed learning from him when Kim and I came back to Muskegon 12 years ago. The work he and Stephanie did with the Institute remains important to my own development. It was great to have the chance to visit with him at McAuley Place and share memories. Blessings to the family at this time of loss.

**Doug Wood** - May 08 at 04:16 PM

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“ Gordon was an important founding member of the fraternity Phi Sigma Kappa at Western Michigan University. Although my attempts to reconnect with Gordon over the years failed, I still remember him as a very funny articulate and smart brother of that fraternity.

**George Knutson** - May 08 at 03:16 PM

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“ So sorry to hear that Gordon isn't in this world anymore. Such a man of passion for justice. You know, I'll always remember his coming to the door of the "Yellow House" (where Muskegon County Cooperating Churches was housed quite some time ago) at a time when we were floundering. He was just what the organization needed at that time -- a person of great energy, who really took up the cause of justice and racial healing. CUP (Community Uniting for Peace), and the Institute for Healing Racism might not have happened without his passion and persistence. His legacy of community justice will live on, but I'm sure you'll miss him dearly. Hugs, Stephanie, and family.

**Delphine Hogston** - May 08 at 02:42 PM

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“ Sorry for the loss of a "beautiful soul". As a 'student ' of one of the first "Healing Racism" classes facilitated by Gordon, I was truly touched by this wonderful person who cared for ALL. RIP.

**Minney Milton** - May 08 at 01:41 PM

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“ In memory of my Muskegon Heights Tiger and Western Michigan University Bronco fellow alumnus and friend Gordon L. Rinard, founder of the Institute for Healing Racism - Muskegon, thank you for asking me to join you on your journey and vision to "build a just community in which racism, prejudice, hate, and their effects are eliminated." You and your adorable mate Stephanie truly made a difference in my life and the lives of well over 3,000 other persons via the Institute dialog experience.

**Floyd Cook Jr** - May 08 at 01:20 PM

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“ Stephanie and family. We are so sorry to hear of Gordon's passing. Our prayers are with you as you say your goodbyes. You both were great strength for our mom, Wiladene. Blessings to you all.

**Ron & Lynn Stickel**

**Ron & Lynn Stickel** - May 07 at 11:13 AM