



James R. Gurd

September 17, 1934 - October 27, 2019

James R. "Jim" Gurd, age 85, of Grand Haven, passed away Sunday, October 27, 2019 at MediLodge at the Shore. He was born September 17, 1934, in Detroit, to Harold and Neomi (Kearney) Gurd, and married Audrey Perala on October 18, 1955, at St. Andrews Catholic Church.

Jim retired from Fifth Third Bank and National City Bank in 1996 and served his country in the Army National Guard. He was a very active member of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Catholic Church, where he was an altar server in charge of services, taught catechism, and was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. Jim served as Grand Haven Township Clerk for 20 years, was a member of Association for Mentally Handicapped Citizens, AMBUCS, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and Jaycees where he was the Young Man of the Year in 1966. He also enjoyed being in the theater many years ago in Rochester, MI., was a big University of Michigan fan, enjoyed golfing, and Detroit Tigers baseball. Jim most of all was a man of faith, who loved his family.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Audrey Gurd; three daughters: Lori (Jeff Larkin) Gurd, Pamela Jo Gurd, and Julie Lynn (Patrick) Moroschan; and grandson, Chad Larkin. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, October 31, 2019, at St. Patrick – St. Anthony Catholic Church with Rev. Charles Schwartz as celebrant. Friends may meet the family 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, October 30, at The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Interment will be in Lakeshore Cemetery. Memorial contributions to St. Patrick – St. Anthony Catholic Church or Special Olympics are appreciated. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.sytsemafz.com.

Cemetery

Lakeshore Cemetery - Grand Haven Township

17200 Lincoln St.

Grand Haven, MI, 49417

Events

OCT **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

30

The VanZantwick Chapel

620 Washington, Grand Haven, MI, US,
49417

OCT **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

31

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Catholic Church
920 Fulton Street, Grand Haven, MI, US,
49417

OCT **Graveside Service** 01:30PM

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Lakeshore Cemetery - Grand Haven
Township

17200 Lincoln St., Grand Haven, MI, US,
49417

Comments



“ Mrs. Gurd and family -- I met Jim in the early 1980s, when I served as attorney for Grand Haven Township. Jim was the Township Clerk and he impressed me with his dedication to serving the people of the Township by using his knowledge and skills. He was involved in many important decisions for the Township during his many years on the Board, and helped lay the foundations for the very significant growth the Township has experienced. But more than anything else, he was just a wonderful person to work with; full of knowledge and experience, but a sense of humility about himself; quick wit, but not offensive; and a readiness to serve others. I'm sorry that I missed the funeral and visitation, but he made a lasting impression on me. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,

Phil Sielski

Phil Sielski - November 05 at 09:12 AM



“ I met Jim when he joined the ARC Board, and it quickly became evident that he would be a “force to be reckoned with”—in a most constructive and positive way. Jim was passionate about making certain that persons with developmental disabilities receive all the services they deserved and had been promised by legislation. His commitment to this area was undoubtedly impacted by his faith and his love for his daughter. Jim was meticulous in his attention to detail and in every way a very skilled and competent board member and, for a season, president of the board. The grand irony in our serving on the board together was in the many ways Jim and I perceived the world differently. He and I often saw politicians and politics differently. Jim was an avid Wolverine and I was a Spartan—and the list goes on. In spite of our several differences, however, we always found a way not to focus on our differences and rather let our common values and interests define our relationship. Jim also had a wonderful sense of humor and, while ARC Board President, he inserted a "chuckle time" segment into each meeting's agenda. He almost always was able to share something humorous to close out each meeting. Jim was a rare treasure to all of us on the ARC Board. I will always value his contributions and friendship. He will be missed.
Ron Wolthuis

Ron Wolthuis - November 03 at 03:44 PM



“ Julie and Family,
It's Halloween. I have good memories of going trick-or-treating in our neighborhood with your dad and my dad when we were little kids. He was such a lovely, kind and gracious person. I offer my condolences to you, your sisters and your wonderful mother.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Cole

Stephanie Cole - October 31 at 03:30 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers for Jim's family. I had a lot of fun with Jim down at the Knight's of Columbus Council and at Mackinac Island. We both got to stay at the Grand Hotel and had dinner there. I have known Jim Most of my life. He will be missed, but he is with GOD

Mike and Cheryl Tague.

Michael Tague - October 30 at 02:19 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of James R. Gurd.



October 29 at 04:28 PM



“ Jim Gurd was GH Township Clerk when I was Supervisor. I always considered Jim a friend first and an outstanding citizen of GH Township. Always enjoyed brief visits with Jim when I was at the bank and lived in the Township. I have lived in Florida since 1999 and lost touch with Jim.

My heartfelt sympathies go to his family as they celebrate his life..
warmest Regards Ronald J. Cleveringa

Ron Cleveringa - October 29 at 12:58 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. May God's grace and the cares and concerns of family and friends bring you strength and comfort in the days ahead. Although lives pass, memories never leave us and may all your memories of Jim give you peace and comfort.



Joyce Koster - October 29 at 07:43 AM



“ Bob Hilton purchased the Sympathy Fruits Abound for the family of James R. Gurd.



Bob Hilton - October 28 at 09:14 PM



“ Jim and I attended Tiger baseball games. Michigan football games, WhiteCaps baseball games and countless other athletic events. I will miss him deeply. My thoughts are with his family. Rest in peace my friend.

Bob Hilton

Robert Hilton - October 28 at 08:46 PM



“ Mr. Gurd was our neighbor when I was growing up, and he was so sweet. I especially remember how awesome of a father he was. He cared so much for his three girls.

He always had a smile and was kind to all. I am thankful that I knew him all those years.

Linda Rinkel

Linda Rinkel - October 28 at 08:15 PM