



## Dale Ernest Dawkins

July 3, 1934 - February 1, 2024

Dale Ernest Dawkins PE, age 89 of Bloomfield Hills (previously of Royal Oak), passed away on February 1, 2024 after a long illness.

Dale received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan and his Master of Science in Automotive Engineering from the Chrysler Institute of Engineering. Dale was a senior executive in the Automotive Industry, working for Chrysler, General Motors and American Motors.

Dale has been President of Prince of Glory Lutheran Church, Lake Shore East Condo Association, Woodward Dream Cruise and a Director of the SAE Detroit Section. Dale was active in the City of Bloomfield Hills government including two terms as Mayor. Dale also started the Jazz Festival in Birmingham and with his wife Marlene established the Spirit of Christ (nee Prince of Glory) College Scholarship Program. Dale has played basketball and tennis and liked working on cars and boats. Dale enjoyed traveling the world with Marlene, including trips to Russia and Finland, and cruises to Alaska with his family and friends.

Dale is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Marlene (née Niemi); his loving children: David (Karen), Mark (Lorraine), Scott (Deborah), and Jeffrey Dawkins; his dear grandchildren: Mitchell (Erin), Kristin (Thomas), Daniel (Melissa), Eric , Kevin (Maren), and Brian (fiancé Zachary) and great-

grandchildren: Dawson, Bridget, Emmit, Emilia, Henry, and Evelyn; and his siblings: Peter (Mary) Dawkins and Susan (James) Wander. Dale was predeceased by his parents Henry DDS (Francis) and his brother, Michael (Christine) Dawkins.

Memorial visitation for Dale will be held on Saturday, February 24, from 10:00 a.m. until time of service, 11:00 a.m., at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (four blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak.

Memorial contributions can be directed to Gentiva Hospice agency ([gentivahsp.com](http://gentivahsp.com)) or to Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church College Scholarship Fund ([spiritofchristclawson.org](http://spiritofchristclawson.org)).

Share a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Service

FEB 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dale Ernest Dawkins.



February 23, 2024 at 07:01 AM



“ The Giachino Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ernest Dawkins.

The Giachino Family - February 23, 2024 at 07:01 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dale Ernest Dawkins.



February 20, 2024 at 03:47 PM



“ Noel, Joe, Fallon, Finn, Lennan Mihalow planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ernest Dawkins.

Noel, Joe, Fallon, Finn, Lennan Mihalow - February 20, 2024 at 03:47 PM

JC

“ Jason from North Oakland Caregivers purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Dale Ernest Dawkins.



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Jason from North Oakland Caregivers - February 20, 2024 at 03:23 PM

JC

“ Jason from North Oakland Caregivers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ernest Dawkins.

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Jason from North Oakland Caregivers - February 20, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dale Ernest Dawkins.



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February 19, 2024 at 07:50 PM

WR

“ My relationship with Dale began in the 1940s. We were neighbors. I have so many fond memories of times together through the years. Dale was a gentleman of principle with so many exemplary personal qualities. He was someone for whom it always had the utmost respect and admiration.

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William A Raisch - February 17, 2024 at 12:04 PM

“ I came to work directly for Dale in Chrysler's Safety Office in Auburn Hills in a very intense and difficult time in June, 1996. Air bags were too powerful, thanks to Federal Regulations (30 mph unbelted barrier test with 185 lb. male crash dummy). At that time, the U.S. was only country in the world with an unbelted frontal crash test. It was this test which forced all automakers to make these too powerful air bags.

*Tragically, children, women and the elderly were dying in parking lot fender benders and other crashes due to these air bags. These deaths were making headlines on many newspapers as I joined him in the Safety Office.*

*Fingers were pointing everywhere, including at Chrysler, which was the first to install air bags in popularly priced vehicles. We had about 10 million air bag equipped vehicles on the road at that time. Dale was cool, calm, clear, focused, helpful, warm and kind in this hurricane of horror. He was a great mentor to me and kept me focused and moving forward to solve these and other issues as quickly and as thoroughly as possible.*

*In November, when the Big 3 announced that they would build different air bag systems for Canada than the United States, the Federal Government was shamed, and it backed down and changed its front crash test to allow less forceful airbags. As our biomechanics department predicted, the deaths from the "depowered" air bags went to zero.*

*Dale was also handling many other issues during this time. He was a rock of stability and filled with knowledge. He also kept his sense of humor, which kept things loose and positive. I was really sad when he retired in December. He was a great boss and gave great guidance. He always did the right thing. I learned a tremendous amount from him and will always remember his kindness. When I retired from Chrysler 11 years later, he called me to wish me well in my retirement. I was touched. That was the mark of a true*

*gentleman. I will really miss you, Dale.*

**Robert Goldenthal** - February 15, 2024 at 09:18 PM

RZ

“ *I worked for Dale at then-Chrysler. Kind, smart, insightful, funny, supportive just begin to describe Dale. He was actually with me in my office when a call came in that my own father had died and he was perfect...could not have been more supportive in the moment. Every encounter with Dale was a positive one with a touch of insight and perhaps whimsy. Dale, you were right...no one ever came out in the morning to find their SUV laying on its side in the driveway. They don't just roll over on their own. Great boss, great person.*

**Ron Zarowitz** - February 11, 2024 at 12:35 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dale Ernest Dawkins.*



February 07, 2024 at 11:40 AM

BM

“ *Brian, Zachary, Kevin, Maren planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ernest Dawkins.*

**Brian, Zachary, Kevin, Maren** - February 07, 2024 at 11:40 AM

TF

“ *The Hargan Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dale Ernest Dawkins.*



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**The Hargan Family** - February 07, 2024 at 08:40 AM

TF

“ *The Hargan Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ernest Dawkins.*

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**The Hargan Family** - February 07, 2024 at 08:40 AM



“ *Dale was wonderful person. When we moved into the neighborhood everyone told us the mayor lives here! Dale gave so much to the City of Bloomfield Hills. I remember the first time I knocked on his door to ask Dale and Marlene to sign my petition for city commissioner. He gave me a big smile and said: "good for you kid". He then told me to write a letter to our neighbors about myself and why I want to run for city commission. Best advise I every received, which lead to me being elected. My fondest memories will be running by their house, he and Marlene sitting on the porch, they always waved and Dale would yell: "keep it up kid". Your smile will never fade and your many contributions will be forever remembered. Susan & Joe McCarthy*

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**Susan McCarthy** - February 05, 2024 at 03:18 PM

PH

“ *This smile on Dale's face is the epitome of his essence...always smiling, kind, funny, generous and wise. To know him was to be blessed with a true friendship. He was a wonderful Bloomfield Hills City Commissioner and many- time Mayor..,he listened to problems and found solutions. He dubbed himself "Mr. Sewer Man" when we had infrastructure problems, and he was innovative in finding ways to deal with our road issues. Such a fine, honest, jovial, devoted and smart man is hard to find...that is what I know and admired about Dale Dawkins. Marlene had a gem beside her always, and she will undoubtedly agree that he will be sorely missed, not only by his entire family, but the wide circle of friends he cultivated in his professional and personal life. It's not hard to imagine him as an angel somewhere, welcoming newcomers to their celestial home. One of the most memorable sentences I have ever read in a condolence card is this: "Those who love us never really leave us...they are but a thin veil away." I surely hope I get to see him again one day!! Pat Hardy*

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**Patricia Hardy** - February 05, 2024 at 02:36 PM