



E.J. 'Jim' Rafferty

July 24, 1925 - September 19, 2012

E.J. "Jim" Rafferty, age 87, a 50-year resident of Royal Oak, formerly of Detroit, died September 19, 2012 at his home. He was born July 24, 1925 in Galt, Ontario, Canada to the late James Patrick and Florence nee Howes Rafferty. Mr. Rafferty attended Visitation School and was a 1944 graduate of Catholic Central. He received his bachelors from the University of Detroit and master's from Oakland University. He was a proud veteran who served in the U.S. Navy from 1944-1946. He was a fifth grade teacher at Schoenhals Elementary School in Madison Heights from 1967-1993. He was also the past president of the St. Andrews Society in 1971. The beloved husband of Patricia K. Rafferty, the couple married July 5, 1947 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. Loving father of Mary Anne Rafferty, Dennis Michael Rafferty and Rev. James Robert Rafferty. Dear brother of Marguerite the late Norman Pollock and the late Jerome Rafferty. The visitation will be Friday 2-8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. Rosary at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W Eleven Mile Road 4 blocks E of Woodward, Royal Oak. Mr. Rafferty will lie in state Saturday 10:30 a.m. until the time of Mass 11 a.m. at St. Mary of the Annunciation, 32477 Church Street, Rockwood, MI, with his son, the Rev. James Rafferty officiating. Burial with military honors will be Monday 10:30 a.m. at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorials to the Leader Dogs for the Blind are appreciated. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Mr. Rafferty was a force to be reckoned with. He was passionate about everything he did. Whether it was teaching, praying or complaining about baseball and hockey, he gave it 110%. He will definitely be missed.* ”

Carrie Post Whysall - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *The best teacher I ever had! My parents loved him too because they knew what a positive influence he was on all of us. He taught us academics AND values. Mr. Rafferty believed in us and made us all feel important. God bless you old teacher and friend. And God bless the family, too. We are all lucky to have known him.* ”

Jody Whitekus - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *Dear Rafferty Family, I was privileged to have Mr. Rafferty as my 5th grade teacher. I can still remember starting off every school day with a prayer. His influence as a teacher was felt all the way through high school, in fact, I dedicated my salutatorian speech to him. He was truly one of a kind. My deepest sympathy, thoughts, and prayers go out to all of you.* ”

Pamela Downing Gucza - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Dearest Mrs. Rafferty, Mary Anne, Denny and Father Jim, I am so very sorry to hear of the great loss of your husband and father. I only wish that I had known so as to attend his funeral mass. I want to give you all special hugs and words of encouragement. What a great man, Mr Rafferty was. I fondly remember his humor and warmth and how he would stop for a wave or to ask about my parents and siblings. There was something magical about this man and after getting to know his family as a child and now as an adult, I see why. His spirit carries on in all of you and the countless many he has touched. Love, Patrice Hramiec Gage

Patrice Gage - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ my thoughts and prayers are with mr rafferty family i knew him back when i went to vanderberg school 45 years ago

nancy sanderson markland - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ Dear Jamie and Family, I am sad to learn that your dad has past away. He was so cheerful and seemed to always have a kind word for me. Though I grieve with you, I am happy that his toil is done and that he may enjoy peace with his Maker and Savior.

Ed Tisko - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Dear Mrs Rafferty, Mary Anne, Dennis and Fr Jim: Your father and husband was a faithful neighbor. His generous smile and hearty wave were ALWAYS about his passing mom and dad's home. My parents and our family were grateful for his love and kindness as dear life long neighbors on Alicia Lane. My greatest wish is for your eventual peace.

Rose Hramiec Ramey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ I had the honor of having Mr. Rafferty for 5th grade. I remember coming home from school on the very first day, calling my mom at work and begging her to get me out of his class. I was **PETRIFIED** of the teacher who threw erasers at kids who fell asleep at their desks. Well...he turned out to be my best loved and respected teacher throughout all my years of schooling. I came back in my graduate studies to run a group for children with special needs. As I started the school year, Mr. Rafferty called me into his classroom to introduce me, show the kids the desk I sat in and take out a math test he still had of mine I am now 45 that was 100% and brag on me. He was just that kind of guy. I could go on and on with the memories as I'm sure many others can. He will be so fondly remembered and so dearly missed. My deepest condolences....Annie

Ann Szymanski-Schmitt - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Denny, Jamie, Mary Anne and Mrs. Rafferty, I am sorry for the loss of your beloved Father and Husband.

John Hramiec - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Dennis, Though I can't be there, know that my thoughts and my prayers are with you and all your family. My sincere condolences.
Love, Patsy

Pat - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My sincere condolences to the Raffery Family. I started schoenhals school in 3rd grade. When 5th grade came I was blessed to have Mr. Raffery as my teacher. That school year changed my life. I not only had a great teacher but a wonderful friend. He was the only teacher I ever had that was always there after school and his door was always open if you needed to talk and he would always pray with you. He was one of a kind I never had another teacher like him. We shared the same birthday and he always thought that was great. I was his favorite in my 5th grade class and I promised him I would come see him after I left schoenhals at the end of that year. I went back and visited him at schoenhals until I graduated from Madison High after that we lost touch. I will miss him greatly and he will always be in my thoughts just like he has been my whole life. If there were teachers like him these days they would make a difference like he did. RIP Mr. Raffery you are loved greatly..

Michelle Parks - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I'd like to share my condolences with Mr. Rafferty's family. I graduated in 1975 and worked in the office as a co-op student for my junior and senior years. Mr. Rafferty was one of the kindest people I've ever met in my life. I was always impressed with how much ALL the kids loved him not just his own students. He was a teacher that won the kids hearts and respect at the same time, and was also the type of person that once you met him you would never forget him. I've remembered him fondly so many times through the years because he had such a warm, loving personality, which made everyone he came in contact with feel special. He will truly be missed, but his family should be so proud of the positive impact that he had on so many young lives.

SABRINA MARTIN - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Mr. Rafferty was my 5th grade teacher and the best teacher I ever had! He made you proud to be an American I didnt realize he was born Canadian and instilled in me a love of learning. I'm now a social worker in a middle school 5th-8th grade and can appreciate even more the wonderful attributes he brought to teaching. You could tell he really loved his job and his students.

Cynthia Downing Robtoy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I have many fond memories of the time I worked with Jim. Sincerely with sympathy.

Jane bellezza-dziurda - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ Mr Rafferty was not only a GREAT teacher he was also a GREAT friend. I will never forget his prayer list he had in his classroom as well as the silent prayer time. He was told many times that he had to take the prayer list down but he was always able to find a way to keep it up. God Bless

Wendy Holifield-Ogle - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My thoughts and prayers to Mr. Rafferty's family. He was my favorite teacher and can still hear him call me his little lepchan from 5th grade. He was the most kind and loving teacher anyone could ask for. He and my father would pass German messages from me to them and oh I'm sure I messed them up big time. His kindness followed me through the years with attending my wedding and calling me at the birth of my daughters. One person that I know made a major impact on children's lives. Thank you Rafferty family for sharing a great man.

Debbie Rankin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ I would like to take to the time to share with you what this man meant to me. I am 44 yrs old. Mr Rafferty was a great great great teacher. He was the best teacher in the whole system. I was so lucky to be in his class. I am so sorry to hear this today. I will always remember him as the great man that he was. so sorry fr your loss

Scott Krieger - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ Mr Rafferty, had made an impact on our lives, Eric & I both had him as our teacher, he was strict "the bomb", and kind, he believed in the pledge of allegiance in school, and we faced that flag every morning. Eric came from a poor family, and Mr Rafferty would deliver left over milk to his family. My parents were deaf and instead of having conference at the school, he would come to our house, I remember Mr Rafferty telling my dad that he was going to teach all 7 of us kids, and he did!!! I love Mr Rafferty and will miss all of his beautiful Christmas cards. God Bless the Rafferty family

Eric & Sharon Natale - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EK

“ Mr. Rafferty was my fifth grade teacher as well. I have many fond memories of his class and he was by far one of my favroite teachers. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

Elizabeth Lazaris Kraemer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Dear Fr.Jim;not sure that you remember me.I'm Tom Chappelle,your Mich.Life Baseball Team Coach from many years ago.I and my family were saddened to read of your Dad's passing.He was a very nice man who was especially nice to our sons,Matt,John & Bobby.We have thought of you and your Dad many times over the years. Please know that your Dad,you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.By the way Bobby,the little batboy that your Dad always asked him about his"curveball" is now a teacher and football coach at North HS in Phoenix.He remembers your Dad fondly, as well as all our family. God be with you. Tom & Beth Chappelle

Tom Chappelle - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Timothy Lynch - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I was never lucky enough to have Mr. Rafferty as a teacher - but due to him having my older siblings, and also my mother being involved in the school, he knew me well. He didn't even have to be my teacher to have an affect on me. He was an amazing man and teacher - someone to emulate, respect, and admire. He was one of those rare and special individuals that you come upon through life and count yourself lucky and blessed to have known. My condolences to his whole family. I hope they know what an impact he made on so many of his students' lives. My prayers to you all to find peace and comfort in this. And a prayer that he enjoy his eternal reward as it was well earned!

Michelle Mazurco - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ My heart is broken today to learn of the passing of my favorite teacher. Mr. Rafferty was such an amazing teacher and man who touched my life beyond the classroom. He was emotional support when my grandmother died the year I was in his class, he came to her funeral and also kept in touch with me thru letters for years after I became an adult and parent myself. He loved to change our names in class and I always went by "ReasyTambeck" even in all our letters to each other. My memories of him are more then I have room to write and I truly loved this man! Heaven has gotten an amazing soul back who touched lives in ways we can only strive to do ourselves. To his family I wish to say thank you for sharing him with the rest of us and allowing us to also feel his love and light in our lives.

Tammy Reasbeck - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ We are saddened and wish to send our condolences to the family. Mr. Rafferty was such a kind and loving Man to his students at Schoenhals School where both my children regarded him as their favorite teacher ever, My son is a teacher himself now much due to Jim. My Husband and I used to love seeing grown men come up to him in the football stands and greet him with hugs and he seemed to remember all of them. Proud to have known him.

Carolyn Poniewierski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ Mr. Rafferty was my 5th grade teacher and I have a lot of fond memories of him. My sympathy goes out to his family for their loss and all are in my prayers. ~Tennille

Tennille Maclean VanBuskirk - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ WE send our prayers to all of you What a wonderful Man loving and caring person MY kids had him at Schoenhals Elementary what a great mentor he was to all children After we moved in 1983 we still talked As a surprise to my daughter he came to her wedding in 1992 She will always rember that day She just loved him OUR condolence to famely and friends He gave so much love to others in his life.

LeMay s - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Rest in peace pop-Thanks for all the great laughs and Pepsi's. You made us smile.

Shannon O'Brien - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Fr. Jim and Family, My deepest sympathy and prayers to each of you on the passing of your Father. I enjoyed the few meetings I had with your dad and remember him as kind and always happy and greeting everyone with that beautiful Irish smile. I know God rejoices at his returning home and I pray that you find comfort knowing he is with God Our Father and at peace. My Love and Prayers.

Julie Przedworski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Father Jim and the Rafferty family, Sending our heartfelt sympathy at the loss of your dear father. What a wonderful man he must have been! May the Grace of God comfort you in the days ahead, and always. Our prayers are with you. With love, Jim and Leslie Swayze

Jim and Leslie Swayze - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Part 2 of 2 As time moved on and I got a real job that moved me to other parts of the U.S., I always tried to make a point when back in Michigan to stop by and pay a visit to Mr. Rafferty. Of course, I never called in advance....then it wouldn't be a surprise! His wife Pat would always have a cold beverage for us as we swapped one story after another.....the good old days, our families and of course the Chicago Cubs. He was so proud of his two sons, his daughter and of course his “solid rock” and wife, Pat. I'm saddened to hear of his passing, but would want all who read this to know that he lives on in me. How I try to encourage others, offer support and spread the faith.....Mr. Rafferty wouldn't have it any other way!

Dave Robinson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Part 1 of 2 Mr. Rafferty has been an inspiration and mentor to me for the last 45 years. I enjoy telling my childhood story to whoever will listen on how he helped shape & impact my life. I was a cocky Madison High grad 75' going off to Alabama to play baseball, not knowing what to expect, only to find out that I wasn't in Madison Heights anymore! Mr. Rafferty wrote me letters of faith, encouragement and motivation that helped me make what seemed insurmountable, bearable. Moving on to a J.C. in Mississippi didn't seem to do me any better, but those Rafferty letters still kept coming. There were many times that I felt I didn't have the ability to play baseball, but more than anything I thought I might let him down if I gave up, so I tried harder. I can't tell you how much he helped me believe in myself. Somehow by the grace of God I ended up at Oakland U, played 3 years of impressive baseball and as Mr. Rafferty would say, “those Cubs would be crazy not to draft you!”

Dave Robinson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I remember Mr. Rafferty when I was a child attending Vandenberg Elementary. Even though I never had him as a teacher I wished I did he knew of me and was very kind to me as a child and all the kids loved him. I am now 50 years old and still remember him. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Rafferty family. Bravo Zulu

Sandra Riccardi - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

YZ

“ Dearest Father Jim, family of Mr. E.J. Rafferty Dennis and I want to express our heart felt loss of your beloved father. We know only time and lots of prayers will heal the immeasurable source of life. we pray, O God, who hast commanded us to honor our father and our mother; in Thy mercy have pity on the soul of Mr. E.J. Rafferty to forgive his trespasses; and behold all of the family and friends to see him again in the joy of everlasting brightness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL through this immeasurable divine loss of your beloved father here on earth. You are in our daily prayers. Love Yvonne and Dennis Ziemba Flat Rock, MI.

YVONNE & DENNIS ZIEMBA - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM