



Emerson "Jerry" Adams

July 16, 1941 - August 27, 2024

A graduate of Utica High School, Utica, Michigan, Emerson served in the United States Marine Corps from 1963 to 1966.

He married Virgia Chancellor on December 19, 1965.

Emerson started his career as a heavy mechanic for multiple dealerships then transitioned into Research & Development for General Motors. He proudly worked alongside Zora Duntov on the Corvette.

He enjoyed bowling and playing golf was a passion, playing several times a week. Emerson loved hot rods and was the owner of a '38 Nash. He also loved riding his Harley. He had a strong love for family and spending time with his grandchildren.

Beloved husband of Virgia. Loving father of Jerry (Raquel), Michael and Nicole (Bill) Smith. Cherished grandfather of Adrian, Jacob, Sebastian, Avery, Sarah, Christien, Jasmine, Elaina and Mason. Dear brother of Ray Adams, Charlie Adams, Alice Lester, Eva Roddick and the late Carlene.

Funeral service Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2784 E. Square Lake Rd., Troy at 4:00pm. Visitation at church begins at 3:00pm.

In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to the wishes of the family.

Please share a memory at [SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](https://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com)

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Troy
2784 East Square Lake Road
Troy, MI 48085

Funeral Service

SEP 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Troy
2784 East Square Lake Road
Troy, MI 48085

Tribute Wall

DR

“ I always enjoyed talking with Jerry at church. We never got out to play a round of golf together, but we did ride our motorcycles together. The Ward was having a campout at Lakeport State Park north of Port Huron. We met at dawn on Hall Road and rode up for breakfast. It was a great ride that I remember fondly.
Doug Ruffley

Doug Ruffley - September 04, 2024 at 06:14 PM

AL

“ When I was about 12 years old, my older brother Jerry (Emerson), offered to pay me a dime to deliver his newspaper route for him. He didn't want to get up because it was snowing. I gladly hopped on my horse and delivered the newspapers in record time. He never paid me!

When I turned 15, Jerry taught me how to drive his 1955 Mercury stick shift aggressively. Sometimes I got scared but I learned how to drive the way he drove (with a heavy foot).

As you all know Jerry was an avid automobile enthusiast, a supreme mechanical engineer, a motor head. He was quite excited when he found out I had a new mid-engine Corvette. Jerry told me that he had designed an engine for the man considered to be the "father of the Corvette", Zora Arcus Duntov. This was important because everyone knew that Duntov had wanted General Motors to produce a mid-engine Corvette, but that was never realized during his lifetime. In his kindness and generosity, Jerry shared with me and my husband very valuable photos and memorabilia from his time working with Duntov. Jerry is our connection to significant automotive history.

Now every time I drive the "Vette" in the windy Rocky Mountain roads I pay tribute to Jerry who was instrumental in my love of driving fast.

Alice Lester

Alice Lester - September 01, 2024 at 08:49 PM