



## Gary Mac Vanek

August 12, 1940 - September 5, 2017

Vanek, Gary Mac, age 77, of Royal Oak, passed away September 5, 2017.

Gary Vanek remained a lifelong resident of Royal Oak throughout his decorated 77 years. He was an accomplished community leader and businessman that enjoyed many of the great things in life; most importantly the love he shared for his family. He was a kind, giving spirit and helped so many others in the community and church. He was part of the 1958 Graduating Class at Kimball High School and most notably inducted into their hall of fame for his vast accolades; he was invited and gave the last commencement address to the last class to graduate from Kimball. Gary went on to earn a degree in 1962 from Central Michigan University in Industrial Arts. During his time at Central Michigan, he met Sandra and the two college sweethearts married in 1961. They welcomed two beautiful daughters into their lives Debra (1962) and Tamra (1965). Gary went on to teach at Royal Oak Keller Middle School and finished his teaching career as a Graphic Design teacher at Kimball High School. Gary decided to run for State Representative in 1978 and later did 3 terms as the State Representative of the 66th district. After his run as State Representative, Governor Blanchard appointed Gary as one of the State Liquor Commissioners. Gary was a faithful man who carried on six generations at First Baptist Church of Royal Oak. He loved to dedicate his free time to different foundations and organizations; some of those are Camp Lael, Boys and Girls Club, Royal Oak Schools,

Beaumont Foundation and Judson Center. Gary also loved traveling with family and spending time with the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Beloved husband of Sandra Vanek (Mittelstadt); loving father of Tami Tucker-Vanek and the late Debra Brown-Vanek; son of the late John and Margaret Vanek; dear brother of Joann (Clarence) Harder, Kay (Lenny) Klein and Susan (David) Pagenstecher; proud grandfather of Zack Vanek, Kati (Matt) Saul, Cortney (Breyn) Tucker, Brian Brown, Josh Brown and Mickayla Brown-Vanek; great grandfather of Kallie Vanek, Luka Mac Saul, Jovan Saul, Olive Vanek, Grant Nedry and Remingtyn Tucker.

Visitation Friday 2-8 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak, MI 48067. In state Saturday 2 p.m. until the time of service 3 p.m. at Genesis: The Church, 309 N Main Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067. Burial at Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak.

Memorials appreciated to Camp Lael, 2062 Ferns Road, Lapeer, MI 48446 (www.camplael.com) or Detroit Friendship House, 9540 Conant Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212 (www.detroitfriendshiphouse.org). Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street  
(south of 12 Mile Road)  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 8. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (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/>

## Funeral Service

SEP 9. 3:00 PM (ET)

Genesis The Church  
309 N. Main Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ A true and honest good man, enjoyed the times spent together; camping, swimming and taking up time together you could sense his love for man kind from his actions, very giving and comfortable to be surrounded in his aura, fair winds shipmate,

Jeff Klein - September 12, 2017 at 06:23 AM

JK

“ Jeff Klein lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek



Jeff Klein - September 12, 2017 at 05:56 AM



“ I just arrived home from LA and heard from my mom that Mr. Vanek died. I'm so sad. He was our dear neighbor and his daughters Tami and Debbie my childhood friends. Debbie's life was too short but Tami I still on one hand of lifelong friends. Gary and his wife Sandy were extraordinary people. Good hearted and Civic minded. I will never for get them taking me with to DisneyWorld in the RV. First and ever time there. They had all US neighbor kids at their pool. Gary was a fine elected state leader and busissman. They raised Debbie's kids, and had love and energy as they did for their two daughters. Mr. Vanek was a kind man who made this world a better place and will be missed by so many, especially his lovely wife and daughter Tami. He's in good hands with God and Debbie now. My prayers for the whole family.

Nancy Skinner - September 10, 2017 at 08:12 PM

Donna Pienta

“ Donna Pienta lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek



Donna Pienta - September 10, 2017 at 01:21 PM

WG

“ Wanda Giem lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek



Wanda Giem - September 10, 2017 at 12:21 PM

KK

“ Kay Klein lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek



kay klein - September 09, 2017 at 06:55 PM

TA

Love you aunt Kay

Tami - September 10, 2017 at 12:13 PM

MW

“ Dear Sandy and Family. Thanks to email and mutual friends, I heard about Gary. I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know Gary very well. You and I shared high school friendships. I've thought of all the times we had. The years had us go in different directions. Know that I am thinking of you and send you nothing but warm thoughts. Mary Van Eaton knows how to get in touch with me. Would like to catch up sometime.

Your friend, Martha (Marty) Wheeler.

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**Martha Wheeler** - September 09, 2017 at 06:16 PM

DR

“ Gary was a pillar of the community and a true family man. When I first worked in cable television, Gary approached me about doing a program series from the Continental Cablevision studio in Madison Heights. He was the first representative to contact me and take on the challenge of informing his constituents through this new medium. It was emblematic of his proactive personality, an openness to new challenges, sharing information, and doing outreach in his community. Very proud to have known and worked with him. He will be missed. Condolences to his family and friends.

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**Dick Rockwell** - September 08, 2017 at 03:15 PM

TA

Thank you Dick.

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**Tami** - September 10, 2017 at 12:16 PM

JS

“ Joe & Nawal Salem lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek



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**Joe & Nawal Salem** - September 08, 2017 at 01:58 PM

RR

“ Robert Ragland lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek

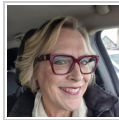


Robert Ragland - September 08, 2017 at 10:28 AM

RR

“ Rest In Peace Coach  
Prayers for you and your family. You touched the lives of all your players and students.

Rich Runchey - September 08, 2017 at 09:28 AM



Thank you Rich

Tami Tucker-Vanek - September 10, 2017 at 12:17 PM

CJ

“ So very sorry to hear the news. Gary was such a special friend. We shared many great times . He will be missed and share your tears.  
Chris and Charles Jones

chris jones - September 08, 2017 at 08:26 AM

DK

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Sandy and family. Memories of the years we all worked side by side at MEEMIC and MEIA. Donna Kelley

Donna Kelley - September 07, 2017 at 04:13 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Gary Mac Vanek.*



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September 07, 2017 at 11:41 AM



“ *Deepest condolences from my mother, Anna, and the Shimokochi family. My paternal grandparents met Gary's parents at the First Baptist Church of Royal Oak, so my father knew Gary & Sandie for many years. He had very high regards for Gary and the Vanek family. I recall talking to Gary when my father passed away a few years ago. He was very kind and genuinely friendly. We will keep Gary and his family in our prayers.*

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**Susan Shimokochi Latos** - September 06, 2017 at 07:49 PM



“ *Nancy Barnett lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek*



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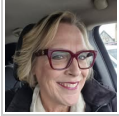
**Nancy Barnett** - September 06, 2017 at 05:23 PM



“ *Gary was a lovely man - so sorry to hear of his death! He was a political mentor and all around great guy. Royal Oak has lost another really great supporter and public servant.*

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**Marie Donigan** - September 06, 2017 at 02:32 PM



*Thank you Marie.*

**Tami Tucker-Vanek** - September 10, 2017 at 12:19 PM

AP

“ *I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Vanek but by knowing his daughter Tami I have a pretty good idea of the man he was. My deepest sympathy to the whole Vanek family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*



**Amy Perez** - September 06, 2017 at 10:37 AM

DP

*I never had the honor of knowing Mr. Vanek. I do know this daughter, Tami, who always spoke of her Dad with love and respect. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

**Donna and Ron Pienta** - September 06, 2017 at 03:26 PM

JS

*Mr. Vanek was my Graphic Arts teacher at Kimball High school back in 1972 when I was a Sophomore there. An inspiring teacher. RIP.*

**Jack Shiner** - September 08, 2017 at 01:33 AM

PB

“ *What a kind hearted wonderful man. He loved his family and his community. He was everywhere and at everything. Alex and I so enjoyed knowing him. He had a "presence" about him, didn't he. May you find some peace in the days to come and comfort from all who grieve with you.*

**Pam Bordy** - September 06, 2017 at 08:26 AM

Karen  
Lynn

“ *Karen Lynn lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek*



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**Karen Lynn** - September 06, 2017 at 04:10 AM

JS

“ *I met Gary when my son Matthew married his granddaughter Kati and have shared many lovely occasions with the Vaneks. Gary was a wonderful family man and gave so much love, time, support and encouragement to each and everyone of them. He will be sadly missed by anyone whose life he touched. Now all his pain and suffering has gone as he rests in peace with the Lord.*

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**Janet Saul** - September 06, 2017 at 02:31 AM



“ *Lisa Lillyroot lit a candle in memory of Gary Mac Vanek*



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**Lisa Lillyroot** - September 06, 2017 at 12:24 AM

DB

“ *A special friend. We were in a small group together at church, and he was always a great encourager. He will be missed, though there is rejoicing in heaven for one who lived a great life of witness for the things of Christ.*

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**Daniel L. Buttry** - September 05, 2017 at 11:45 PM

TA

*My dad loved his small group. I'm amazed at the bed and diversity in your group.*

**Tami** - September 06, 2017 at 12:49 AM

TA

*Faith*

**Tami** - September 06, 2017 at 12:50 AM

KN

“ *Many great memories with Gary and Sandy from the "old days."-- NEA conventions, camping trips and just being together! Gary was a great product of the Royal Oak Schools and a blessing to our community. Our thoughts are with his family.*

*Linda and Ken Noble*

**Ken Noble** - September 05, 2017 at 09:24 PM

CB

“ *Cathy Beaumont sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Mac Vanek*



**Cathy Beaumont** - September 05, 2017 at 05:29 PM

CB

“ *God has called home a faithful and loving servant. We will miss your ministry, your wisdom, and your smile.*

**Cathy Beaumont** - September 05, 2017 at 05:29 PM



*There is a big whole in our family. I will carry you in my heart the rest of my life. Your sister Kay*

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**kay klein** - September 09, 2017 at 08:35 AM