



## James Tye

July 31, 1949 - September 4, 2024

James Joseph Tye, 75, of Royal Oak, passed away on September 4, 2024, after a short battle with cancer. He was born on July 31, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Joseph and La Verne Tye.

He retired from a 29-year career at U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command to work as a full-time genealogist in his retirement. Jim was known as the family historian, researching his family tree around the country and throughout Europe. He amassed thousands of pages on the family he held dear. He cataloged numerous cemetery records and helped people from all over the world research their family trees. He was a founding member and president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. He published and copyrighted the book, *The Detroit Poles* which is a bibliography of newspaper articles and select books, pamphlets, and commemorative publications. Everyone who knew Jim admired his endless energy and respect for others, never letting his health problems get him down. Always smiling, he endeared himself to many relatives and friends around the world. On his first trip to Poland in 1971, Jim met Cardinal Karol Jozef Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II. Jim met him again when he visited the Detroit area. He often prayed to Pope John Paul II because they shared similar health issues. One of Jim's last wishes was to see the wild Bisons at Yellowstone National Park, and see Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and the Badlands National Park. He was able to take this trip in September of 2019, and he absolutely loved it.

Doting father of Barbara, Melissa, and Joseph (Koko), grandfather of Maliyah and Robert. Brother of Joyce and Robert (Liz). Longtime companion of Leslie Gilbertson. Godfather of Joseph Serowik. Also leaves many cousins.

Friends and family will gather on Saturday, September 28, from 3:00 pm until time of a Celebration of Life at 6:00 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (4 blks. E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, 48067. Burial will take place at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township, Michigan.

For those wishing to honor Jim's memory, please consider donating to the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan in his name.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

SEP **28**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 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/>

## Celebration of Life

SEP **28**. 6:00 PM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall



“ A friend from sophomore year at Fitzgerald high school. I remember then that he had an interest in genealogy.. I've been reminiscing and thought of him. Rest in peace, old friend. 🙏

john cole - August 24, 2025 at 03:58 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Tye.



September 25, 2024 at 08:29 PM



“ Missing you already, big brother. I know you're in a good place with family and friends, no more pain.

Joyce Tye - September 13, 2024 at 12:08 PM



Jim and I met at Wayne State. We found common interest in Polonia and Polish-American history. I'll remember the fun times we had together, back in the day!

Nicholas Lubinski - September 13, 2024 at 09:15 PM



Jim was a great guy. I worked with him over 20 years.

glenn gula - September 17, 2024 at 12:24 PM