



## John J. Ketchum

May 4, 1939 - February 9, 2017

John J. Ketchum

Age 77, February 9, 2017

Beloved Husband of Mary Ketchum

Loving Father of Cathy (Kenneth) Kondrat, Nancy (Trent) Diebel, and Karen (Terry) Prykucki.

Proud Grandfather of Krista (Daniel) Conley, Kevin Kondrat, Scott Mow, Jeffrey (Rebecca) Mow, Megan Prykucki, and Emily Prykucki.

Dear Great-Grandfather of Haylee, Maverick, Emmalynn, Harper, and Ellie  
Brother of Lillie Mae Davis, Hazel Wallace, Benjamin (Dawn) Ketchum, James (Patricia) Ketchum, and the late Eugene Vires, Mason Vires, William Ketchum, Irene Hatchcock.

Visitation at the Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke)

Utica Saturday, February 11, 2-9pm and Sunday, February 12, 10am until time of funeral services 11am

Family request donations to American Cancer Society ~ <https://donate3.cancer.org>

Please share a memory at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Visitation

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Services

FEB 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall

 Nancy Diebel

“ Whether you came to the funeral home, sent flowers, made a donation, shared a memory or prayed for dad, we would like to express our heart felt thanks to you for celebrating his life with us. He will forever live in our hearts.

Thank you,

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**Nancy Diebel** - February 21, 2017 at 07:07 PM

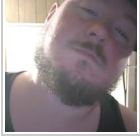
 SH

“ I'm so sorry Mary. How many times in the last year have I said- "I really want to go see John and Mary." How much do I regret not doing that. For 7 years, Mary and John were the best neighbors. And friends. Every Sunday morning, Mary was at work. I would go outside to mow the yard. John felt so bad - always would say- "aw honey I wish I could help you". He would always bring out a cold wash cloth and cold, green tea. I took a lot of breaks to sit and talk with him. I really miss those Sunday mornings. I loved listening to his stories. I hope he realized how much he really was helping me. Such sweet, caring friends. God Bless You.

Love,  
Sheila

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**Sheila** - February 14, 2017 at 05:58 PM



“ My Uncle John is gone to heaven and my heart feels a terrible loss. Ever since I was little I felt how much he loved me and always thought he would be around forever; The memories of my Uncle John and Aunt Mary are happy ones and I cherish them in my heart. I remember ever since I was a child how happy I would get when I would go to visit them. There was always laughter and Uncle John would have a smile on his face and a joke or funny story to share with me to make me laugh and how I loved spending time with them. When I got older they got a new red truck and I told him how much I liked it and he asked me if I wanted to take it for a drive. I thought he was joking but Uncle John handed me the keys and smiled. He could tell that I was nervous and he told me Jonathan it is just a truck. I drove that truck like it was more precious than gold and to me it was because he trusted me with driving it. I have always loved my Aunt Mary and Uncle John and always will because love doesn't disappear when someone you love is gone it's there in your heart forever. Aunt Mary I know my dad was there to meet him when God took Uncle John home.

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**Jonathan Blackwell** - February 12, 2017 at 12:17 PM

FB

“ John was a special man that brought joy to Mary and gave her the love she so richly deserved. There are so many good things to say about my brother-in-law John he was a kind and caring man and I never heard him utter a hurtful word against anyone. His love for Mary brought happiness to George and I as we welcomed him as brother. John this kind, caring, loving and gentle spirited man has been lifted out of this world to join the other angels of God; It is a heavy loss to us left behind who cared and loved John and as the tears flow keep in mind all the good he has done and the lives he has made better by having him in it. God bless his wife Mary and his children, grand-children, nieces, nephews, as well as all the rest of the family and friends. With all my love Florence Blackwell

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**Florence Blackwell** - February 11, 2017 at 08:21 PM



“ He was more than an uncle to me, he was my dear friend. We spent a lot of time together and I cherish the many memories of him playing his beautiful banjo and singing with that awesome voice of his. He had a open invitation to my house always and I loved every time he walked through the door. Rest in Heaven uncle John and prayers to the family for comfort! All my love Jodi Vires, daughter of Mason Vires.

Rachele Colosimo - February 11, 2017 at 06:09 PM



“ I'll always remember our morning coffee talks and your jokes that always made me smile you left this world too soon but heaven welcomed an amazing person.....its not goodbye but rather see you later...my honey bunny 🌹

Linda Thomas - February 11, 2017 at 11:31 AM



“ Linda Thomas lit a candle in memory of John J. Ketchum



Linda Thomas - February 11, 2017 at 11:03 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John J. Ketchum.



February 11, 2017 at 09:29 AM



“ *To the best husband in the world, you always had my back. im selfish because i want you back, you were the best thing that ever happen to me i know you have been sick for awhile i tried to do everything i could to make you comfortable. but i miss you so much. you said some awfully nice things to me. you loved me so much and i love you and do me a favor junebug tell mom hi and happy birthday and i cant wait to meet john and sarah/bell. please have my back becuase i sure have yours. i love you so much. see you soon.*

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**Mary Ketchum** - February 10, 2017 at 11:52 PM

KD

“ *I'm very sorry for your family's loss. John was a good man.*

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**Kathy Darling** - February 10, 2017 at 06:51 PM

JK

“ *John and Fay Ketchum purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John J. Ketchum.*



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**John and Fay Ketchum** - February 10, 2017 at 05:17 PM

“ IN MEMORY

*I have known John, or Junior as he was better known then, since I was nine years old. I have just turned 66 years old.*

*I have many memories of working hand in hand with him on cars, houses and related items. He had very good natural, mechanical ability that allowed him to root cause a problem and devise a manner by which to repair it. When a new repair problem came along that challenged him, you would find him quietly “studying it” and perhaps, giving it the “big eye”. This was his way of determining the true root cause and formulating a plan to resolve it. His methods proved very effective through the years.*

*John was always generous with his time and his help to me as a young man when I took on the mantle of husband and father. His encouragement, in addition to my father’s, helped me through many a challenge as my family responsibilities grew.*

*At the age of eighteen, with John’s help, I hired into the old GM Fisher Body Assembly Plant in Pontiac. I witnessed first-hand the hard work ethic that John possessed. He not only worked extremely hard but he also garnered the respect of management and his peer group by being able to do any job on that entire production line. This fact was verified by the plant management frequently asking him to work a second eight hour shift after completing his first. This was John’s way of providing more income for his family and firmly reflects the personal determination and true grit present as part of his personality. The common term for this was “pulling a double” and represented working a total of 16 hours. This was at a time in industrial automotive history when no one in plant management could spell ergonomics much less have any use for its intent. Many of these line jobs were not only physically demanding but some were also inherently dangerous. His words to me at the time, “Sometime when a job gets tough, you just have to get tough with it” still ring in my ears when facing a difficult job assignment.*

*As a young boy, John was my guitar mentor to whom I owe a debt of gratitude. He exposed me to a form of true roots music and a southern style of guitar playing I could never have known the depth of, otherwise. He enjoyed playing guitar and giving voice to the popular songs of the day along with country standards and even some sacred songs. The Lyle Rowan family spent many a Saturday night in our old Mt. Clemens home on Elizabeth Street enjoying the music provided through his talent.*

*To this very day I find I that I am passing on some of what I learned from him musically to my sons and daughter through weekly guitar lessons (Precious Memories, To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way). Some music has a way of becoming ever more precious, the more time passes.*

*Here's to remembering all the parties, the shared holidays and the good times spent together as a family in times that are now, long since past.*

*Farewell John,*

*May God Almighty hold your soul within the palm of his omnipotent hand.*

*Donald Lyle Rowan  
February 10, 2017*

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**Donald L. Rowan** - February 10, 2017 at 04:43 PM

TL

“ *The Roegners - John, Barbara, Lisa purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John J. Ketchum.*



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**The Roegners - John, Barbara, Lisa** - February 10, 2017 at 11:15 AM

 Nancy Diebel

“ *Nancy Diebel lit a candle in memory of John J. Ketchum*



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**Nancy Diebel** - February 09, 2017 at 11:50 PM

 Nancy Diebel

“ *Dad, I will always be grateful for all you did for me. You will live forever live in my heart. Love you always, Nancy.*

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**Nancy Diebel** - February 09, 2017 at 11:50 PM

JM

“ *The Ketchum family was a great part in my life growing up..Grandma Ketchum took care of me for many years !! John was there to visit with (Sara) Grandma while she was our sitter while my mom was working !! Always some how knew a little spark of fun would be there when he showed up! Love Janice Moss (Edna Vires daughter)(Mason Vires step daughter)*

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**Janice Moss** - February 09, 2017 at 11:16 PM



“ *May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences.*  
*Carol Swope,*  
*Ednas Vires daughter*  
*Mason Vires stepdaughter*

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**Carol Swope** - February 09, 2017 at 08:23 PM



“ *We are very sorry for your loss. We are lifting you all up in prayer and praying for God's comfort in this difficult time. All our love*  
*Harold & Mona Davis xxooxxoo*

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**Harold Davis** - February 09, 2017 at 08:03 PM



“ *Dad, I can't believe you are gone. You have taught me everything from how to race--I mean drive a car to how to make green beans and taters. We have had some crazy times--I will miss you so much.*  
*Love you. KK*

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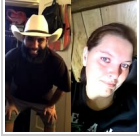
**Karen Prykucki** - February 09, 2017 at 07:00 PM



“ *I have a special place in my heart for Uncle John and he will be missed by many! Rest in Heaven Uncle John! Love your great niece*  
*Rachele Durkee (Jodi's daughter)*

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**Rachele Colosimo** - February 09, 2017 at 06:17 PM



“ *I send my condolences and i'm very sorry*

*sincerly with love  
krista dawn hilla-wigley  
ednas grand daughter  
masons step grand daughter*

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**Krista Robert** - February 09, 2017 at 06:13 PM

AD

“ *I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Uncle John. He will be missed by many! May you find comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain. His journey is complete now he waits for us looking down and watching over all of us.  
Love you Allison Davis ( Lillies daughter).*

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**Allison Davis** - February 09, 2017 at 03:21 PM

MD

“ *So sorry to hear this. Uncle John was a verry special man,good brother ,father,husband,and a great person. I'll miss you Uncle John.your nephew Mike Davis.*

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**Mike Davis** - February 09, 2017 at 03:14 PM