



## John C. Stewart

September 5, 1950 - May 12, 2023

John Campbell Stewart, age 72, longtime resident of Royal Oak, passed away on May 12, 2023.

Beloved husband of Sally Lyons, loving father of Robert Stewart, and dear brother of Judy (Robert) Martin and Valerie (the late Cliff) Gabler. Uncle to numerous nieces and nephews. Also survived by his beloved Pit, Lola.

John was born in Detroit and grew up in Pleasant Ridge. He graduated from Ferndale High School in 1968 and then served in the U.S. Army as an E-6 specialist radio repairman in Germany. Upon returning to Michigan, he began a 30-year career as a journeyman roofer and proud member of the United Union of Roofers and Waterproofers Local No. 149.

John had a passion for golf, playing avidly and frequently. But despite his love for the sport, his equipment admittedly exceeded his game most of the time. John also enjoyed fishing and had a passion for all Detroit sports, and he could often be seen enjoying an afternoon at one of the local horse racing tracks. Beyond Michigan, John also enjoyed traveling when he had the opportunity; over years past, he was fortunate enough to visit Geneva, Paris, London, and Amsterdam. And closer to home, he always cherished Saturday afternoons with his son, Rob, and always making his friends and family laugh out loud.

Visitation for John will take place on Wednesday, May 17, from 2 - 8 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd., (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. The funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Interment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI.

John will be dearly missed by his family and all those who knew him. Share a memory or express condolences at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road  
Holly Township, MI 48442

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 17.** 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/>

## Visitation

**MAY 18.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (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

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MAY 18. 11:00 AM (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/>

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ Hey Pops,

*I've been waking up early every morning, and it takes me a while to get going with my day now. I listen to your voice mails to give me a little needed motivation, but sometimes they just put me right back in bed. I have too many memories I could share and I've been thinking about you every minute of every day. Things just really haven't been the same without you here. I lost my father and my best friend. Playing golf with you, fishing, teaching me how to play sports growing up, teaching me about the track, being there for me when I was sad, guiding me through times I was angry, being able to relate to me and never judging my mistakes, and making me feel like I was the only thing that ever mattered to you are just a few of the millions of ways you made my life better. I was always so confident as both a young and a grown man because I had you as my father. Having Goo as your dad makes you feel like anything is possible. I'm so proud of how hard you worked and the friendships you made on that roof. They're some of the finest men I know and you instilled a respect in me for them that will never be broken. You were so blessed to be loved, respected, and cared for by so many people. Mom, Lola, and I really haven't been doing to great, dad. We honestly miss you more than I can describe. You made our lives so much happier just by simply being yourself. We know how loved we were and I'm just happy the last words we spoke to each other were, "I love you." I'll be okay, dad. Just woke up today and I really, really wanted to talk to you about the Belmont this weekend. Expect to hear from me more during big days like this.*

*Thank you for everything,*

*Robert*

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**Robert Stewart** - June 07, 2023 at 07:00 AM

SL

*Beautiful thoughts & memories about your father. He always made people laugh. He had such a great spirit. No one can ever take away your memories you shared together. Keep your spirit of your father going & keep on trucking. You have this Robert. I went to school with your father. We share many of the same friends.💔💔💔*

**sally lehto** - June 07, 2023 at 04:53 PM

SL

*Thank you for sharing those beautiful words, Rob. I know your heart is broken now and I'm not going to tell you that things will get better---- but, you know they will.*

*I will tell you that you are the best thing that's ever happened to your father and me and there's not a day that went by that he didn't let you know exactly that and that's something else I don't need to tell you --- because you knew that ,too.*

*I know you'll be speaking to your Pops a lot because he's right here with us, always. He's the guy you always went to and that's not going to change. He is in you and he will always be with you. You have a wonderful, wonderful foundation so many great stories and everlasting memories of the guy everybody loved and the guy who loved everybody he knew.*

*How lucky we are, Rob!*

*Mommy*

**Sally Lyons** - June 09, 2023 at 09:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John C. Stewart.

May 20, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.*



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May 20, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ *Judy Spalla and Scott Spalla purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John C. Stewart.*



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**Judy Spalla and Scott Spalla** - May 20, 2023 at 08:50 AM



“ *7 files added to the tribute wall*

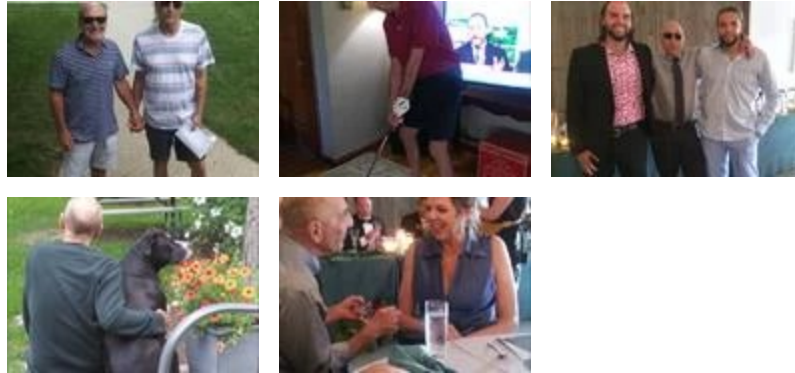


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**Sally Lyons** - May 19, 2023 at 08:56 PM

SL

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Sally Lyons - May 19, 2023 at 10:45 AM

BA

“ Rooster -

*All the years knowing you, I never questioned how you acquired that name...but I love it and I know all your nieces and nephews love it.*

*Reading the posts on your tribute wall is such a testament to the beautiful human you are. Always making everyone feel special and as if they were the only person in your presence, even with loudness of family activity around you.*

*You know, reading tribute walls are routinely written with canned quotes, or a snippet from a Google search. Your tribute wall however is filled with depth and love and fond memories and might I add, some pictures of what I imagine to be some crazy times.*

*I wish for you that the afterlife brings you love, peace and continued humor.*

*I certainly hope God has an amazing sense of humor.*

*RIP Rooster*

Beth Anderson - May 18, 2023 at 10:56 AM

MM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Marc Maddox - May 18, 2023 at 09:53 AM

KW

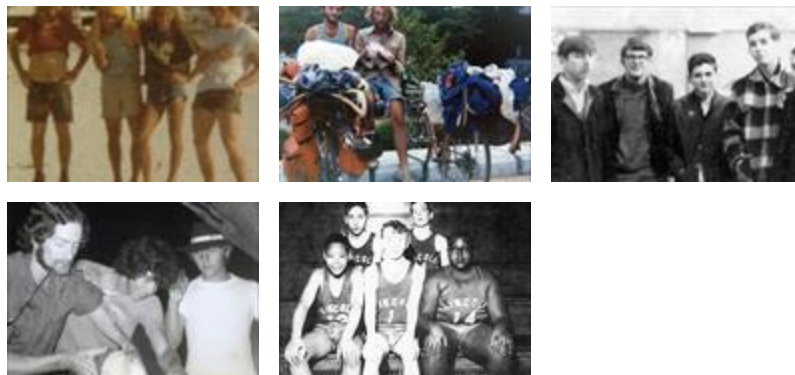
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kyle Watson - May 18, 2023 at 12:39 AM

CG

“ 5 files added to the album stew



Charles Goode - May 17, 2023 at 08:52 PM

BF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Bryce Ford - May 17, 2023 at 01:55 PM

BF

w/Ty Ford (L-1982, R-1984)

Bryce Ford - May 17, 2023 at 01:59 PM

DF

“ Diane & Frank purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of John C. Stewart.

Diane & Frank - May 17, 2023 at 12:26 AM

BF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Bryce Ford - May 16, 2023 at 08:28 PM

BF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Bryce Ford - May 16, 2023 at 08:18 PM

BF

*Uncle Goo (1979) w/ Mike Billis (1999)*

Bryce Ford - May 16, 2023 at 08:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.



May 16, 2023 at 07:10 PM

MM

“ John C Stewart

*One of a kind? Check. The mold was broken? Check. Who else do you know with nicknames of Rooster and Goo (occasionally Gooert)? Yes, he was one of a kind.*

*As has been attested, John's sense of humor was unparalleled. Just seeing him would put a smile on your face ("Here's Johnny!"). One might make an innocuous comment and quick-witted John would sometimes find humor in it at your expense. Oh, he could be sarcastic, but he enjoyed nothing more than you responding in kind with your best retort. Your effort would be futile; John would prevail in the end. Game, set, match! What about the times John would say something completely off the wall and you'd wonder if you heard what you thought you heard, before breaking out in uncontrollable laughter? You'd smile and say to yourself, "That's John." More than once when reflecting on such incidents, he'd grin and simply say, "I just can't help myself."*

*John had a warm heart and was friends with all. Calling him a "people person" does not begin to capture the impact he had on others. He loved his family and friends. Many of us referred to Johnny as our best friend, and that's what he was. It's not hyperbole to say Goo held legendary status among those who knew him. Adopting a stoic attitude, John did not complain about his failing health the past several years, but he clearly missed the opportunities to be with others. He longed to be able to play golf with the boys, but it just wasn't to be. John was a natty dresser on the course, highlighted by his ever-present Kangol hat. Although he may have at least partially accepted his physical limitations, he never stopped buying golf clubs, or commenting on a golf article he had recently read. Nor was he reticent in telling me I was wasting my time trying to get better at golf ("Yeah, a lot of 72 year olds gain distance. Sure they do.").*

*I'm not sure exactly when in high school Johnny and I became friends. It seems like it's always been that way. Even though John*

*and I were living in different states, each time we connected in person, or over the phone, it was like we'd never been apart. When John visited Florida in December 2022, it had been about 18 months since we'd been together. We were both so happy he was here and to relive some of the Sarasota escapades that were recalled so fondly. I cannot remember laughing as much as I did during his visit.*

*There is an abundance of memories to cherish. Oh, there are stories and stories to tell, but perhaps the best of times was simply connecting in person or over the phone. After the updates and pleasantries were completed, phone calls would invariably go off the rails and evolve into hysterical laughter. Those phone calls would always brighten an otherwise ho-hum day. There are so many things about John I'm going to miss. In addition to his unique sense of humor and unwavering friendship, there are the dance moves right out of Soul Train, breaking out in song with a 60s R&B tune, standing up for others, and his willingness to help those who needed it, just to name a few. John was a great friend and I'm so very fortunate to have known him.*

*Especially during recent years as his health became more fragile, John and I invariably ended conversations with "I love you." Although our conversations will no longer be, my sentiment remains exactly the same:  
Johnny, I love you. May you rest in peace my brother.*

*Marc*

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**Marc Maddox** - May 16, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.*



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May 16, 2023 at 10:46 AM



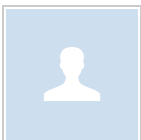
“ *John and I grew up on the east side of Pleasant Ridge. We played all sports at Gainsborough and Victory Parks. He and his friends/neighbors, Donnie Cook, Mark Rose and Fred Plotts, were kind enough to let the little brother of their peer / my older brother Neil play basketball, football and baseball with them. It was GREAT. We really had an idyllic place to grow up. My wife Sally graduated in the same class as Gooert from Ferndale High School. Later in life I played golf with John on outings around Michigan and might have had a beer or 2 with him at Hosmer's, now Tony's. He was a really good guy.*

*Sincere condolences to the Stewart Family. May Johnny now Rest in Peace in Paradise.*

*Evan & Sally Lehto*

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**Evan Lehto** - May 16, 2023 at 09:18 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.*



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May 16, 2023 at 08:42 AM

AL

“ Alex & Reagan Lablaiks purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John C. Stewart.



Alex & Reagan Lablaiks - May 15, 2023 at 10:54 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.



May 15, 2023 at 08:05 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.



May 15, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of John C. Stewart.



May 15, 2023 at 12:21 PM

EL

“ I spent time on the phone with my cousins this week recalling fond memories of Uncle Rooster. I will never forget how he made me feel as a child; so loved, taking the time to chat about what was going on in life and keeping things light. It was a big deal in our family, because for a long stretch we were saying goodbye to many of his brother and sister in laws, so he brought the humor and the smiles that we all needed. Watching his relationship with my Aunt Sally and Robert was wonderful to know that they were all so loved by one another. His friendship with Robert was so lovely and I know he will be there making us smile with all of his memories being shared this week. Love you -

Erin

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Erin Lyons - May 15, 2023 at 12:15 PM

JW

“ I grew up knowing Johnny as ‘Goo’. I always asked my Dad how he got this nickname but never got the full story. Goo was my Dad’s best friend. He was more than that actually, he was his brother. They knew each other since they were little kids. They played baseball together, dated the same girls, moved to Florida together, worked together, they celebrated each others happy times and helped each other through the hard times. He was my Dad’s counterpart in a way; they were fortunate to spend almost 65 years together as brothers.

Goo was my godfather. I can remember him as early as I can remember anything. You could feel how genuinely happy he was to see you, and it felt so special, it would make your day. Even when I was a kid he always treated me like an equal. Very few other adults did that. Even when we’d be at a bbq or somewhere with a bunch of other adults, he would make time to hang with me no matter what. And anytime there was a basketball hoop we’d play 1 v 1. He had this one move where he’d drive straight towards the hoop for a lay up and at the last second he’d turn his head to stare at you and give you a funny face to make you laugh , then shoot the layup blind. It always worked , and I could never get that move right until I got older. I’ll teach my kids the patented Goo lay up and they’ll crack up the same way I did when I was little, and I’ll tell them who taught me that move and how special he was. As I got older he helped get me into golf. We took countless trips out to Carl’s golf land to test new clubs out.

Denny has been giving Kyle and I a Goo update at least twice a week, for the past 20 years. They talked all the time, and we loved hearing about him. Ever since we were little kids, stories about Goo were our favorite. He became like a legend to us. We’d hear stories about the group of them driving to Florida in a van with a monkey. We’d hear about how Goo rode his bike across the country and one night he camped in the woods and thought he found a red pillow but it was actually a mound of fire ants. We’d hear about how they would be body surfing 20’ waves in the middle of a hurricane. We’d

*hear about how Goo would stand up to people three times his size. We'd hear about how they would put on dresses and drive around in a convertible and wave to the Florida tourists.*

*I'm going to miss Goo a lot. He impacted so many people. I don't know how, but he was somehow able to be everyone's best friend. I will keep his memory alive by trying to give back this energy that he gave out to others. I can only hope and strive that I will be able to impact others the way he has. I love you Johnny. I love you Sally. I love you Robert.*

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**jared watson** - May 15, 2023 at 12:06 PM

SL

*I love you Jared. Your sweet, kind words touched my heart and made me smile and that's been hard for me lately, so thank you. Johnny was a one in a million guy who could make you feel like you were the most important person in the room and was always interested in what was going on in your life and wanted to hear what you had to say--and then he would say something so random, so out of the blue, off the wall, or something he made up in that moment and he would do that, just to make you laugh out loud again, and again, and again. How wonderful to be remembered as the person who would always made you feel good, everyone's best friend.*

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**Sally Lyons** - June 09, 2023 at 08:29 PM

ML

“ I remember being at my father's funeral and Rooster 🐔 was sitting with me and Uncle Gary. They were just shooting at the mouth about my dad and laughing and crying. The humor and wit that would flow through Rooster was undeniably being channeled from the core of his soul. Extremely loving and always taking the time to be with you, fully engaged wondering whats going on with each and every one of us. We love you so much Uncle Rooster. Thank you for being you, always shining some beautiful light through your smile. Thank you for showing all of us what it means to stay true to yourself. Love you so much!

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**Mitchel Lyons** - May 15, 2023 at 11:26 AM

GY

“ Uncle Rooster's infectious humor and unending love will be missed dearly. Those who knew him have a little piece of him in their heart forever because of the way he treated everyone - like a dear, old friend. May we spread his joy onward in his honor and absence. With love, Genna

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**Genna Young** - May 15, 2023 at 11:04 AM

CJ

“ Can’t imagine that my life would be the same without the full out experience that is my Uncle Rooster. I can honestly say I have never met anyone like him and will miss his quick witted commentary in any and every situation. He’s always been there to offer lightheartedness, I can’t think of an important time throughout my lifetime that even in the hardest times he would say “hang in there Claude” and his love gave me comfort. I know his spirit will stay strong for ages.

*Until we meet again Uncle Rooster.  
Love and hugs.*

*Claudia*

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**Claudia Johnson** - May 14, 2023 at 09:01 PM

MY

“ I will remember Uncle Rooster for his contagious laughter and heart of gold.

*He was the first roommate I’ve ever had, living with my family for awhile when I was in elementary school. I was so lucky to have him around, because he truly felt like a best buddy. I always said he made the best buttered toast and I knew he was never far away when I heard Seinfeld on TV.*

*He brought a smile to everyone around him, and will continue to do so whenever his name comes up. I’m thankful for the many years of laughter, and for how loved he made everyone feel.*

*Love you forever, Uncle Rooster.*

*-Molly*

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**Molly Young** - May 14, 2023 at 08:39 PM

TR

“ Uncle Rooster lived with my family for a while when I was growing up. He was there to support my mom and dad in driving us to after school activities or just being someone to talk to and laugh with. It’s hard to measure the impact that someone can have on your life at a young age, but I know that having Uncle Rooster (Smeustes) around was an immense blessing to our family. I’ll always remember his gigantic heart, kind soul, and one hell of an “electric finger.” His warm smile and quick wit were truly one of a kind. He had an uncanny knack for bringing levity to tough situations. He was a beauty of a human being all around. He will be greatly missed and remembered forever.

*Love you Uncle Roo.*

*-Trent*

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**Trent** - May 14, 2023 at 03:15 PM