



Raymond Joseph Gratton

December 3, 1933 - November 22, 2021

Raymond Joseph Gratton, a resident of Royal Oak, passed away on November 22, 2021 at the age of 87. A son of Paul and Rose (nee Guindon), he was born on December 3, 1933 in Highland Park. Ray was a proud Army veteran who went on to work at the Detroit Free Press for 40 years as a driver in the Transportation Dept.

He is predeceased by his loving fiancé, Janet Alexander; his brother and sister-in-law Paul and Phyllis and nephew Robert Gratton. He is survived by his niece Debbie Gratton; and nephews Donald (Elaine) Gratton and Thomas Gratton; and Robert's wife, Peggy Gratton. He is also survived by his grandson, Justin Alexander; and great granddaughter, Mary Ella and stepdaughters, Donna Tench, Vickie Allen, and Lisa Marek (Ron); and several great nieces and nephews.

A visitation for Ray will take place on Sunday, November 28, from 2:00 to 8:00 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, 48067. Ray will lie in state on Monday, November 29, from 9:30 am until time of Funeral Mass at 10:00 am at St. Mary Catholic Church, 730 South Lafayette Avenue, Royal Oak, 48067. Ray will be laid to rest on Tuesday, November 30 at 12:30 pm at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice of Michigan.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 28. 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 Mass

NOV 29. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
730 S. Lafayette Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Committal Service

NOV **30**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Gerlinde Wheaton lit a candle in memory of Raymond Joseph Gratton



gerlinde wheaton - November 28, 2021 at 05:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Gratton.



November 27, 2021 at 03:48 PM

IO

“ In peace and love ❤️. When I the first time I met Raymond back years ago. When I buy his house in Detroit. Raymond he was the great person I never met in my life .I will never get like him. Sorry for this lost for everyone he knew Raymond from isho. You still in side the heart

isho odish - November 26, 2021 at 06:55 PM

MM

“ I had the privilege of working with Ray for 32 years. The Free Press was very fortunate to have such a loyal and devoted employee. In all the years I worked with Ray, I can't recall him ever missing a day of work. He came to work and greeted everyone with a smile. He was always kind and considerate and willing to help others when to need arose. Ray was a wonderful man and a good friend.

Mike Murphy

Michael Murphy - November 26, 2021 at 03:20 PM

DK

“ Dennis and Patti Kaczynski purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Raymond Joseph Gratton.



Dennis and Patti Kaczynski - November 26, 2021 at 01:14 PM

DW

“ Ray loved the UP and visited often. Ater returning and meeting him at our bowling league he would tell me the lastest stories, bring me the local newspaper and cinnamon toast We would share our memories of the UP. Ray always met you with smile and always had a kind word to say about those that knew him. His joy of life, his humor and smile will be missed by me and everyone who knew Ray.

Daniel Wirsu - November 25, 2021 at 01:56 PM

BL

As others have said above, Ray Gratton was indeed one of the friendliest people with the warmest smile anyone could hope to meet. I am a member of the Royal Oak YMCA and usually I work out without socializing. But when Ray, somehow, found out that I worked at the Free Press, he sought me out. From then on, he was a fount of amazing, often hilarious stories about his many years driving trucks for the paper. He started to make a point of reading my articles and we'd crack a joke or two about my latest. He also talked about his many long trips, some to his beloved Upper Peninsula property, others to a company in Florida that prepped television news vans, which he would drive down there for outfitting. In all of the entertaining stories he told me, his kindness and concern for others came through, as well as his strong work ethic and sheer love of life. I will never forget Raymond J. Gratton.....

--Bill Laitner

Bill Laitner - December 01, 2021 at 06:28 PM