



Raymond Parnell

September 2, 1937 - January 8, 2023

Parnell, Raymond E. Passed away January 8th, 2023.

Raymond was born on September 2, 1937 in Weare Township, Michigan to the late William and Esther Parnell. Ray was the beloved husband of Jean Marie White for 62 years and the loving father of Mary Jo, Gregory and Kimberly (Pete) Collins. He was a proud grandfather of Kerrigan and Kassidy. Dear brother of Arlene (Ralph) Cole and the late Emma Jane Mataya, Mary "Tootsie" Rink and Doris Parnell. Cherished brother in law of James (Mary) White, Patrick White, and the late William White and Jeffrey (Donna, still living) White. Son in law of the late Raymond and Esther White. Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews and beloved cousin to many.

Raymond grew up in Pentwater, Michigan. He always considered Pentwater his hometown and enjoyed growing up on Lake Michigan. He remained in touch with many childhood friends from the Pentwater area. The day after graduating from Pentwater High School in 1955, Ray entered the United States Navy where he proudly served his country. Upon leaving the Navy in 1959 he briefly worked on oil rigs in Michigan but opted to pursue a career in the emerging computer industry at the time. He relocated to Ilion, New York in 1960 for computer school and went to work for Univac. He started his career working on computer hardware and relocated to the Detroit, Michigan area in 1961. He worked through many mergers and acquisitions that eventually

resulted in the formation of Unisys, where he eventually retired as a Customer Service manager in 2001.

Ray met his wife, Jean, in Herkimer, New York and was married in 1960. They relocated to Michigan together and eventually settled in the home they built in Berkley, Michigan in 1967 where he was still living at the time of his death. Throughout his life, Raymond was an avid sports fan. He loved the Detroit sports teams, coached baseball and was active in the Berkley Dad's Club in the 1970s. He never missed an athletic competition or school activity for any of his children. Later in life his favorite hobby was spending time with his granddaughters, especially watching them play soccer and swim. After retirement Ray and Jean spent time in Florida every winter but waited anxiously to return to New York for their spring and summers. They cherished their time at their home on Pine Lake in the southern Adirondack Mountains in Caroga, New York. Ray was an avid jam maker and was known to deliver delicious jams to neighbors all around Pine Lake. He was a wonderful man who will be missed by many.

Memorial Visitation Saturday, January 14, from 1:00 pm until the time of the Memorial Service at 3:30 pm at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Road (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. The service will be live-streamed and the link will be available a few minutes prior to 3:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the American Heart Association or the American Lung Association. Please share a memory at SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 14. 1:00 PM - 3:30 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/>

Memorial Service

JAN 14. 3:30 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
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Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Raymond Parnell*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - January 14, 2023 at 01:30 PM

BH

“ *Continued prayers for Mary Jo and family during this sad time. I met Ray during my teaching days with Mary Jo at Holy Redeemer High School many years ago. I fondly remember Ray for his love and support of family ,spirit and humor.*

B.Hillen

Bonney Hillen - January 14, 2023 at 12:28 PM

SP

“ *My heart will always be filled with great memories of my cousin that I felt was my brother growing up together in our youth. These cherished memories will forever be tucked away deep inside my heart and sending prayers for his family during this time of grief. Saralee Kilbane (parnell) and family.*

Saralee Kilbane (parnell) - January 14, 2023 at 12:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond Parnell.*



January 12, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ *So so sorry guys I was so glad to know this man my son married his daughter and he was a wonderful man and so much more as a grandfather we will miss him*

denise collins - January 12, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Parnell.*



January 12, 2023 at 07:57 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Parnell.*



January 11, 2023 at 08:22 PM

FP

“ From James and Mary, Donna, Patrick purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Raymond Parnell.



From James and Mary, Donna, Patrick - January 11, 2023 at 08:12 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Raymond Parnell.



January 11, 2023 at 07:44 PM

SF

“ So very sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy to the entire family. I enjoyed seeing Ray & Jean during their summers at Pine Lake. Always enjoyed his jam that he so kindly shared. Shirley Florczyk

Shirley Florczyk - January 11, 2023 at 10:27 AM