



Rex Kilburn

November 24, 1933 - January 12, 2024

Rex Kilburn, of Utica, Michigan, went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 12, 2024, at the age of 90. Rex Kilburn was born in Frew, Kentucky on November 24, 1933 to William and Nell Kilburn. He was the fifth of nine siblings. He worked tirelessly from a young age to support the family farm in rural Kentucky and moved to Detroit at the age of 17 to find work. Overcoming many challenges to support himself and send money home to his widowed mother, he worked many odd jobs in the Detroit area.

He proudly served his country for eight years in the US Army, two years active duty and six years reserves. Rex met Julie at the Utica Big Boy. He was a security guard and she a waitress. They married on May 24, 1969, in Shelby Township, Michigan, and had five children. He established and operated Rex Heating & Air Conditioning for 50 years.

Over the years, the family grew to include 15 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. In his 60s, he started experiencing monumental medical challenges. He conquered each one and often against all odds. God knew how much we loved and wanted him in our lives, so much so, that He blessed us many times over with the "extra" years.

He is a living, testament to God's, endless forgiveness, grace, and love when we need it most.

Rex is the cherished husband of Julie Rose Kilburn; the loving father of Donna Marie, Jared Kilburn, Janel (Tony) Fiantaco, Jenna (Darrin) Brady, Jolene (Martin) Ruthenberg, and John (Vera) Kilburn; and the adored grandfather to 15 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Rex is preceded in death by his parents, William and Nell; and his siblings, William Jr., Pat, Ebb, Marie, Annette, Betty, Joe, and Bonnie.

Rex's family will receive friends for visitation on Monday, January 15, 2024 and Tuesday, January 16 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a rosary service at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks East of Van Dyke), Utica. A funeral mass will be held at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Road, Utica, on Wednesday, January 17, instate beginning at 11:00 a.m. until the time of his mass at 11:30 a.m. Interment at St. Lawrence Cemetery. Please leave a tribute or share a memory of Rex at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Cemetery Details

St. Lawrence Cemetery

Auburn Road
Utica, MI 48317

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **15**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 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

JAN **16**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
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Rosary

JAN 16. 5:00 PM (ET)

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8459 Hall Road
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Instate At Church

JAN 17. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
44633 Utica Road
Utica, MI 48317

Funeral Mass

JAN 17. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
44633 Utica Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.*



January 16, 2024 at 01:36 PM



“ *Alan and Carolyn Grusnick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.*

Alan and Carolyn Grusnick - January 16, 2024 at 01:36 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.*



January 16, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ *Love, Reese and Katherine Serra planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.*

Love, Reese and Katherine Serra - January 16, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 16, 2024 at 09:16 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 15, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ *Evans, Sara, Matthew and Nicolas Caruso* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.

Evans, Sara, Matthew and Nicolas Caruso - January 15, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *Evans, Sara, Matthew and Nicolas Caruso* purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Rex Kilburn.



Evans, Sara, Matthew and Nicolas Caruso - January 15, 2024 at 01:47 PM

SK

“ My favorite Uncle growing up. I remember going to Big Boy on Van Dyke where Aunt Pat was a Manager and Aunt Julie was car hop back in those days. He was star struck for sure. He used to let me drive the steering wheel. lol. Well I least I thought I did. Rest in Peace Uncle. Some of the best memories of my childhood were spent with you. Thank you. 🥹

Sue Kilburn - January 15, 2024 at 12:56 PM

DD

“ What a beautiful obituary, showing what a great life Rex lived. My husband and I knew him from many years ago, as he was the heating and cooling contractor that my father in law (Marcel Deman) and my husband (Don Deman) dealt with. Such a nice understanding man, who was very trustworthy. I am happy to know his son John has carried on the business and the personal traits of his father. He will be missed but is resting with his Lord now in peace. Don and Cathy Deman

Don and Cathy Deman - January 15, 2024 at 12:25 PM

LF

“ Luotonen, Mitkus and Champion families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.

Luotonen, Mitkus and Champion families - January 15, 2024 at 10:53 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 15, 2024 at 10:53 AM

DM

“ Deborah M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.

Deborah M. - January 15, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 15, 2024 at 10:36 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 15, 2024 at 10:09 AM

PP

“ Pat Socia and Tillson Street Plumbing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.

Pat Socia and Tillson Street Plumbing - January 15, 2024 at 08:58 AM

PP

“ Pat Socia and Tillson Street Plumbing purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rex Kilburn.



Pat Socia and Tillson Street Plumbing - January 15, 2024 at 08:58 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 14, 2024 at 10:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.



January 14, 2024 at 10:42 PM

CD

“ Cary Dardas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Kilburn.

Cary Dardas - January 14, 2024 at 10:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.*



January 14, 2024 at 06:20 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.*



January 14, 2024 at 09:04 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rex Kilburn.*



January 13, 2024 at 02:56 PM