



Richard Charles Colpaert

January 3, 1943 - April 6, 2021

Richard “Dick” Colpaert, age 78, passed away on April 6, 2021.

He was born in his grandparents’ farmhouse in Fraser, Michigan in 1943 and raised on his parents’ farm in Sterling Heights where he worked all aspects of his family farming business until graduating from Utica High School in 1961.

Dick was drafted out of high school by the Baltimore Orioles baseball organization and began spring training in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1962, after completing one year of study at the Pontiac Business Institute. He played 13 seasons as a pitcher for various minor league teams, ultimately playing in the “Big Show” for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1970. After marrying his childhood sweetheart, Christine Marie VanDeWeghe in 1964 and having three beautiful daughters together, Dick moved 26 times with his family to places like Hawaii, the Dominican Republic and many other cities across America, finally settling in Utica, Michigan in 1971.

Once his playing days were behind him, he took a job with General Motors for a short time before returning to his passion and accepting a job as a professional scout for Major League Baseball, where he worked for 30 years before retiring in December, 2006. Even retirement could not quell his love for the game, so Dick accepted a scouting position with the Milwaukee Brewers where he worked another 10+ years before fully retiring in 2020.

He was the adoring husband of Christine for their 57 years of wonderful marriage; beloved son of the late Charlie and Bertha Colpaert; dear brother to the late JoAnne (Jeff) Johnsen and Robert Colpaert; loving father of Carol Berman, Carrie (Pete) Cassano, and the late Cathy (Jeff) LaBruzzy; devoted grandfather of Nicholas Berman, Alexis LaBruzzy, Charles LaBruzzy, Jonathan Cassano, Nina Cassano and Thomas LaBruzzy.

Aside from his obvious and ever-present love for family, Dick had so many dear friends and touched the lives of countless people throughout his lifetime. He had an extremely strong faith and lived a good life. He enjoyed spending time with those close to him, attending the events and activities of his grandchildren, playing golf, and traveling (his favorite destination being “up north” to visit friends and relatives in the area, especially his brother Bob). He was truly a wonderful man who will be missed by many.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 11th from 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road, Utica MI 48317.

Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, April 12th at 10:00 am at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Road, Utica MI 48317.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago IL 60607.

Cemetery Details

St. Lawrence Cemetery

Auburn Road
Utica, MI 48317

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 1:00 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/>

Scripture Service

APR 11. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Instate

APR 12. 9:30 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Mass

APR 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Burial

APR 12. 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Lawrence Cemetery
Auburn Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Charles Colpaert*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - April 11, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Richard "Dick" Colpaert Webcast Funeral Mass in memory of Richard Charles Colpaert*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - April 11, 2021 at 10:57 AM

MG

“ *On behalf of Fr. Scott Donahue and Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Richard Colpaert.*

May the angels lead him into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome him and take him to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls - April 21, 2021 at 11:50 AM

GW

“ Dick was a true gentleman - always had a kind word and a smile. I'm so sorry that he is gone so soon. May God comfort you Chris, and your family, with His peace as you navigate the future.

Gloria Wolken - April 15, 2021 at 10:18 AM

DM

“ Our deepest sympathies to Chris and the entire Colpaert family. Chris, you and Dick; Have, Are, And will always be more than the definition of Friend. We are whom is blessed and grateful for you both to have shared time with. We will be with you both in prayer and strength throughout today and years to come.
Mr. George and Mrs. Doris Merritt

Doris Merritt - April 12, 2021 at 11:11 AM

RY

“ Dick was truly one of a kind. Great player, great scout, great storyteller, but most of all, an incredible human being and friend. A true professional in every way..... peace Dick

Rob Young - April 12, 2021 at 10:51 AM

JS

“ Dick was long time friend and respected colleague. Very sad to hear this news. A lot of great memories. Always a classy trustworthy friend. Rest in peace. My sincerest condolences to the family.
Jerry Stephens

Jerry Steph - April 11, 2021 at 05:20 PM

BS

“ Our deepest sympathy to Chris and family. Fond memories of sharing time with him on the road. Bill will miss sharing baseball stories with him. He will be missed. Bill and Barbara Schudlich.

Bill and Barbara Schudlich - April 11, 2021 at 12:46 PM

AB

“ Anne Marie Bedard purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.



Anne Marie Bedard - April 11, 2021 at 09:07 AM

WF

“ William D. Harder II and family purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.



William D. Harder II and family - April 10, 2021 at 07:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.



April 10, 2021 at 07:12 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.*



April 10, 2021 at 04:35 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.*



April 10, 2021 at 08:57 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.*



April 10, 2021 at 08:39 AM



“ *RIP Dick. You were a mentor to me as a young scout. Ha, that was over 25 years ago. You always had wisdom for me that I still carry today. Hit em straight up there my friend.*

*Rich Sparks
Oakland A's*

Rich - April 09, 2021 at 11:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.*



April 09, 2021 at 09:10 PM



“ *RIP Dick, a true friend and wonderful gentleman. A great ambassador of baseball and the scouting profession. Never to forget.*

*Clyde Weir
Detroit Tiger Scouting Dept.*

Clyde Weir - April 09, 2021 at 08:46 PM



“ *Tim Maguire purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.*



Tim Maguire - April 09, 2021 at 04:06 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Denny Backis - April 09, 2021 at 02:36 PM

MH

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Randall Heine purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Charles Colpaert.*



Mr. & Mrs. Randall Heine - April 09, 2021 at 02:17 PM