



## Richard P. McLaughlin

August 3, 1923 - September 16, 2025

Richard P. McLaughlin (Dick) of Macomb, Michigan, died peacefully on September 16, 2025 at the age of 102. Dick was born in Detroit on August 3, 1923, to Eugene and Clara McLaughlin.

After attending Eastern High School in Detroit, he was drafted to serve in the US Army in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. Upon returning, he began his 75+ year tenure in the funeral industry, graduating from Wayne State University School of Mortuary Science in 1949. Initially working for FB Hunter, Dick joined Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, where he continued his illustrious life-long career, even returning to work full-time just weeks after "retiring" in 1988. Believed to be the oldest active funeral director in the country, he worked tirelessly through his 100th year. He never wavered in his deep care of the deceased and his compassion for their loved ones that he served day in and day out. We are proud to know his presence offered great comfort to thousands of families in their darkest hours.

After becoming a baptized Catholic while in the Army, Dick's faith in the Lord remained his constant companion and he was a loyal parishioner of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica. Dick had also been a member of the American Legion Post 253 in Royal Oak, Royal Oak Elks Lodge 1523, and the Madison Heights Kiwanis Club.

Just as important as his official roles were his countless friendships he maintained with buddies of all ages, most notably his incredible coworkers, benevolent neighbors, and the good-natured staff and bar patrons of Ciccarelli's and Hamlin Pub, where he was known to have a pop or two. He was always ready, with unmatched humor, for a good time - golfing, bowling, gambling, and watching the Lions and Tigers.

Dick was a loving father to Janice (Greg) Despres, Gayle Barker (Tom Kane), Barbara (Brodie) Burton, Richard Jr., and former son-in-law John Peardon. A devoted grandfather to Alyssa Peardon Crowder, Amy (Todd) Bultynck, Andrea Peardon, Bradley Burton (Chanelle Pickens), Bret (Carryn) Burton, Bryan (Jenna) Barker, and Timothy (Tiffany) Barker. A doting and joyous great-grandfather to Austin Crowder, Gracyn, Gabrielle, and Dylann Bultynck, Eva and Brodie Burton, Trexon Barker, Calista and Danica Barker, and Wyatt Richard Peardon. And a treasure to the many, many friends of those grandchildren who grew up lucky enough to call him Gramps, too.

Dick was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Clara, brother Eugene Arthur, sister Irene, wife Genevieve, former wife Shirlee Creagh, son-in-law Roger Barker, and more dear friends than he could count. We know his heavenly reunion was an extraordinary scene of jubilation.

Visitation for Dick will be held on Sunday, September 21, from 5 - 8 p.m. and on Monday, September 22, from 2 - 8 p.m. (Scripture Service at 6:30 p.m.) at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (four blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. A Funeral Mass for Dick will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 23, at 10:00 a.m. (visitation 9:30 a.m.) at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 Twelve Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Burial, with military honors, will follow at Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak.

The family has requested memorials in Dick's name be made to the Gary

Sinise Foundation (<https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/donate>) or Hospice of Michigan (<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/hospiceofmichigan>).

Please share a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street  
(south of 12 Mile Road)  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **21**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

SEP **22**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Scripture Service

SEP **22**. 6:30 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

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SEP **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

# Tribute Wall

SV

“*Janice, Gayle, Barb, and Rick, Praying that God’s caring, comforting presence will surround you during this time. What a full life he had! Those we love are never forgotten. With heartfelt sympathy! David and Shirley (DeWolfe) Valicevic*

Shirley Valicevic - September 23, 2025 at 03:53 PM

MH

*"All My Very Many Thoughts & Prayers. Memories Eternal. Always Remembered Never Forgotten. I had the honor of working with Sullivan and Son Funeral Hm. Royal Oak with McLaughlin. Pleasent and Humorous gentleman. Always had a open ear to listen. A kind soul. Thank for allowing me to get to know you. Sincerely(Maggie)Margaret L Hensley*

Margaret L(Maggie) Hensley - October 17, 2025 at 07:19 AM

MH

*My Very Heart Felt sympathy. May God our Creator Bless and Be With you during this time 🙏*

Margaret L(Maggie) Hensley - October 17, 2025 at 07:22 AM

ML

“*Matthew L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.*

Matthew L. - September 23, 2025 at 01:56 PM

SG

“ Always a highlight to share a "pop" and conversation at the Michigan Funeral Directors Association Convention with the legendary Dick McLaughlin. An authentic, inspiring and kind character; truly a remarkable human in our profession. I will raise a glass in Dick's honor at our next gathering!

Sharon Gee-Mascarello - September 22, 2025 at 03:28 PM

YF

“ Your SMHA family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



Your SMHA family - September 21, 2025 at 04:57 PM

LF

“ Love the Papais Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

Love the Papais Family - September 21, 2025 at 09:49 AM

LF

“ Love the Papais Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



Love the Papais Family - September 21, 2025 at 09:49 AM

JP

“ John P planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

John P - September 20, 2025 at 10:45 PM

JP

“ John P purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



John P - September 20, 2025 at 10:45 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



September 20, 2025 at 12:38 PM

DL

“ Debra love planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

Debra love - September 20, 2025 at 09:32 AM

DL

“ Debra love purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



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Debra love - September 20, 2025 at 09:32 AM

AD

“ Dick was such a classy guy, professional and a very sincere gentleman. I always enjoyed having a chat with him. Till we meet again, don't get in trouble up there. RIP

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Ann Niedzwiecki Dylewski - September 19, 2025 at 07:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

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September 19, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



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September 19, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.*



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September 19, 2025 at 08:56 AM



“ *Dick was a wonderful man. I always enjoyed visiting with him. God rest his soul. I'm heartbroken I can't be at his funeral mass. Shirley and I are in Italy and won't be back. Doug & Shirley Misiuk*

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**Doug Misiuk** - September 19, 2025 at 03:19 AM



“ *A wonderful man with an amazing dedication to his profession. I have been blessed with his friendship. Peace for you in Paridise.*

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**scott Meyersieck** - September 18, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ *A true legend! Dick was so friendly, so affable, so GENUINE. A wonderful colleague, he will certainly be missed. Our sympathies to his family.*

**TERRY & BETTY DESMOND**

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**Terry Desmond** - September 18, 2025 at 05:45 PM

GL

“ Gayle Lawrence purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



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**Gayle Lawrence** - September 18, 2025 at 05:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

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September 18, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



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September 18, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



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September 18, 2025 at 03:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

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September 18, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.*



September 18, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.*



September 18, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.*

September 18, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ *What a beautiful soul! Gramps was an incredible man and a marvel to witness! I was blown away when I had the pleasure of meeting him. He didnt have to say a word. Just to see him was an impact! Not only his age, as he was my great grandmother's age, but his presence.... so much knowledge and wisdom and humble love. I agree. His reunion in heaven has been an incredible Jubilee! God Bless all of you! He will be remembered in a beautiful way through your love and prosperity, as his family is his most precious legacy. □*



**Aleecia Giorlando** - September 18, 2025 at 10:19 AM

“D

“Richie” DeWolfe purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



“Richie” DeWolfe - September 18, 2025 at 12:15 AM

SB

Shawn, Jessica & Lea Battle purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



Shawn, Jessica & Lea Battle - September 17, 2025 at 06:48 PM

BF

Brodie & Denise Burton & Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.



Brodie & Denise Burton & Family - September 17, 2025 at 05:53 PM

BF

Brodie & Denise Burton & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard P. McLaughlin.

Brodie & Denise Burton & Family - September 17, 2025 at 05:53 PM

AP

“ *Anita, Chanelle and Nicole Pickens purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard P. McLaughlin.*



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**Anita, Chanelle and Nicole Pickens** - September 17, 2025 at  
05:09 PM