



Rodney Niemisto

January 23, 1947 - April 13, 2025

Rodney Niemisto, a devoted family man and proud veteran, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2025, at the age of 78, surrounded by the love of his family.

Rodney was born on January 23, 1947, in Highland Park, Michigan, and later made his home in Madison Heights, where he and his wife Diane built a life rooted in love, laughter, and strong family values. A graduate of Cooily High School, Rodney went on to serve his country with honor in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

After his service, Rodney worked for many years as a warehouse manager at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital, retiring after 14 years of dedicated service. Known for his reliability and strong work ethic, he was respected by colleagues and friends alike.

Rodney was the beloved husband of Diane Niemisto, and the proud father of Dawn (Jon) Bruner, Eric (Jeanette) Niemisto, and Amy (the late Tim) Camp. He found great joy in his role as Grandpa to Jake (Mary) Smith, Alyssa, Autumn, and Lilly, and was thrilled to be Great-Grandpa to Zoey and Liam.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Joyce (Jim) Peterson, Enid (Jim), Larson, and James all of whom he held close in memory.

Rodney had a passion for staying active and enjoyed spending time on the golf course, playing softball, and competing in racquetball. Whether he was sharing stories from his service days or cheering on his grandchildren, Rodney lived a life full of heart, humor, and quiet strength.

A memorial service will be held at Church of Christ (115 S Campbell Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067) on April 21, 2025. A memorial visitation will take place before services begin at 11:00 am and will go until the service time of 12:00 pm. The service will also be livestreamed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKahplrHXxg.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to the Wounded Warrior Project. Veterans Charity - Non Profit Organization for Veterans <<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>> or to the wishes of the family.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Royal Oak Church of Christ
115 S. Campbell Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Memorial Service

APR 21. 12:00 PM (ET)

Royal Oak Church of Christ
115 S. Campbell Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I enjoyed Rod's friendship at Royal Oak Missionary Church and playing golf, softball, and even bowling with him. One round of golf was particularly interesting because we were in the same cart together and while I was driving the cart down a hill on the morning dew, well, we did a 360° spin. I will not forget the look on his face. He never let me forget it. Although we moved to a different part of the country for a while, we would chat on the phone once in a while. Now that we just moved back to Michigan, visiting Rod was an important thing for me to do but unfortunately it didn't happen. I will visit Rod one day in heaven and we'll have the golf round to beat all golf rounds! He loved his family and told me about each of them when we spoke. I'll miss him.

Rob Saunders - April 20, 2025 at 02:55 PM

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“ Uncle Rod was always the “favorite” uncle! He was present at all the family gatherings with love, laughter and encouragement. The only exception to that was during his time in Vietnam. Each time he came home, we waited, (with great anticipation) in the airport, watching for him to walk through doors with arms open for big hugs. Uncle Rod loved to drive fast cars and always volunteered to drive us to the park or the local ice cream shop. As adults, uncle Rod was always there for life's events. If not in person, at least by phone. Family was his core and he felt it was very important to always stay connected (even through distance and time). He was the last patriarch pillar of our family and he will be greatly missed! ❤️

Pam Guest - April 18, 2025 at 10:13 AM