



William Gayde

June 18, 1933 - January 19, 2026

William F. Gayde, age 92, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2026. He was born on June 18, 1933, to the late Peter and Berniece Gayde.

On December 29, 1956, William married the love of his life, Carolyn, in Southfield, Michigan. Together, they built a beautiful family. He was a devoted father to Peter (Ruth), Chris (Laura), Julie (Chris) Benden, and Nancy (Andrew) Vizi. A proud grandfather to Sarah (Wesley) Howard, Nicholas (Caitlin), William, Ellen, Denise (William) Kingsley, Jamie Benden, Joshua Benden, and great grandfather to Emma, Elizabeth, Hannah and Vivian. Dear brother of the late Lorelee Gurley.

Bill had a passion for travel and explored the world with great enthusiasm, visiting over 60 countries. He was a dedicated educator, working as a shop teacher, tennis coach, vocational education administrator and assistant superintendent for the Fitzgerald Public School system for 35 years.

Bill was a graduate of Plymouth High School, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. He was a lifelong Detroit sports fan, avid golfer and taught youth tennis during the summer in Royal Oak. He spent many years as a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts. Bill's love of woodworking was a lifelong hobby. He made furniture for Carolyn and the children and rocking horses for his grandchildren that are now being enjoyed by his great-grandchildren. Bill

was a long-time member of the Michigan Woodworkers Guild.

Visitation will take place on Sunday, January 25th, from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Road (4 blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, January 26th, with visitation at 9:30 AM until the time of Mass at 10:00 AM, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Royal Oak. Memorial contributions in Bill's honor may be made to Habitat for Humanity.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery - Plymouth, MI

680 Plymouth Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN **25**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Mass

JAN **26**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
730 S. Lafayette Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

K(

“ Uncle Bill and aunt Carolyn were always so welcoming. I love to come over and hang out with Nancy and Julie. Just said hi to Peter and Chris.
My mom always looked up to aunt Carolyn and I know she appreciated the relationship with them. Uncle Bill always had a smile on his face and a project he was working on. The world is less without them. Love, Kelly.

Kelly Jensen (Dibler/Bauer) - January 26 at 02:40 PM

LS

“ At Fitzgerald High School, 1966-1975, Bill Gayde was a very effective administrator with the ability to maximize potential without harming anyone's human dignity.

Lorene Schenk-Austin - January 25 at 11:54 AM

DC

“ Deepest condolences to the family. I have very fond memories of Mr. Gayde, especially when he became our scoutmaster for the boyscout troop that I was a part of. Mr. Gayde always found time to listen to us. He was a pleasure to talk with and never had a bad thing to say about anyone. Sincerely, Dale and Jennie Coughlin

Dale T. Coughlin and Jennie Coughlin - January 25 at 11:06 AM

DT

“ Dale T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gayde.

Dale T. - January 25 at 10:59 AM

NB

“ I worked at Fitzgerald Public Schools and Mr. Gayde brought such a joy to everyone he knew. He always had a huge smile and always brought warmth into a room when he entered. It was a blessing to have known this man.

Nancy Burkholder - January 25 at 08:08 AM

FL

“ From John and Lonnie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gayde.

From John and Lonnie - January 24 at 04:20 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William Gayde.



January 24 at 04:20 PM

SM

“ Susan M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gayde.

Susan M. - January 23 at 07:00 PM

P'

“ Pete's brothers from the BR Class of '76 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gayde.

Pete's brothers from the BR Class of '76 - January 22 at 06:31 PM

P'

“ Pete's brothers from the BR Class of '76 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Gayde.



Pete's brothers from the BR Class of '76 - January 22 at 06:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Gayde.



January 22 at 04:29 PM

JD

“ Joan D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gayde.

Joan D. - January 22 at 11:59 AM

LS

“ I am a long time friend of Nancy, Bill & Carolyn's youngest daughter. I've had the pleasure of experiencing and sharing a few of Bill's fantastic traits. On his love of travel - Bill and Carolyn came to London to expand on their joint love of travel. I was able to meet up with them (I currently live in England) and enjoyed a lovely afternoon with them both. We did some sightseeing and chatted effortlessly for hours. A few years later, after having 2 children of my own, we visited Bill & Carolyn at their home. Bill took some very special time to engage my eldest with the piano. His easy going nature and his generosity with his time captivated my daughter and I saw how his personality leant itself to his various roles with children. Obviously, I've spent other time with him but those two memories, still remain my fondest. My heart goes out to his family and close friends - he was a wonderful human and impacted more lives than he ever could know. Thank you for these memories Bill and thank you Nancy for sharing your dad with me and my children.

Lory Sinnott - January 22 at 08:09 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Gayde.



January 21 at 07:03 PM

JS

“ Bill and Carolyn were neighbors of ours in Huntington Woods. Bill was always available to help by cutting branches that had fallen and covered our drive to replacing a toilet which had an apple stuck in it. Thanks to Our daughter. He also was encouraging me to buy a place in Florida which we still have. In later years he would share baseball tickets with me as well as others. He and Carolyn loved the Tigers and either were at the games or at home watching them on T V. He was kind and very considerate of others. Without a doubt the sharpest knife on the table. The clock I have in my home he made. He was a gifted educator and a great friend. He will be missed but never forgotten.

john safran - January 21 at 04:28 PM



Thanks, John. That was wonderful.

Chris Gayde - January 21 at 05:13 PM



Bill Gayde and I were two of the three G's, Gagnon, Gayde, and Gutka. who were hired to teach at Fitzgerald High School in 1956. We spent many an evening after Fitzgerald Football games socializing at Frank's Shady Grove on Dequindre, and at school in the men's lounge listening to John Gutka's stories of his Marine gunnery sergeant's World War II stories on Guadalcanal, Saipan, Tarawa, and Tinian. On opposite sides of the negotiating table, Bill and I learned to respect each other's honesty and determination in hammering out contracts; furthermore, I enjoyed the annual retiree luncheons that Bill organized at the Gazebo every fall. Fine times, and to you, Bill Gayde, fellow golfing adversary, Ave atque Vale!

William Gagnon - January 25 at 03:32 AM