



## James Edward Ray

March 26, 1943 - April 13, 2009

James Edward Ray, age 66, of Paw Paw, went home to be with the Lord Monday, April 13, 2009, surrounded by his loving family. Jim was born March 26, 1943 in Paw Paw, the son of Ivan and MaryJane Ray. His passion was spending time with his family, farming, and working in his flower garden. He enjoyed sharing "The Shack" with family and many friends. He served his community on the Gobles Pine Grove Fire Department and Ambulance. He was elected Clerk and then Supervisor of Almena Township and most recently Commissioner of Van Buren County. He retired after 32 years with Farm Bureau Insurance. He attended the Bloomingdale Christian Church. He was a great husband, dad, grandpa and friend. Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Dale (nee Barber); 3 children, Bonnie (Matthew) Holochwost of Lawton, Pam Blakemore of Paw Paw, Kevin (Susie) Ray of Lawton; 7 grandchildren, Ryan, Steve, Kalie, Kaitlin, Aaron, Nicole, Nathan; 1 sister, Linda (Jim) Hurst of Gobles; 1 brother, Bruce (Diane) Ray of Kalamazoo. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son, James Edward Ray, Jr. The family will meet friends Thursday 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the GOBLES CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, and Friday 9:30-11 AM at the Lawton Evangelical Mennonite Church where funeral services will be held at 11 AM Friday, Pastor Bill Napp officiating. A private graveside service will take place at a later date. The family suggests memorials to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to be used for Jephtha Lake Fen.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gobles Chapel  
208 West Main Street  
Gobles, MI

## Visitation

APR 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gobles Chapel  
208 West Main Street  
Gobles, MI

## Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Evangelical Mennonite Church  
425 Nursery Street  
Lawton, MI

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ *Bonnie Ray Holochwost lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ray*



**Bonnie Ray Holochwost** - April 13, 2020 at 02:23 PM

DR

“ *Dale Ray lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ray*



**Dale Ray** - April 18, 2013 at 04:01 PM

DR

“ *Dale Ray lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ray*



**Dale Ray** - April 20, 2012 at 12:44 PM

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“ *Grandpa,*

*Sitting in my bed missing you more then ever!!!! I miss you so much! The other day we were cutting wood and we all missed you! I miss tou jokes and most of all I miss you!!!! I know you are in a better place now but Imiss you alot!!!!!!*

**Nicole** - March 14, 2012 at 03:11 PM

DR

“ *Dale A Ray lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ray*



**Dale A Ray** - September 25, 2011 at 07:15 AM



“ `Another year, another memorial day. One day a year doesn't cut it., I miss you everyday. Love ya,##imported-begin##Dale Barber Ray##imported-end##

May 31, 2010 at 10:04 PM



“ I'am a girl who loves my grandpa very much. I wonder if my grandpa is playingwith jimmy up in heaven. I hear my grandpa saying " i love you". i see my grandpa sitting in his chair. I want to see my grandpa.I'am a girl who loves my grandpa very much.

*I pretend to dance with my grandpa. i feel my grandpa's warmth. I touch his hand. I worry that i will never move on. I cry because of his death. I'am a girl who loves my grandpa.*

*I understand that he loves me. I say i WILL see him again. I dream that i will see him sitting by my bed side. I try not to think he died but he's on vacation. I hope that he miss'ess me as much as i miss him.*

**I'AM A GIRL WHO LOVES MY GRANDPA VERY MUCH!!!!!!**

*poem made by: Kaitlin Grace Blakemore##imported-begin##kaitlin blakemore (granddaughter) ##imported-end##*

April 22, 2009 at 09:31 PM



“ i love you grandpa! We will miss you a lot. I could not ask for a better grandpa i will miss you##imported-begin##Nicole (Granddaughter)##imported-end##

April 22, 2009 at 05:03 PM



“ to my precious husband.....it has been 45 years that we have been together. 45 years ago in March that you asked to marry me, what a great life you have given me. You know it was far to short for me for you!!!! How I miss you, and how I wish we had more time. I know that you are with our little boy, and that you are okay. You are in God's hands now, and that is the best that is the final goal. But the human side says I wish you were here, I miss you I Love you, your wife Dale##imported-begin##Dale Ray##imported-end##

April 19, 2009 at 09:29 PM



“ In memory of a great guy. We all loved you as a co-worker and as a person, as God loved you too. I will always remember you as a friend and the good times we had at Farm Bureau, as well as the not so good, which were very few. May you be in the hands of the Lord, and may the Lord be watching over your family---God bless them##imported-begin##Jerry Tiller##imported-end##

April 19, 2009 at 10:35 AM



“ Dear Dale and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep you in my prayers for the upcoming adjustments. You are all blessed that Jim was a man who tucked away many loving memories in people's hearts. I am so glad I got to know him from the family reunions. Much love, Pam##imported-begin##Pamela Patzer Labadie##imported-end##

April 17, 2009 at 08:19 AM



“ Dale, may our merciful God and Father be with you and your family now and always.##imported-begin##Keith A Sikkema##imported-end##

April 17, 2009 at 06:03 AM



“ DEAR DALE AND FAMILY  
RECEIVED EMAIL FROM AUNT MARIAN  
I SEND MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY.  
WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS HOW ONE  
FEELS. BUT WE KNOW JIM IS IN A BETTER PLACE AND WE WILL ALL SEE  
OUR LOVED ONES.  
YOU HAVE A SPECIAL FATHER AND FAMILY AND YOUR FAITH IN OUR  
LORD WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH  
YOU WILL NEED IN DAYS TO COME.  
LOVE THRU CHRIST OUR LORD  
YOUR COUSIN SUSAN##imported-begin##SUSAN (BARBER)  
FOSTER##imported-end##

April 16, 2009 at 04:58 PM



“ Dear Ray family you are in our thoughts and prayers. I went to school with Jim he was a very good man. Have great memories of him in school. Rest in peace ole friend. Shirley##imported-begin##Shirley Wesler-Brown Flossie Wesler##imported-end##

April 16, 2009 at 09:24 AM



“ I love you GRANDPA SO MUCH. I will never forget you. YOU ARE THE BEST GRANDPA IN THE WOLD. YOU ARE IN MY HEART FOREVER.GOOD-BYE I WILL MISS YOU A LOT! LOTS OF LOVE, NICOLE I LOVE YOU SO SO SO SO MUCH!!!!##imported-begin##Nicole (Granddaughter)##imported-end##

April 16, 2009 at 08:43 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss, my thoughts are with you.##imported-begin##Stacey Moyer##imported-end##

April 16, 2009 at 08:43 AM



“ Grandpa,  
I love you so much. I love how we always played games with each other. I love how no matter what day I was having you would always put a smile on my face. You are amazing and wonderful. I could not wish for a better grandpa. I love you and will see you in heaven. Don't worry.  
love forever and always,  
Kalie##imported-begin##Kalie ( Granddaughter)##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 11:37 PM



“ Many thanks to Jim for his advise and encouragement when I started for Farm Bureau. I looked and always will look up to Jim for his kind manner in all he did. He was a pleasure to work with.

Prayers go out to Dale, Kevin and all of the Ray Family. God Bless...##imported-begin##Marc Erffmeyer##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 05:47 PM



“ I am going to miss my Jim hugs....he gave such great hugs! He always had such a great attitude about life and shared it with everyone he knew. His favorite thing to do when he came to our office every week was to tease all the office staff...of course we dished it right back which was what he looked forward to. Jim left us all with so many wonderful memories and they are all attached to images of his great smile. When I think of Jim it makes me smile even though my eyes are filled with tears right now. My heart goes out to all of the Ray family. May the memories you have of your husband, dad and grandpa help bring you comfort at this time. I am sure he's in heaven fishing to his heart's delight!##imported-begin##Robin Hagen##imported-end##

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April 15, 2009 at 04:40 PM



“ The Ray Family

I first met Jim when I joined the fire department years ago. He taught me so much about being a firefighter. The world was a better place because of him. I always enjoyed talking to Jim whenever I saw him. Rejoice in the fact that he has seen the Lord and is no longer in pain!!!!##imported-begin##Lon Schafer##imported-end##

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April 15, 2009 at 03:04 PM



“ I knew Jim quite a while back when I was working for FB. He was such a nice man and fun to be around. I am so sorry for your family's loss. I know it was way too soon and he will be missed.##imported-begin##Nancy Brzezinski##imported-end##

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April 15, 2009 at 02:46 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to the Ray family just last summer the grand kids and me went to Jephtha lake to go fishing when we finished Ray wave us over and we sat on the porch for over an hour had a very relaxing visit talked fire departments, farming, fishing and family . Jim i'll miss you, you always gave me good advise when I asked. God bless! The Hosier family##imported-begin##Al Hosier & Family##imported-end##

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April 15, 2009 at 01:56 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to Jim's family, he was a great guy with a big heart and will be missed.##imported-begin##Wayne and Sue Hammond##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 12:11 PM



“ Sharing your loss over this great man, father and grandfather. He has forever touched our lives-- The Hunefelds- Steve, Jerry, Pam, Alyssa & Tara##imported-begin##Pam Wirth Hunefeld##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 11:48 AM



“ I met Jim working at Farm Bureau. He was a great man and will be missed by all who knew him. God Bless you all at this sad time. Our prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Michelle Beilman##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 11:08 AM



“ Please accept my condolences on your loss.##imported-begin##Celinda Gilmore##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 10:45 AM



“ We will miss Jim and his sense of humor.. He was a great person and friend...We take comfort in knowing he is with our Lord...##imported-begin##Richard & Rebecca Dawman##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 10:43 AM



“ Are thoughts are with you all at this most difficult time.##imported-begin##Diana Dahlquist and Matt Peters families##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 10:38 AM



“ Jim was a kind man with a big heart. I always enjoyed working with him and spending time with him, including a great fishing charter we went on together. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Ken Brockus- Farm Bureau Insurance##imported-begin##Ken Brockus##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 10:34 AM



“ Kevin and family-

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Your Farm Bureau family is thinking of you at this time of need.##imported-begin##Guy Bartels and Carmen Ryan##imported-end##*

April 15, 2009 at 10:27 AM



“ May I extend sincere condolences to Jim's entire family. I knew Jim when I worked at Farm Bureau in St. Joseph. He was one of the first company employees I met other than my Agency Manager, Joe Solitro and the agents in my sales & service office. What a wonderful man and business man. He was loved by everyone he worked with and taught me so much. He even stopped by my office a couple of times when I transferred to FB home office in Lansing to work for Joe Solitro. Great memories of a great guy.##imported-begin##Tric Commons##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ I have know Jim for a very long time and think of him as a father. He was the joy for Van Buren County and will be truly missed by the employees. My deepest condolences for the family.##imported-begin##Jennifer Fitzpatrick##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 09:06 AM



“ We will miss you Dad! Thank you for being a great dad and grandpa. We love you!!!##imported-begin##Pam##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 08:35 AM



“ We miss you.##imported-begin##Bruce Ray (brother)##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 08:12 AM



“ I love you daddy. Thanks for all you did for each of us. Your character will be seen in our children and their children after.##imported-begin##Bonnie##imported-end##

April 15, 2009 at 08:05 AM



“ *...Those who live no more, whom we loved, echo still within our thoughts, our words, our hearts. (Richard Fife) Jim you left your handprints on many people and places. You will not be forgotten.*###imported-begin###cindy###imported-end##

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April 15, 2009 at 07:48 AM



“ *my thoughts are with all of you,i will really miss jim*###imported-begin###steve cherry###imported-end##

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April 14, 2009 at 10:56 PM



“ *May you sing with the angels Uncle Jim and celebrate with the Lord. We love you so much!*###imported-begin###Dawn ###imported-end##

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April 14, 2009 at 09:29 PM