



## Ralph Irving Piper

March 16, 1942 - July 8, 2024

Ralph I. Piper  
age 82  
of Breedsville

Ralph passed away on July 8, 2024, at Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital with his family by his side. Ralph was born on March 16, 1942, in Bangor, Michigan, the son of Donald and Dorothy Piper. He has lived in the Bangor area all of his life and graduated from Bangor High School, where his picture still hangs as alumni. After high school, he entered the United States Army, serving his country for two years. He was a medic, transitioned to be a mechanic, and then was chosen to be a general's driver during his time in the Army. After his return from the service, he came home to work on his family farm, Piper Brothers Farms. He then moved with his family to Breedsville, where he started his own wrecker and automobile repair service, Piper Automotive. In 2011, he officially retired and gained the privilege of choosing what vehicles he worked on. If he had to drive a vehicle, it had to be a Pontiac; the model didn't matter, thus gaining his nickname, "Mr. Pontiac." Besides being a veteran, he also served as a fireman for 26 years with the Bangor Fire Department. In his free time, he worked and raced at the US 131 Martin Dragway along with his wife, NanCe, who he married on March 1st, 1980. His biggest enjoyment came when he was able to help his family

whenever they needed him.

Surviving him is his wife, NanCe; his children, Leeann L. (John) Rounds of Lawton, Steve (Jennifer) Piper of Breedsville; Keith (Anyssa) of Breedsville; and son by osmosis, Curt Minton; his grandchildren, Bessie Jane, and Roger; a brother, Ernest; along with many nieces, nephews and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, a grandson, Travis Rounds, and a sister-in-law M. Sue Piper.

The family will receive friends on Monday, July 15, from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at the Bangor Chapel, D.L. Miller Funeral Home. The funeral service will be on Tuesday, July 16th, at 2 PM, at the Bangor High School, Pastor Dan Stout officiating. Burial will immediately follow the service at Breedsville Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to St Jude's Children's Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org> or the American Red Cross, <https://www.redcross.org>.

# Cemetery Details

## Breedsville Cemetery

CR 380  
Breedsville, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bangor Chapel  
258 West Monroe Street  
Bangor, MI

## Visitation

JUL 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bangor Chapel  
258 West Monroe Street  
Bangor, MI

## Service

JUL 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bangor High School  
801 W. Arlington Street  
Bangor, MI 49013



# Tribute Wall

AP

“ Hey dad, we miss you very much. Wish you were still here. But, we know you're watching over us. Love you.  
-Anyssa, Keith and Roger



Anyssa, Keith, and Roger Piper - March 03, 2025 at 11:02 AM

JP

“ It is hard to miss you so much. Miss your laugh, miss that gleam in your eyes. Miss hearing you call Steve your little boy. Miss seeing your truck as you always kept an eye on all of us. You were larger than life. The only reason it's okay in the least, is because I know I will see you again Dad. Love you

Jennifer and Steve Piper - September 28, 2024 at 05:42 AM

MK

“ I spent many of summers with Ralph and spending a lot of time behind him on his Chushman Eagle traveling all over the place. He was my best man at my wedding he will be missed.just a lot of memories with him. Marvin Knecht his cousin

Marvin Knecht - July 16, 2024 at 12:35 PM



Thank you Marvin. I remember stories of that ole chushman! Along with the stagecoach.

NanCe Hart-Piper - September 29, 2024 at 12:34 AM

RK

“ Ralph’s Cousin Marvin Knecht purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph Irving Piper.



Ralph’s Cousin Marvin Knecht - July 16, 2024 at 12:20 PM

RK

“ Ralph’s Cousin Marvin Knecht planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Irving Piper.

Ralph’s Cousin Marvin Knecht - July 16, 2024 at 12:20 PM

JJ

“ Jeff and April Jeffreys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Irving Piper.

Jeff and April Jeffreys - July 15, 2024 at 07:28 AM

JJ

“ Jeff and April Jeffreys purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ralph Irving Piper.



Jeff and April Jeffreys - July 15, 2024 at 07:28 AM

UG

“ Ugsoalocal29 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Irving Piper.

Ugsoalocal29 - July 12, 2024 at 11:25 AM

UG

“ *Ugsoalocal29 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ralph Irving Piper.*



Ugsoalocal29 - July 12, 2024 at 11:25 AM

KJ

“ *So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Kathleen McKenna Johnson - July 12, 2024 at 02:02 AM



TY - Cep

NanCe Hart-Piper - September 29, 2024 at 12:35 AM

HN

“ *Hospital Network purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ralph Irving Piper.*



Hospital Network - July 11, 2024 at 01:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Irving Piper.*



July 10, 2024 at 09:50 PM

DF

“ Sorry for your loss he was a great friend



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**David @ Amanda Freislinger** - July 10, 2024 at 05:44 PM

KF

*Condolences in this difficult time*

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**Kimberly Frye** - July 11, 2024 at 04:44 PM

AS

“ First time I met Ralph I was 12 years old. I was washing cars for my Dad, George Ridley service manager at Hyma Chevrolet in the early 80's. Ralph asked my Dad who I was standing next to him and my Dad immediately introduced us. From that moment Ralph was my friend and he helped with hot rod parts, recommendations and lots of laughter while working on my hot rods always having carb issues that he would always tend to and fix. And when asked what I owed him each time he would always say, see you on race day kid that will be my payment. He stopped in often over the years at my Dads shop at Ridley Automotive or at my veggie stand on his way through to check in and bench race. Was a delight each time we met. I when not racing I always watched in envy as his Red Pontiac would line up at the starting line at Martin Dragway and launch hard always noting to whom ever I was with or standing next to Ralphs big crazy grin as he would fly by. He always told us kids when we would hang around his shop to have fun but never get in trouble or do something that may hurt anyone while street racing. Don't be stupid!! He would say, take it to the track boys!!! Ralph was some days a bit grumpy at times when he was real busy but would always apologize if he caught himself before we left. A kind, generous man and a memory in my life I will always cherish was his visit to my home after my massive heart attack bringing a big box full of Blue berries, vegetables and a Cherry pie. I will always strive to pass on that attitude to others. Till we meet again ole friend. Wheels up right foot down..... Allan S Ridley Sr

Allan S Ridley Sr - July 10, 2024 at 04:41 PM

FS

“ Family Of Al Spears, Sr. lit a candle in memory of Ralph Irving Piper



Family of Al Spears, Sr. - July 10, 2024 at 02:20 PM

MB

“ *Maggie Brooks lit a candle in memory of Ralph Irving Piper*



Maggie Brooks - July 10, 2024 at 10:29 AM

P(

“ *NanCe, I worked with you at the Sheriff's Department in dispatch in the early 90's. I often think of those times. It was stressful, but often rewarding. You spoke of your family often. So sorry.*



Penny Jackson (Cronk) - July 09, 2024 at 04:40 PM

LH

*Nance  
I'm so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. My thoughts are with you and your family 🙏  
Linda Harvey Hassler (former dispatch co-worker)*

Linda Harvey Hassler - July 11, 2024 at 03:16 AM