



Richard Lee Abernathy

August 30, 2012

Passed away August 30, 2012. Richard was born at home on the farm his grandfather homesteaded in Bloomingdale, MI on November 21, 1936, the youngest of 3 born to James R. and Cathryn A. (Weiner) Abernathy. On June 29, 1956, in Kalamazoo, MI, he was united in marriage to his wife, friend and soul mate, Janice J. Gerth. They celebrated 56 years of marriage. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and 2 sons, Douglas Alan in 1962 and Michael James in 1994. Surviving besides his wife are 2 sons, Randall Lee of Kalamazoo, MI and Mark (Marilyn) of Plainwell, MI; grandson, Randall (Terri) Abernathy II of TX; 4 granddaughters: Rachelle (Leonard) Smith and Amy Abernathy, both of Kalamazoo, Shannon (Robert) Baker of East Leroy, MI and Jessica Abernathy of Lawrence, MI. Also surviving are 7 great grandsons: Azariah, Terrence and Trenton Smith, Kyjuan Beville, all of Kalamazoo, Bailee Page and Derek Wadlington of Lawrence, MI and Caleb Abernathy of San Antonio, TX and 5 great granddaughters: Natavia Beville of Kalamazoo, Hailee Page, Katrina and Katlina Wadlington, all of Lawrence, MI and Quinn Baker of East Leroy, MI. Also surviving is a sister, Marjorie Horton of Allegan, MI and brother, Robert (Thelma) Abernathy of Portage, MI; brothers-in-law, George (Jane) Gerth, and Larry Allgiaer, both of Portage, MI and Kevin (Malia) Allgaier of Vicksburg, plus several nieces and nephews. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for 35 years before retiring in 1998. Richard worked for 25 years at Globe construction and would eventually retire from Bill Smith Sand & Gravel after 11 years of service. Rich & Jan enjoyed

wintering in Sebring, FL since 2006. He has been a member of Operating Engineers Union Local 324 since 1967. He was a long time member of Fraternal Order of Eagles 3531 Portage-Schoolcraft. Richard enjoyed welding and making things out in his barn until moving into town. After moving into town he enjoyed feeding and watching the birds and squirrels. He also bowled with his wife on senior leagues after their retirement here and in Florida; he also enjoyed planting large gardens in his younger years. Even after moving into town he still found a place that he could plant a couple tomato and pepper plants. He enjoyed having his grandkids and great grandkids visit. The family will meet friends Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the BLOOMINGDALE CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com, where the funeral service will be held Wednesday at 11 AM, Nathan Brown officiating. The family suggests memorials to Borgess Visiting Nurse & Hospice.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bloomingtondale Chapel
203 East Spring Street
Bloomingtondale, MI

Visitation

SEP 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bloomingtondale Chapel
203 East Spring Street
Bloomingtondale, MI

Service

SEP 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bloomingtondale Chapel
203 East Spring Street
Bloomingtondale, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Lorena Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee Abernathy



Lorena Montgomery - September 07, 2012 at 03:53 AM



Praying for the Abernathy family. ^_^

Lorena Montgomery - September 07, 2012 at 03:55 AM



“ Lorena Montgomery sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Lee Abernathy



Lorena Montgomery - September 07, 2012 at 03:42 AM



Soooo sorry for you'r loss!!! Praying for you Jan !!!!!!! xoxoxoxox

Lorena Montgomery - September 07, 2012 at 03:48 AM



“ Laura M. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Lee Abernathy.



Laura M. - September 04, 2012 at 10:42 AM

TA

“ We love you, Grandpa! We've already started telling baby Caleb stories about you! I never really had any grandfathers until you came into my life when I met Randy. You mean so much to Randy and I both and we will definitely miss you. As with Randy, my favorite memories of you include those late nights playing games at y'all's kitchen table. My favorite would be when you would get Grandma all riled up and then sneak a smile at us and wink. :o) Big hugs!! Grandma, we wish we could be there but we send you our warmest hugs and prayers! Love you!

Terri Abernathy - August 31, 2012 at 08:47 PM

DW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debbie Waber - August 31, 2012 at 08:21 PM

DW

“ Jan,

Our deepest sympathy goes out to you. We have wonderful memories, of time spent traveling with you and Richard. Oh! what about those u-turns we make. We always said it wasn't a trip without a u-turn. Then as couples we went to Florida and looked for a winter home together. Boy! was that a challenge. Avon Park was a disaster, but you guys found a place at Leisure Acre and we followed shortly after. Our weekly pizza and card nights. Us girls, used to beat the pants off the guys. Then there's the bowling leagues. Going to miss Richard's bright glowing smile!



Debbie Waber - August 31, 2012 at 08:11 PM

LS

“ Jan and Family,

My deepest sympathy goes out to all of you. Rich and Dale worked for many years together at Globe construction. We had many happy times of fun and laughter with Rich and Jan. Even as Dale was dying, he was sharing stories with his children. Many of them involved Globe and all the guys he worked with, Rich being one of them. May God be with all of you.

Laurel Sherburn

Laurel Sherburn - August 31, 2012 at 05:53 PM

RI

“ I think that my fondest memory of my grandfather would have to be playing cards and board games with him. He always had so much fun playing those games, weather is was kicking our butts or giving grandma hard time. I think it was his smile, laughter and little winks that really made those times so much fun and extremely memorable. I am going to miss those time for sure. Love you Grandpa and you are going to be missed by so many.

Your loving Grandson,

Randy



Randall Lee Abernathy II - August 31, 2012 at 11:31 AM

AC

Deepest Sympathy to you Amy - I know how much your grandpa meant to you. Love, Angel, Pat, Mark, David & Saige <3

Angelina Clark - August 31, 2012 at 07:02 PM

BM

I will never forget all the good times we had rest in piece my good friend BettieMay

Bettie may - August 31, 2012 at 08:22 PM

CM

Jan and family, So sorry about Richard's death. Has been along time since we have connected, but I know you and your family are still apart of mine. Blessings to all of you - Connie C. Madray

Connie C. Madray - December 04, 2024 at 01:57 PM