



Raymond G. Gager DDS

July 2, 1938 - August 12, 2019

Raymond George Gager was born in Lansing, Michigan on July 2, 1938 to George and Cecilia (Fedewa) Gager. After graduating from St. Mary Cathedral High School, he entered Michigan State University where he earned his undergraduate degree. He then went on to the University of Detroit Mercy and completed his doctorate in dentistry.

Ray practiced dentistry for over 40 years in Charlotte. In all those years, he only missed three days of work. He was a consummate professional who cared about the well being of all his patients. Although the days could be long, he loved his work because it was an opportunity to provide exceptional care and improve someone's life. He always took the time to get to know his patients as people.

Ray was a dedicated family man. He was happily married to his bride of 52 wonderful years. They not only were devoted life-partners; they were the best of friends. They raised three children - Matthew, Mary, and Megan. Ray and Jo embraced the challenges of raising their special needs son, Matthew, and saw the joy, beauty, and blessing of his life. They were committed to giving their son his light to shine.

Ray was a very humble servant. He had a family that he loved and who loved and adored him. He had an exceptional talent for making others feel valued and important, and would put others before himself. He was a kind, outgoing, and generous soul that touched the lives of so many people. He was a forever optimist - the glass wasn't half-full, it was overflowing. He saw the very best in people. He was a kind, genuine person that loved to laugh.

Ray found opportunities to help make his community better. He was involved in Rotary, Mobile Meals, and Special Olympics. He loved to spend time outdoors with family and friends. He enjoyed playing golf (not always well), walking with his beloved dogs (around 4-7 miles a day), riding his bike, swimming with his grandchildren, and sailing. He worked out at ALIVE Creative Wellness Center every morning at 5:30 and would enjoy coffee with the fellas. He treasured his time with his family and friends at their cottage on Lake

Michigan. Ray and Jo built many lifelong friendships with their Lost Valley neighbors. In the winter, he traveled south to Alabama where he enjoyed golf with the guys, cocktail hour, and walking on the beach.

Ray Gager passed away on August 12, 2019. He is survived by his son, Matthew Raymond Gager; daughters, Mary Gager (Jack) Drew, Megan Elizabeth (Joe) McCall; grandchildren, Madison, Ray, Maggie, and Katie; sisters, Janet Morgan and Joan Rademacker; many nieces and nephews; and many special friends.

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the House of Ruth, in honor of Ray Gager, 625 Tirrell Road, Charlotte, MI 48813. Friends are encouraged to support Ray's family at visitation and memorial services. Memorial services are Thursday, August 15, 2019, 11:00 AM at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte. Visitation is Wednesday, August 14, 5-8:00 PM with an affirmation service at 7:30 PM. Friends and family are asked to share memories of Ray on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Deepdale Memorial Gardens

4108 Old Lansing Road
Lansing
Lansing, MI 48917

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **14**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Family Affirmation Service

AUG **14**. 7:30 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

AUG **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond G. Gager DDS*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 13, 2019 at 01:35 AM

LG

Dr. Hager saved our sons teeth after a barrel blew up and knocked him right out of the back of his Dad's truck. He was already our family dentist. He will be missed. Sorry for the families loss.

Lois Gardner - August 13, 2019 at 03:36 PM

RM

Thoughts and prayers for his family and friends. He was a great man. Enjoyed our chats.

Robin Mitschke - August 14, 2019 at 02:00 PM

WK

“ *I am so sorry to hear about your dad passing away. He was a class act and I know he is missed.*

Wally Kurzeja - August 18, 2019 at 08:14 PM

TF

“ *So sorry to hear about Ray's passing. We have many memories over the years of growing up on Pleasant St. with he, Jo and the kids. Also are very thankful for having Ray mentor our family hygenist! Thoughts and prayers with Matt, Mary & Megan and family. Many happy memories. RIP.
The Hoberg family.*

The Hoberg Family - August 16, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Ray’s passing. I lived across the street from him in Sanstone. I will miss seeing him walking his dog and seeing him at the mailbox with a smiling good morning

Jan Huismann



Jan Huismann - August 16, 2019 at 09:48 AM

TH

“ Ray will be missed. I enjoyed assisting ray in the care of his patients
Dr Ted Hagan

Ted Hagan - August 14, 2019 at 07:26 PM

RC

“ A wonderful man who will be greatly missed.

Dr. Gager was our family dentist (1968 until he retired), a friend and fantastic neighbor. As a child I was never afraid of going to the dentist - I always loved to go! My children also had the incredible benefit of Dr. Gager as their dentist and looked forward to their appointments. We really enjoyed visiting the Gager home on Halloween for Trick-or-Treat because the children would all receive a new toothbrush! We lived very close by and passed the Gager home many, many times on bike rides, out rollerblading, and walking. We knew that was a home full of enduring love for their family, friends, and community.

Roxanne Hannold Curry

Roxanne Hannold Curry - August 14, 2019 at 11:29 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of
Raymond G. Gager DDS.



August 14, 2019 at 08:59 AM

RC

“ So sorry to hear about the loss I knew Matt I went to school with Matt bubba
you're such a nice person

Renee Chapman - August 14, 2019 at 08:43 AM

CM

“ Ray was our family dentist for 45 years. He was a kind, gentle man and always had a big smile. He will be missed. My condolences to Jo and the whole family.

Carol Martens - August 13, 2019 at 10:58 PM

JG

“ I sat next to Ray during Dental School. Ray was a friend that I will never forget. Soft spoken, a real quality person who never had a bad word for anyone. He was liked by everyone in our class. I consider myself very lucky to have known Ray and he will be missed by all of us that knew him.



Joel Grand - August 13, 2019 at 10:51 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



August 13, 2019 at 10:10 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



August 13, 2019 at 09:34 PM

JG

“ I am sorry to have heard of Ray's passing. Enjoyed the morning door count down and stories at the table at Alive! With the Coffee Fella group. You could tell how amazing and caring Ray was, the Lord got another angel.
Jake Gaitan

Jake Gaitan - August 13, 2019 at 08:35 PM

LB

“ Dr Gager was my family dentist. As I was approaching HS graduation he asked me of my future plans. I shared I was considering nursing but not yet confirmed. He offered to let me job shadow in his practice and that was my turning point to study Dental Hygiene. I am still practicing 37 years later and I always give credit to this wonderful man and mentor who led me to a career I love. As a patient he always made you feel secure and cared for...I will always remember at a dental exam when I as a young teen decided to have chocolate milk and juicy fruit gum as my daily routine...he leaned back in his chair and looked at my x rays and said.." You know Lori, you and I are going to spending some time together " and that we did !!!

I know he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him but what a wonderful legacy he leaves for all of us.

Lori Fremody Brown

Lori Fremody Brown - August 13, 2019 at 08:08 PM

KF

“ I was a patient of his for many years. He was a wonderful, kind, and caring man. I am sad to hear this. Prayers

Kim Fillmore - August 13, 2019 at 07:40 PM

IV

“ This sweet man made me who I am today! Ray took me under his wing when I was 17, still in high school. He taught me and listened to me, he treated me like a sister. It was because of Ray that I pursued a career in Dentistry. When it was possible he granted me a Job as a Dental Hygienist in his office. And I loved my job, how could I not when working for a gentleman like Dr. Gager. Christmas with the staff was always a wonderful delicious dinner in the Gager home. Like I said we were family. Without Ray in my life I would not have become who I am today. Thank you Ray, give Jo a kiss and know I loved you.

Irene Vasilion - August 13, 2019 at 04:18 PM



Nancy
Anderso

Irene, you and Dr. Gager had a huge impact on my career. Many thanks to you both!
Nancy Anderson RDH

Nancy Anderson - August 13, 2019 at 08:22 PM

KG

“ Kathy Gardener lit a candle in memory of Raymond G. Gager DDS



Kathy Gardener - August 13, 2019 at 04:16 PM

AA

“ Ray was a great guy and will be missed by all of us but never forgotten. Alan Abrams

Alan Abrams - August 13, 2019 at 04:15 PM

KG

“ I was just shocked to read about Ray. Alive won't be the same in the morning. As the early birds waited outside for Alive to open at 5:30, Ray would keep track of how many seconds we had till they opened the door. Ladies first he would say, so of course I went ahead. Ray had a smile even at 5:30 he was a friend to all! He would say good morning to all those who passed by him at the gym. He will be sadly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Kathy Gardener

Kathy Gardener - August 13, 2019 at 04:15 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



August 13, 2019 at 04:13 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



August 13, 2019 at 04:04 PM

CL

“ Dr. Gager was our Dentist for years! We were told by a orthodontist that our daughter needed jaw surgery when she was fourteen. They gave us the exrays & everything so Dr .Gager could check it out for us. He took extra time to explain it to us, even though the other Dr had, but Dr Gager did it in language we could understand. We went ahead with the surgery. Dr Gager Checked on us after the Surgery & called a couple times to see how it was going! He & Jo were the kindest people!

Carol LaCross - August 13, 2019 at 03:25 PM

CW

“ Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Raymond G. Gager DDS



Chad & Carol Walker - August 13, 2019 at 11:36 AM

BZ

“ Your Peckham Family is grieving with you over the loss of Ray Gager. He was such a part of our lives here. He came to every client event he could and always served with a smile and open arms. His commitment to his community was front and center. He was one of the good guys and we will miss him so much. Know that your Peckham Family is here to help during this sad time, so call on us if there is anything we can do to help you or your family.

Love, always, Your Peckham Family -

Bonnie Zimmerman - August 13, 2019 at 10:55 AM

KD

“ Kurt & Deb Droppers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



Kurt & Deb Droppers - August 13, 2019 at 09:47 AM

PC

“ PETER J KOPPY AND CONNIE AND STEVE COUSINEAU purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



PETER J KOPPY AND CONNIE AND STEVE COUSINEAU - August 13, 2019 at 08:20 AM

JM

“ More than 40 years ago, Ray welcomed me to Charlotte. I was a newly graduated dentist, and he took the opportunity to welcome a colleague, and never viewed me as a competitor. This was my first experience with his warm and welcoming manner. His attitude of joy and giving truly inspired me, both inside and outside of my practice.
Jeffrey Maier

Jeffrey Maier - August 13, 2019 at 08:03 AM

PK

“ GOING TO MISS RAY AND YAEGER TAKING A WALK DOWN CHADS WAY!HAD A FEW LAUGHS TOGETHER BY OUR DRIVEWAYS!PETER J.KOPPY-NEIGHBOR!REST IN PEACE RAY

peter j kopyy - August 13, 2019 at 07:53 AM

TA

“ The coffee fellas from Alive purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Raymond G. Gager DDS.



The coffee fellas from Alive - August 13, 2019 at 07:01 AM

EA

“ I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. We are all going to miss him down at Alive! The coffee club won't be the same without him.

Ed Allen

Ed Allen - August 13, 2019 at 06:57 AM



“ 61 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 13, 2019 at 01:31 AM