



## Richard Eugene Van Fossen II

April 11, 1948 - April 14, 2022

Richard "Rick" Eugene Van Fossen, II, a man who strived to make something he was proud of, died April 14, 2022. Rick, 74, of Eaton Rapids, formerly of Potterville was born April 11, 1948 in Flint to Richard and Evelyn (Petherbridge) Van Fossen, Sr. Rick was a proud father who supported his children in whatever goals they set for themselves and whenever they did something wrong, he would smile to himself as he thought "I did that once". He was a natural leader and teacher. Rick coached baseball, softball, basketball, and wrestling, and all of the kids he coached were "his kids". After he stopped coaching, he could be found in the stands cheering them on. Building a successful construction company of over 40 years was one of Rick's many talents. He couldn't have done it without Bill Bill and LeRoy, among others. People trusted him to do it right and he did! Rick was an outdoorsman. He loved being outdoors, hunting, fishing, and golfing were some of his favorite hobbies. You could catch him taking pot-shots at squirrels off the deck as his orange pellets were left standing everywhere. As a story teller people were drawn to him. He would fill their lives with jokes and an infectious laugh that you couldn't get enough of. Rick served his country as a Airborne Ranger in the Army, he was loving, always happy (well most of the time) and will be missed by many.

Rick is survived by his wife, Theresa; daughter, Jen (Chuck) Sesniak; son, Josh (Ashley) Van Fossen; grandchildren; Izzy Sesniak; Evan, Mason and Roman Van Fossen; brother, Mike Van Fossen. He was predeceased by his parents, Richard (Dick) Evelyn (Petherbridge) Van Fossen, Sr.; sister, Diane Van Fossen Paine and niece, Kelly Van Fossen.

Friends and family are encouraged to support his family by sharing memories on his tribute page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com) Visitation will be Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:00-2:00 pm. Funeral services are Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or American Cancer Society. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

## Memorial Service

APR 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 19 at 07:47 PM



“ 22 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 19 at 07:45 PM

TV

“ I could share so many great stories and memories. His laugh was contagious and his jokes were always the life of the party. I'm happy to have known him my entire life and will miss him dearly.

*My condolences to the entire family. Thank you for sharing him with all of us.*

Trisha VanderMoere - April 18 at 07:47 PM

RW

“ Rick was a great person to no we always shared bbq food and his wife good salsa and my wife tamales he will be missed by us at menards west

Robert woods - April 18 at 07:10 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.*



April 18 at 05:21 PM

JG

“ *Rick was a natural born story teller and listening to him was so much fun. The world seems a bit darker today without Rick. R.I.P. Rick and when you see Clark in heaven and decide to throw the football around, watch out for the horse trailer. Sending gentle hugs to Teresa, Jennifer, Josh and families*

Jill Gidner - April 18 at 10:43 AM

MC

“ *Gonna miss you ... you were a true measure of a man. Potterville will never be the same. Save me a seat at the table ... Rest easy big guy*



Marcia Casey-Cole - April 18 at 01:00 AM

TM

“ *What a gentleman Rick was. There were a lot of stories over the years especially with the Heinzes right next door, but will share one story of this great guy. He cracked my little league team in 1979 or maybe 1980. I had a good arm and he had me pitching. Well apparently my head kept getting bigger as the year went on and there was some success. Or maybe just from Rick's coaching me up. Well we were having a practice and he asked a couple of kids to go out and play in right field. They started out that way. I asked them why they were going to what was actually left field. Coach said He asked them to go out to right field. In my ten year old brain, right field was the right hand side for the pitcher. I explained this to him. He didn't belittle me or chew me out. He just gave that kind good natured chuckle he had and said well alright then, let's just have them go play your left field then. I learned soon I was wrong but his kind approach left quite a mark. This was almost 42 years ago after all and I could paint the whole scene if asked. Just the best kind of athlete, sportsman, mentor, and human. Will be dearly missed by our community for sure.*

Tim Mohre - April 17 at 08:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.*



April 17 at 08:07 AM

BS

“ *Rick was larger than life and knew how to live it. He will be missed by so many. We will never forget the advice he gave us years ago...."Where there is a will, there is a way to get it done." Awesome advice from a man who knew his business!! RIP Rick, if you can. Pretty sure God's House will be updated and fixed with Rick in it!!!!*

**Bernie & Phyllis Snider** - April 17 at 07:24 AM

JP

“ *Your journey continues Rick . . . will always remember the good times we had in Mr McAllen's trigonometry class and the Senior Trip on the SS South American . .*

*John Parsons  
PHS Class of 1966*

**JOHN PARSONS** - April 16 at 05:47 PM

TL

“ *I've worked with Rick for most of his 40 year construction career. I consider Rick as a very close friend. One of my best memories is when Rick decided to compete in the BBQ competitions we were involved with. He was a very good chef (with Teresa's help) but was not aware of all the rules and regulations of the KCBS BBQ society. We would always find him, behind the scene, asking for secrets and tips. Our team gave him the nickname " The BBQ MOLE" and we had such a great time competing together. Rick didn't win many events but he sure made every event much more fun. May The BBQ MOLE Rest In Peace. He will be greatly missed by many. Respectfully Submitted, Toad Logan*

**Toad Logan** - April 16 at 08:06 AM

M(

“ I officially met Rick 26 years ago when my husband, Bill, started working with him. We quickly became part of his clan (like so many others). Because Rick’s BBQ/smoking knowledge was over the top, he was often asked to cook for someone’s event. When Rick cooked for an event, that usually meant that I was volunteered to make the cheesy (wedding) potatoes. It got to where he didn’t even need to ask, if I knew Rick was cooking, I knew what my job was. From time to time, I would show up at a jobsite to bring something that they just had to have (many times that was food). I can still hear him say, “hey there little mama” (which he said often when he saw me). I loved listening to him tell his stories, or hum/sing while he worked. His booming voice and loud, infectious laugh made it easy to locate him anywhere in Menards. Bill and I feel so blessed to be part of Rick and Theresa’s extended family.

My thoughts, prayers, and love is sent to you all! ☐

Michelle Beckwith (Mushy) - April 15 at 11:39 PM

WZ

“ With Love, Sarah (Jamros) and Bryan Zera purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.



With Love, Sarah (Jamros) and Bryan Zera - April 15 at 08:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.



April 15 at 08:56 PM

KF

“ Rick finished a family room in my basement at my house and mom enjoyed seeing him. Mom and dad really like Rick. He was a wonderful man and he will be missed by a lot of people. I won’t be able to make the visitation or service cause of an appointment I’ve changed three times already. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Rest In Peace. Kelli Face

Kelli Face - April 15 at 07:32 PM

MH

“ I met Rick 28 years ago working for him at a factory in lansing. Have worked with him numerous times since then. Truly one of the nicest, funniest, and kindest guys that I have ever met. I just wish he could have seen our kitchen that bill and Leroy did for us recently. He would have been proud of the guys. RIP Rick, I will remember you forever, and smile every time I think of you

Matt haines - April 15 at 06:03 PM

EO

“ Elaine Olson sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II



Elaine olson - April 15 at 03:48 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.



April 15 at 03:36 PM

MH

“ I am honored to call Rick my friend for the last 60 years. We played sports together at Potterville. We hunted together over the years. We were golf partners. We tested our barbabue skills many times. Rick was a mentor and second father to my son Trever. We damaged many a clay pigeon. We attended all sorts of Potterville sporting events every chance we had. Rick had a regular presence in the Potterville Community as well as Eaton County and surrounding communities. The laugh, the humor, the stories were endless. Everyone knew and loved Rick and he touched many lives for 74 years. You were the best friend anyone could ask for and you will be dearly missed. My heart goes out to the family and remember we love you all and will always be here for you. Rest in peace my dear friend. Mike Heinze

Mike Heinze - April 15 at 03:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.



April 15 at 03:03 PM

DL

“ *Rick was hard working and a good man. He helped a great many and always had a kind word. I respected him very much. If there were more like him, the world would be a much better place. My thoughts and prayers are with the Van Fossen family.*

**Danny Leonard** - April 15 at 02:41 PM

PS

“ *Rick will be missed by everyone in the Potterville/Charlotte area because he seemed to know everyone. You always had to add extra time when you were going somewhere with Rick because he had to stop and talk with someone he knew (or didn't know). I will especially miss the stories he told about things he had done and seen even though I had heard them at least three times (the stories never varied so they must be true). Several times I have sat next to him in a golf cart while he is telling someone a story. I am nodding along with him like I had been there. He was the best friend a guy could have and it will take some time before I get used to the fact that he is not around.*  
*Peter Schlitz*

**Peter Schlitz** - April 15 at 02:14 PM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.



April 15 at 01:54 PM

FR

“ From Everyone at Campbell Press Repair purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Eugene Van Fossen II.



From Everyone at Campbell Press Repair - April 15 at 01:04 PM

LT

“ In all the years of Rick and the gang doing work for us at rental homes and project houses, we did so much brainstorming together, shared frustrations, incredible cupcakes, and SO many laughs in the stupidity of so many situations! Just recently was the hardest laugh I've ever shared with Rick when one day, in the driveway freshly done by them, in an “upper crust neighborhood “, we noticed the neighbor was sweeping her entire back yard with a broom! It didn't stop until she did the whole yard! We both giggled until my sides absolutely hurt! Then he left. This was typical of working with him. Life was enjoyed and laughed at in the midst of whatever was happening! Hearing him hum and sing (give me some beef and beans tonight!) was always a joy too! We will miss him as a contractor, terribly, but even more as just such a dear friend! Our hearts are with you all!  
Lynn Turner

lynn Turner - April 15 at 12:00 PM

JH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Rick's passing He did work for us when we first moved to Potterville, 40 years ago and I was so excited to find he was still working last summer - he came back to do more amazing cement work He ALWAYS went above and beyond, with so many stories to share while he encouraged his crew to do their best RIP Rick, Prayers and thoughts to family and friends

John and Jackie Hampton

john and Jackie Hampton - April 14 at 08:21 PM

CL

I'm so sorry to learn of Mr. VanFossen passing. I delivered the newspaper to his parents home as a child, & first met him then. Our paths crossed a few years ago as a visiting nurse, & we discussed his hunting exploits from his back porch!  
Rest easy, Sir-  
Claude Leblanc, FNP

claude leblanc - April 15 at 12:03 AM

JR

*So sorry to hear this news  
Rick helped us many times in Potterville. We all were like family  
We worked and played together. You and don't root behave yourselves. Love to  
Theresa and family. Joyce root*

**Joyce e root** - April 15 at 07:32 AM

DG

*My prayers are with the family, Rick was a friend of mine for years. I know he was very  
involved in the Potterville community.*

**Donald Glass** - April 15 at 08:44 AM

KF

*So sorry to hear of his passing. Rick did work at my house and my mom Inez Face  
really liked Rick. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.*

**Kelli Face** - April 15 at 09:32 AM

JG

*I am so sorry to hear this. Rick was a force of nature and never failed to bring a smile  
to the faces of those listening to his stories. RIP Rick and I hope you and Clark stay  
away from the horse trailers.*

**Jill Gidner** - April 15 at 09:33 AM

DC

*The first time I met Rick he tagged me with the name, "Dan the Man without a  
plan" LOL! I'm gonna miss seeing him...a lot!*



**dan clements** - April 15 at 10:00 AM

TS

*Sorry to hear of Rick's passing. I grew up with the Snider family and met Rick when  
they moved to Potterville. Rick always seemed to be larger than life and made you  
feel welcome. My prayers and thoughts are with Theresa and the whole family. Tom  
Savage*

**Tom Savage** - April 15 at 02:33 PM