



Forest Oral Ripley

October 31, 1945 - January 23, 2026

Forest Oral Ripley, 80, of Marshall, a man with a love for the open road, died peacefully surrounded by his beloved family on Friday, January 23, 2026. Forest was born on October 31, 1945, in Homer, the son of Oral and Dorothy (Conley) Ripley of Marshall, Michigan. He grew up in Lee Township in the farming community and remained a lifelong farmer. Forest graduated from Olivet High School in 1964 and went to work in various trades before settling into becoming a professional truck driver. He retired from Holland Motor Freight, where he earned his over a million-mile accident free jacket. He married the love of his life, Karen Sue Kunkel on November 23, 1968, and the two settled into family life in Lee township.

Forest loved being with his family. Growing up his son and daughter enjoyed when they were able to go on a trip with dad. His great-grandchildren loved visiting for tractor rides and the candy treats that were also always involved. His dedication to farming came with a passion for Ford tractors and trucks. He was especially fond of his 1956 Victoria and candy apple red 1967 Fairlane. Forest loved the outdoors as well, especially hunting and fishing, and traveling the road to various flea markets and auction sales.

Forest is survived by his wife of 57 years, Karen Ripley; daughter, Tammy Wine; son, Tony Ripley; grandchildren, April "Nikki" (Gage) Mingus and David (Hannah) Wine; and great-grandchildren, Karlee Cotter, Izayah Mingus,

Dominic Mingus, Lyla Wine and Mia Wine. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Tracy and Trixie Ripley.

Friends are encouraged to support Forest's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eaton Rapids with Pastor Mark Eckert officiating. Visitation and refreshments will take place from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the church just prior to the service. Visitation will also take place from 1:00 - 3:00 and 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Interment will follow in Lee Center Cemetery. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Forest's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eaton Rapids. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Lee Center Cemetery

21812 V Drive N
Olivet, MI 49076

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

FEB 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

FEB 3. 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
10500 Plains Hwy
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Funeral

FEB 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
10500 Plains Hwy
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Burial

FEB 3 (ET)

Lee Center Cemetery
21812 V Drive N
Olivet, MI 49076

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Forest Oral Ripley



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 02 at 05:29 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Forest Oral Ripley



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 01 at 06:07 PM

MD

Wonderful family photo's
So very precious ❤️🙏

Mary Daily - February 02 at 04:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 02 at 01:56 PM



“ *Willie karla and families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Forest Oral Ripley.*



Willie karla and families - February 02 at 06:37 AM



“ 40 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 01 at 05:59 PM

TH

“ I’m sorry to hear about Forest passing. He was very happy with his family and all they became. He was always willing to help anyone who needed it he will be missed. Tammy Heisler.

Tammy Heisler - January 31 at 06:45 PM

MF

“ Michigan Nordic Fire Festival purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Forest Oral Ripley.



Michigan Nordic Fire Festival - January 30 at 03:17 PM

MD

“ Mary Daily purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Forest Oral Ripley.



Mary Daily - January 30 at 12:05 PM

RO

“ When our loved ones pass, we offer the most sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers to try to help ease the pain of the loss. My uncle Forest went through a lot in his life and had the most amazing wife, my Aunt Karen, to be there with him through it all. They are the pillar of what marriage is about and how love can withstand all things 🙏

In March of 1978, shortly after I was born, my parents blessed me with choosing them as my Godparents along with my aunt Angela Holland and uncle Richard Kunkel. They are all faithful people and love their family whole heartedly. In the posted picture, my uncle Forest is holding me as I am about to receive my baptismal blessing.

Here's to celebrating the life lived of my Godfather Forest and may you rest in peace with our heavenly Father. May our good Lord bless you and keep you dear uncle 🙏💕 To my cousins Tammey Wine and Tony Ripley and aunt Karen, I love y'all with all that I am and pray for your strength.

Roxanne Ortiz - January 25 at 06:24 PM