



James Robert Sawade

December 6, 1980 - December 18, 2025

James Robert Sawade, 45, of Olivet, died unexpectedly on Thursday, December 18, 2025. James was born December 6, 1980, in Grayling, the son of Waldo Jay and Julie May (Iverson) Sawade. Growing up, he was partially raised by his foster parents, Terry and Patty Paul, who continued to be an important part of Jame's life. He married the love of his life, Stephanie Nicole Franklin, on August 21, 2021. James was happiest driving his Black Betty RZR and especially enjoyed weekends at the racetrack. He loved time spent in the outdoors camping, hunting, and having "pork chops" with friends. James was always there to help others. He was known to do "anything for a Heineken," but really it was his loving nature and concern for others that led him to give the shirt of his back. James was also known as the "inventor of shenanigans," and was everyone's backyard mechanic. He was the best husband, father, brother and son.

James is survived by his wife, Stephanie; son, Wyatt Jay Sawade; daughter, Willow Rayne Sawade; step-sons, Justin and Joe Tourangeau; brother, Ben (Mary) Sawade; half-brother, Allen Iverson; nieces and nephews, Leah Reed, Bella Hubbard, Samara Hubbard, Bo and Miles Wymer, Gracelynn Franklin, Rhylah Franklin; his foster parents, Terry and Patty Paul and several extended family members and close friends. He was predeceased by his parents and his best friend, Jason Luce.

Friends are encouraged to support James' family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation will be from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 27, 2025. Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 27, 2025 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Pastor Terry LaDuke officiating. 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 James' tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to a fund that will be established to support Wyatt and Willow. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **27**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

DEC **27**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of James Robert Sawade



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 27, 2025 at 08:18 AM

TW

That's was beautiful thanks for doing a live for us that was not able to make it, yes he was a great man, I'm so I got to grow up with him, he was one of my best friends, and the whole family was close growing his brother was my brothers best friend that's how I got to know him and Ben.. and I love them both very much friends/ family.. rest in peace my dear friend til we seen each other again

Tammy Wood - December 27, 2025 at 02:39 PM

JL

Wonderful service.

Jason LaForge - December 27, 2025 at 05:16 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of James Robert Sawade



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 23, 2025 at 06:41 PM

CH

“ Clayton and Amber Hella planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert Sawade.

Clayton and Amber Hella - December 26, 2025 at 08:53 PM

CH

“ Clayton and Amber Hella purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Robert Sawade.



Clayton and Amber Hella - December 26, 2025 at 08:53 PM

CK

“ Corey and Martina Biddinger, and kids. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert Sawade.

Corey and Martina Biddinger, and kids. - December 25, 2025 at 10:54 AM

CK

“ Corey and Martina Biddinger, and kids. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Robert Sawade.



Corey and Martina Biddinger, and kids. - December 25, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ Darryl and Kim Smith purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Robert Sawade.



Darryl and Kim Smith - December 24, 2025 at 01:48 AM



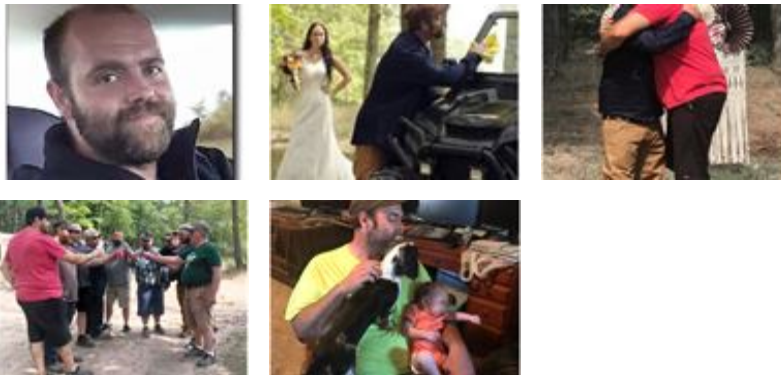
“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Robert Sawade.



December 23, 2025 at 09:35 PM



“ 55 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 23, 2025 at 06:35 PM

AB

“ I met James living in an old farmhouse out in Charlotte / Potterville area. We occupied different areas of a large house. We got to know each other pretty fast as he was always very fun to hang around. I could never keep up with his energy and his wanting to adventure doing anything outdoors. I remember he loved his cars and motor toys and I never remember him in a bad mood. He became even happier after being with Stephanie and everyone knew they were meant to be together. He got a job with my family in Lansing and worked there for quite some time. We shared a place in Lansing for a little while and James & Stephanie got their own place. I remember them being so happy. We lost contact over the years but I will never forget him and he is an amazing man. I am so sorry for Stephanie's loss and I pray for her strength through this and their children. Many people will miss James and we need more people like him on this Earth.

Adam B - December 23, 2025 at 06:04 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Robert Sawade.



December 22, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ I met James and Stephanie while we worked at kansmackers. What I remember about James was his love he has for Stephanie. She would always show up at the shop, and you could tell that these two were destined to be together. He was always happy 🤗 I'm sure Stephanie had everything to do with that. Along came Wyatt and you could see it in his eyes that he knew what he had to do. We talked about getting away from kansmackers because we would end up nowhere with the company. I was happy to see that he also got out and ended up where he was, wrenching. I found him at his other job after I suffered a traumatic brain injury and reached out to him to catch back up. He was that kind of guy you wanted to be around, fun loving guy! He knew you were the love of his life Stephanie and I'm sure you knew that, I remember the laughs you two shared, just wish my disability didn't get in the way of me watching the two of you go through life and come over and have a dinner. I'm so sorry for your loss 🙏 and I pray for your strength to overcome the loss. Always will be in my thoughts! Love you James!

Herman Calkins - December 22, 2025 at 04:09 PM

GB

“ The first time I met James was in Grayling on a jeep outing, he was driving a jeep liberty I think it was and he was having a great time thrashing that thing. I'll never forget that day or the fun we all had. Prayers for the family and friends.

Glen Benson - December 22, 2025 at 03:15 PM

SR

“ I did not know James for a long time, however it felt like friends forever. He loved to share his love of the outdoors, snowmobiles and the UP when we talked. He loved his children, wife and family and was a great coworker and would help with anything that was needed.
He will forever be greatly missed.

Su Reeder - December 22, 2025 at 02:55 PM