



## Raymond Howard Bigford

June 19, 1941 - October 2, 2024

Raymond "Ray" Howard Bigford, a man who was known as the favorite for his sense of humor, died on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at the age of 83, Raymond of Charlotte, was born on June 19, 1941 to Albert and Ester (Johnson) Bigford, Sr. in Jackson, Michigan. He attended and graduated from High School from Laingsburg in the class of 1959. Ray was a familiar face at Olivet College serving as the Head Housekeeper beginning in 1986 and retired in 2008 and took great pride in the relationships over the years. On April 23, 1966, Ray married Dorothy Collins and they enjoyed their 46 years together until her passing in 2012. In his younger years he enjoyed fishing and hunting. Each year he looked forward to the family rabbit and squirrel hunting adventures and Deer camp spent with the guys each year. Ray loved to bowl, participating in various bowling leagues, and enjoyed singing as well as playing his guitar. He was a faithful member of the former South Cochran Church of God in Charlotte. Ray loved reading his Bible and attending church each Sunday. Above all his biggest joy in life came from his family.

Raymond is survived by his daughter, Dawn McLeod; grandchildren, Heidi (Jonathon Wicker) McLeod, Krystal (Arynn) Moon, Raymond McLeod, Tyler (Shasta) McLeod; great-grandchildren, Raylen, Leon, Sondra, Joseph, and Taylor-Rose; siblings, Marilyn (Jan) Vantassel, David Bigford, Shirley (Thomas) Mahoney, and Albert Bigford Jr.; and numerous extended family members. He was predeceased by

his parents; his wife, Dorothy; siblings, Bob Bigford, Frank Bigford, Terry Bigford, and Cathy Bigford.

Friends are encouraged to support Raymond's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com) <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. Visitation is Friday, October 11, 2024, from 4-7:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Funeral Services are Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home with Rebecca Douglas officiating. Burial will take place in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Orland, Indiana. 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](http://www.prayfuneral.com) <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>, click on Raymond'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 family payable to Pray Funeral Home to assist with funeral expenses. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **11.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral

OCT **12.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Raymond Howard Bigford*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - October 12, 2024 at 03:10 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond Howard Bigford*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - October 09, 2024 at 06:21 PM

SB

“ *Sorry, this is the first I seen this, only a year late. I remember many years ago on a Sunday afternoon after church we were playing ball, i pitched to Ray and he hit a line drive right back at me and broke my nose. Lost track of Ray when I went in the Army in 1960.*

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**Steve Beach** - December 01, 2025 at 02:03 PM

BW

“ To Dawn and Family: Sincere condolences from my family to yours on the loss of your Dad. His was a life well-lived. The Bigford family became our neighbors in Laingsburg in 1961. Ray was already a jolly old soul who never took even the hard stuff too seriously. He was good to the core. My younger sister shared how in 1966 Ray stayed with the family in Charlotte before he married your Mom (and I'm sure it was to be closer to her). The sisters, 8 and 9 yrs old walked home at Noon every day from the old Cochran Rd one room schoolhouse to a lunch your Dad prepared for them. As I said, he was a good man. Take heart - his goodness and faithfulness are being rewarded. Brenda Jackson Whitenight



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**Brenda Whitenight** - October 12, 2024 at 01:01 PM

PD

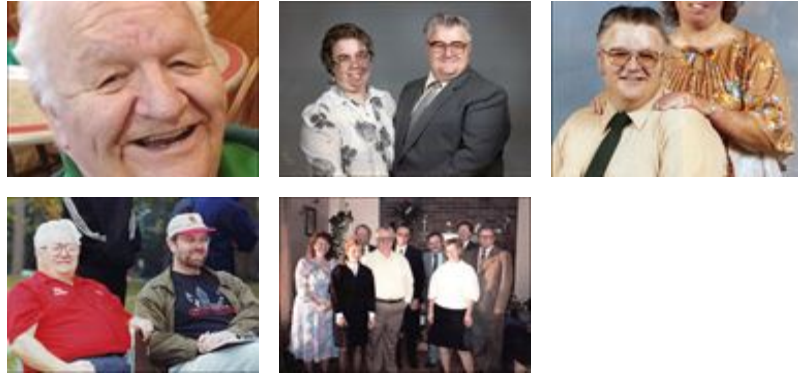
“ I cannot remember how many years that Ray and I bowled together, but I know it was enough to watch you grow up Dawn. He absolutely loved my maple syrup when I started making it, so each year I gave him a small bottle. What a voice, I remember the first time I heard him sing and wanted more, now God has that beautiful and he is again with the love of his life Dorothy. Our Prayers are with all of you. Ray will be sorely missed.

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**Patrick & Helen Diamond** - October 11, 2024 at 12:21 PM



“ 35 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 09, 2024 at 02:16 PM

EC

“ Sending our condolences from the staff at ECHRS

ECHRS - October 07, 2024 at 01:48 PM

AR

“ Sending my love to all of you. Ray will be missed. The bowling Sundays were always a fun time. Love you Santa clause!

Amy ruthruf - October 05, 2024 at 07:54 AM

DH

“ Our thoughts and prayers to all of the Bigford family. Brinda and Dave Hawkins

David L Hawkins - October 05, 2024 at 07:32 AM

TL

“ Dawn and family so sorry for your loss, I will always remember all the good times and jokes I had with Ray at bowling alley. I know he will be missed very much he was one of those guys that loved his family and grand kids from all the stories we talk about. My thoughts and prayer for you all

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**Todd Lahr** - October 04, 2024 at 07:21 PM

TW

“ Sending heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the family. Ray was an incredible person with a beautiful singing voice, and he will be deeply missed. My family and the Bigfords go way back.

*This pic is on that I took back in 2006 for a little video I put together for the church.*



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**Tom Winters** - October 04, 2024 at 05:09 PM