



Roger Lee Corey

June 3, 1954 - February 3, 2020

Roger L. Corey, a quiet and gentle man that silently supported the Village of Vermontville in many ways, died February 3, 2020 at the age of 65. Roger was born June 3, 1954 in Charlotte to Marion and Flossie (Case) Corey, and lived his entire life in Vermontville. A graduate of Maple Valley High School in 1972, Roger had a real love for his community and did many things throughout his life to support his hometown, always behind the scenes and with no fanfare or recognition of his contributions.

He spent many years as a volunteer for the Vermontville Fire Department. His real passion, however, was the baseball diamond at Maplewood school, used by the Maple Valley High School. Roger single-handedly made sure the field was meticulously cared for, mowing it himself every week, caring for the field before and after games, ensuring that a sprinkler system was installed so the grass was fantastic, and organizing and helping build a press box. Hundreds of young baseball and softball players enjoyed this field over the years.

Roger worked for the United States Postal Service for 33 years as a rural carrier in Bellevue until his retirement in 2009. At home, he enjoyed an extensive collection of Coca Cola memorabilia, and had a love for trains, old tractors, and several beloved cats over the years. He loved to bowl, target practice with his guns, and attend auctions/sales. Roger enjoyed giving to others, and was very humble and kind.

Roger is survived by many cousins, including: John Clayton (Kristyn) Briggs of Vermontville, Judy Lemon of Potterville, Lynn Brooks of Auburn, IN; dear friends, David and Paula Benedict from Ft. Collins, CO; his beloved cats, Gandalf and Jack; and many friends at the Vermontville Fire Department and within the community of Vermontville. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his best-friend, Monte O'Dell.

Friends are encouraged to remember Roger by attending a Community Affirmation Service at The Vermontville Fire Station on Saturday, February 8, 2020, 11:00 AM. Those attending are requested to bring a baseball bat with you for a special salute. Roger suggested many years ago that if anyone wanted to remember him, they were welcome to donate to the Maple Valley Scholarship Fund. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Roger on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

10911 Vermontville Hwy
Vermontville, MI 49096

Previous Events

Community Affirmation Service

FEB 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Vermontville Fire Department
125 W. First Street
Vermontville, MI 49096

Tribute Wall

KW

“ Roger was an amazingly genuine man. I played little league baseball and still remember him to this day umping so many of our games for years and years. He was so kind and compassionate. My condolences to the family.

Kirk Warner - June 10, 2020 at 03:55 PM

DB

“ Roger was a very kind and friendly person. Went to school with him from elementary until high school. His family and mine where neighbors. He will be missed.

Debbie Baker - February 09, 2020 at 08:11 AM

JL

“ We all enjoyed the fantastic Memorial today at the Fire barn ... wow , great stories. My husband and I have been closer to Roger for the last 25 years or so, before that I'm sure I was just his annoying little cousin. After his Mom passed he started coming to our house for Mother's Day Brunch, we did go out for a few Mother's Days' but decided that was too hectic ... he'd come in and mumble something about me cooking for the thrashers and I'd say something like "well you never know when they'll show up" and we'd both laugh. I know he spend Easter with Dan & Ann Johnston so he "didn't mooch off just one family member" and then he would come to our house for Thanksgiving. I think mainly because since Roger didn't eat anything with "fins or feathers" , he knew I'd also cook a ham along with the turkey. And on Christmas Day he would come to my Moms house. Buying a gift for Roger was pretty tough, I bought many gift cards that I'm certain all went to cat food, and usually cashews. One Thanksgiving I thought I would be smart and looked to see what size shoes he wore , and for Christmas I picked up a pair of slippers for him. I asked him if he'd wear them and he said "maybe" which I knew meant Nope. We would meet him in Charlotte for Taco Tuesday quite often , he loved hot sauce and they never seemed to have it hot enough for him and my husband, so Roger started bringing a bottle along with him. He was very proud of his job , I'm almost positive he worked for the Post Office for those 33 years without ever missing a day. Also unless something had changed the last few months I think he might have still been using a rotary phone. I'm certain he didn't have a cell phone or a computer. Roger loved his family and those connections to family that have passed (and his cats of course) and today was overwhelming to see that his "family" was extended far more than I knew. Mostly I will miss Roger the day after Thanksgiving , when I go to my mailbox , his Christmas card would always arrive that day , the first one we would get every year.

Judi Lemon - February 08, 2020 at 08:16 PM

DS

“ Roger and my husband Steven met when they were in kindergarten and had been friends ever since. After Steven and I were married 19 years ago we could always count on Roger to “cat sit” for our own pets. He had a kind heart and we will miss him and the many wonderful qualities he had -much too numerous to list but always remembered and cherished.

Debra Stanton - February 07, 2020 at 10:10 PM

LR

“ I knew RC as a friend and teammate bowling for Crandell Bros in the National League at Charlanes for quite a few years. We had some great times during those years and he was a big part of that. I am saddened by this news of his passing and am praying for his family members at this time. RIP my friend

Larry Ranshaw - February 06, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Roger Lee Corey.



February 05, 2020 at 11:31 PM

JJ

“ When I was very young I spent so many weekends at his house. We would be in his dad's beautiful gardens, picking veggies, raspberries and apricots. His dad, Jr. had 1 amazing apricot tree. Jiggs (his mom) would make us popcorn, then we would watch tv before I fell asleep on their sofa. I could lay there and stare at the street light and doze off. Jiggs taught me how to embroider, we would cook, and go shopping at Knapps in Lansing. Sometimes we would go visit our great grandpa and take him a big Sunday dinner. I still look for Rogers swing set, even though that has been gone for decades, and his dog. YES, 1 dog. So many good memories of riding out to the farm after all of us would pile into Jrs. truck.

jackie janousek - February 05, 2020 at 10:32 PM

MM

“ Roger was maple valley baseball. From taking care of the field to putting the flag up. He supplied bats for the wooden bat tournament and the beverages for the fellas at the alumni games. He umpired some of my games in high school and many many little league games and when I graduated we umped together. Roger bought the newspapers for the restaurant in Nashville for a long time where he would hold early morning court and talk sports with anyone who sat at his round table. He loved vermontville, maple valley sports, bowling, and made friends with everyone. The community has lost a dear and wonderful benefactor. A great citizen and just an all around great man. Maybe they should name the basketball court in the high school after him it would be a fitting tribute to a former great student athlete. Thanks Roger Mike meade



Mike meade - February 05, 2020 at 08:20 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Roger Lee Corey.*



February 05, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ *A true silent hero-he quietly helped so many in any way he could. I will miss his stories and getting picked on about our favorite restaurant Cinzetti's which he visited every year when he went to Colorado. Thank you Roger for watching over our fire family-you can drive the truck as slow as you want now.*

Theresa O'Dell - February 05, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ *Roger took care of the baseball field in Vermontville. He also took care of the concession stand. I would ask Roger if he would hang a shelf, or make me a place to hang the jerseys or a hanging stand for my concession sign. He would make some comment about how he didn't know if it was possible and without fail the VERY next time I came to the field whatever I asked for - he had done. I'd try to thank him and he'd walk away muttering something. I'm going to miss seeing him at that field. I'm going to miss giving him crap. Roger was such a blessing in our lives, in so many of our lives. He just spoiled me rotten and I loved him for it.*

Sarah Carpenter - February 05, 2020 at 05:52 PM

JN

“ I first met Roger in 1978 we took the same First Aid class together in Potterville and shared weekly driving. As Treasurer of the Township for 15 years I had to stay home the day the tax bills were delivered in the mail because Roger would come as soon as he got his mail he took great pride in being the first in the Township to pay his taxes. I always enjoyed talking with Roger he never had a unkind word for anyone. He will truly be missed.

JoeAnn Nehmer - February 05, 2020 at 04:14 PM

PA

“ I remembered being on the fire department with roger and going out back of the farm and shooting guns he loved shooting at bowling pins and working on the ballfields in town and umpiring ball games I will miss you my friend thank you for being a good friend R. I. P

PaulRacine - February 05, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ Roger came out to visit my family every year on the train during the summer. Roger always made it a priority to come for Mary's 4th of July celebration. After she died, he still kept coming to visit. We shared many a coffee or family dinner, lots of fun stories or memories of the farm, and cards at Christmas time. Rest in peace, Roger.

Rebecca Benedict - February 05, 2020 at 03:10 PM

KT

“ Us Custodial Maintenance peeps were responsible for mowing the school district lawns The summer I had to mow them Roger would always come down and watch me mow the outfield. He always took care of the in field. He was always polite and would talk about the Maple Valley baseball team at the time . Good memories

Kelly Thrush - February 05, 2020 at 03:09 PM

SH

“ I met Roger and his lovely mother, Flossie over 20 years ago when I moved in across the street. Roger always made sure I and James were ok during bad storms when William was at work. Since James loved baseball and played little league, Roger always knew how James did in the games. We also, would see Roger at the minor league games in Battle Creek. Roger gave me many nicknames such as: Tech Girl, Food Fairy and Search and Rescue when a cat was missing (mainly, Jack who was actually hiding at my house watching Roger walk and drive around the neighborhood looking for him. I told Roger where Jack was hiding and I think Jack was mad at me for a while for telling on him.

Sandra Hosey - February 05, 2020 at 02:49 PM

VD

“ Roger was always a kind and fun person. It was a pleasure and a joy to be around him while watching his Monday night team bowl.

Vicki (Mix) Dean - February 05, 2020 at 02:15 PM

GG

Roger was a classmate of mine graduating in 1972 we went are separate ways with careers but in our later years we became very close. Roger was a guy who would do anything for anybody, I've never known anyone who said a bad word about him and in return he never talked about anyone. Roger loved baseball so he wanted every kid to be able to have the same opportunity he had when he was young so he basically built with his own money a field that would leave an impression in all who played on it never asking for anything back. It is a shame that Roger never really knew how many friends he had. Roger was the lifeline of our fire department he took pride in bring along younger firefighters. Roger will be dearly missed by this little town a true pioneer he was, until we meet again my friend.

Gary goris - February 05, 2020 at 02:52 PM

JR

“ Roger was my first varsity basketball manager in 1970 at Maple Valley during my head coaching tenure. Roger was always early to arrive, making sure balls were out, floors swept for daily practices and he never missed an opportunity to work on his shooting. Doing all the little things that made big contributions to our championship team that year. Roger was very dedicated to the Maple Valley Community as he continued his volunteering throughout his lifetime.
Coach Reese

Jerry Reese - February 05, 2020 at 01:52 PM

RS

“ Roger lived next door to my Great Grandma Beck and was in my brother, Eric's class. Funny that the one thing I remember about Roger is that one winter, at Maplewood, during recess... some may remember how the big field at the back used to get a lovely layer of ice on it, and if you were brave you could slide on your feet for a very long way.... well, somehow, on one of those icy spots, Roger fell on top of Eric and cut his head open on the ice... Weird memory, I know.... but the stuff about Roger and the ball diamond brought that back. I hope his memory will continue in Vermontville and he'll still enjoy the games.

Rae (Wright) Swan - February 05, 2020 at 01:45 PM

MJ

My wife and I rented the Cory farmhouse for 12 years from the mid 80s through the late 90s. Raised out kids there. Got to know Roger and his parents very well in those years. Never forget my little boys going out to "help" Roger and his Dad boil down sugar in the March snows.

Mark Jarvie - February 06, 2020 at 10:49 AM