

Roger Lewis Gardner

March 9, 1944 - May 31, 2022

Roger Lewis Gardner, an extremely hard working man who loved life, died unexpectedly at home on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Roger, 78, of Vermontville, was born March 9, 1944, in Battle Creek, the son of Howard and Dorothy (Weeks) Gardner. From a young age, Roger had a strong work ethic; he started farming in his late 20's while also working full time as a truck driver for Crandell Brothers Trucking Co. Later in life he owned the South End Party Store with his wife. Roger was the perfect definition of a workaholic. On June 15, 1974, Roger married the love of his life, Diane Pettengill, and together spent the next 47 years creating their legacy. He was known for his gift of gab. Roger loved his daily morning coffee shop trips where he could talk to his brothers and people, trips to the local tractor shows, wherever there were people Roger loved going. Later in life Diane stopped going places with him because she knew that even the shortest of stops would be a long stop because Roger would start talking with someone. He also enjoyed wintering in Leesburg, Florida with Diane. Roger had a love for airplanes. He once purchased a junk plane and re-built the entire plane. The joke was in his wallet there are no photos of family members, just his plane. Roger also enjoyed golfing, riding his Harley, and recently his annual trip to drive his tractor across the Mackinac Bridge. Above all Roger will be remembered for being a man who knew what he wanted, and how to do it.

Roger is survived by his wife, Diane; children, Forrest Gardner, Denice (Bill

Rentz) Scramlin; grandchildren, Cortney (Jesus Rodriguez) Gardner, Jacob Gardner, Hana Hunt, Amanda (John) Coblentz, Matthew Scramlin; great-grandchildren, Kailea, Abeni, Corbin James, Siena, Neko, Noah, Jackson, Ethan, Rylee; great-great-grandson, Krue Michael; siblings, Helen Bond, Robert (Lois) Gardner, Forrest (Elaine) Gardner, Shirley (Rod) Harmon; brother-in-law, Will Pettengill; sisters-in-law, Anne Hankamp, Patricia (Dennis) Steffes; many nieces, nephews, and his furry friends. He was predeceased by his parents; mother and father-in-law, Jennie and William Pettengill; brothers-in-law, Raymond Bond, Steven Hankamp, Timothy Pettengill; sister-in-law, Tina Williams; nephews, Brandon Harmon, Pat Gardner; grandson, Corbin Allan Gardner; great-grandson, Dominic Rodriguez.

Friends are encouraged to support Rogers's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 2-4:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to a local Humane Society of your choice. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN 5. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home, Inc.
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 543-2950
<https://www.prayfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ We are so saddened to hear of Roger’s passing. He touched so many lives ❤️ I immediately think of his contagious/mischievous smile. He will be sadly missed.
Cathy(Pietras) & Mark Jacques

Cathy Jacques - June 05, 2022 at 09:50 AM

CR

“ Diane ,Allan. Denice and Bill, All that I know about Roger was from a few times our paths crossed, which usually was something involving Denice and Bill. When Denice earned her BS in nursing, you had that "Proud Dad" smile that glowed so bright that night. Bill was excited when we went to Florida because he was going to be able to play golf with you. His golf clubs were packed in the truck first, forget his suitcases. He'd paced the floors on the days you would be playing, so excited to be playing golf with you. And Monday at the lake, both Denice and Bill had smiles on their faces that could not be wiped off. It made their day that you and Diane came to see the cottage.
What I will remember about you is that smile and those twinkling eyes. You will be missed by a loving family.

Char Rentz

Char Rentz - June 05, 2022 at 09:10 AM

PS

“ Roger - I don't know where to start to tell you what you have meant to me and the Pettengill family through so many years. When you married my sister little did we know how good you would be to our family. I know my mom and dad thought the world of you and your family always welcomed me. From getting to come visit and go to the motorcycle hill climbs to riding in every single corvette, your farm equipment and plane flying back from the shack. You told Diane you had to watch over me after dad died. As everyone knows your work ethic and standards have that bar set high for every one to follow. I love you more. ❤️

Patty Steffes - June 05, 2022 at 08:36 AM

DE

“Dad,

This tribute is difficult to write for so many reasons. One is obvious, I lost not only my father, but I lost the favorite man in my life. I thought so much of you and loved you more than that. The other reason is I have so many memories that I would end up writing a book.

I remember when I was younger and wanted a horse so bad, and every once in a while you would say “let's go for a ride and see a guy about a horse”. I would get so excited, believing we were going to see a guy about a horse! but no we were just going to visit people.

When I graduated high school, I remember you took me to see Allan in Texas. I thought I was the coolest and luckiest daughter because I was going to Texas with my dad in a yellow Corvette, of course, we went to Texas one way and came back to Michigan a different way. You never wanted to take the same way.

When I graduated from Nursing school, I can remember the diamond earrings you and Didee gave me as a gift. I started crying, it was the best gift I ever got. I knew you were proud of me.

At Christmas time, you were impossible to buy for, for one, anything you wanted through the year you went and bought; AND it seemed every gift you received you had to feel it, shake it and would try to guess what was wrapped, and I would say nine out of ten times you were right.

One farming philosophy I will never forget you told me one day when I was cutting hay and I had a breakdown and I called and asked you for guidance. You came over, smiled, and said, if you're going to farm, you need farm equipment, and farm equipment breaks, you need to know how to fix it. Then you fixed it.

I know when I called you for help, you were probably busy, and you would say I will be over at some point. You would usually be there sooner than later, even if it meant driving down my dirt road.

Your work ethic is instilled in me, you showed me what hard work does. I appreciate that, and I too am told that I am always busy. Like you have said work hard, play hard.

Dad, I love you and MISS you so much more.

Until we see each other again.

Kisses and Hugs
Love,
Denice



Denice - June 04, 2022 at 09:52 PM

CR

“ The memories are many; from riding on your many tractors, combines & farm equipment as a little girl, helping you bail and put up hay, picking rocks for .50 cents an hour, playing in the grain wagons full of wheat & corn, my first job at South End Party store after I graduated high school. The plane ride you took me on that you grinned ear to ear the whole time as we checked out the village & the surrounding farms & crops.

I remember one Aug. as a child dad promised to take us kids to the Ionia free fair as the evening came it started to thunder then rain he announced "we are not going now" Pat & I were so disappointed little did we know that night would end so tragically when you accidentally lit yourself, you're Corvette and our house on fire in our garage pit. Thank God dad was there & got you out. I remember visiting you in the hospital all wrapped in bandages from the burns. I've given many thanks since then that we never went to the fair that evening I remember the 1st time you took me to the Pettengill farm to meet the love of your life aunt Didee.

I have & will always brag about your farm & crops, you always had the biggest, best, cleanest, neatest farm, equipment & barns I've ever seen, your crops year after year were the biggest around. Your barn & shop so neat & tidy like you just passed an inspection. I'm so thankful you took my grandson on those tractor & combine rides.

I know everyone will miss you from here to FL @ the University "coffee shop" where a wealth of knowledge and bull s_it are spread like fertilizer, it will never be the same.

I will miss our rides to check out the landscape and talk about all the new baby calves in the early spring fields in FL. & the rides to Daytona bike week & the freezer for shrimp on our Harley's & keeping the refrigerator stocked for beer thirty visits.

And, all of us getting our a☆☆es drenched on the ride home this year. Sometimes I wondered if you knew where you were going but without a doubt you always did.

I will miss your smile, your laughter, your kisses & your mischievous grin, the tremendous hard worker you were. You were such an inspiration to me & so many others I'm so proud to call you my

uncle.

So many memories to cherish, I will hold them close until we meet again. I pray that you watch over & protect those you left behind & enjoy those that have gone on before us.



Cheryl Rathburn - June 04, 2022 at 05:52 PM

RT

“ *Our thoughts are with you and the family.... Love Jerry Tobias and Renee Stockham*

Renee Stockham , Jerry Tobias - June 04, 2022 at 11:57 AM

SS

“ *Thoughts and prayers for the Gardner family.*

Sharon and Harold Stewart

Sharon and Harold Stewart - June 04, 2022 at 03:35 AM

CM

“ *At the elevator the winters seemed long- Roger would leave for Florida and we would not get our daily visits. Everyone enjoyed his visits (all in different ways) We all grew to love him! (It seems like winter now.) He will always be in our hearts.*

Crystal McDonald - June 03, 2022 at 09:41 PM

SW

“ *Star of the West purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.*



Star of the West - June 03, 2022 at 09:17 PM

RG

“ *I've farmed with roger for alot of years he was the best farmer I ever meant and was like a second father to me if I ever needed anything he would be there for me. I will miss him dearly. I am still shocked and lost for words. Roger get those fields ready up there I will join you soon to help again. Rest in peace my friend*

Rob Goris - June 03, 2022 at 08:41 PM

ES

“ *The Saylor Family will miss him around our bonfire and camping with us. The Mesick Clan*

Eva & Dick Saylor - June 03, 2022 at 08:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.*



June 03, 2022 at 06:27 PM

BR

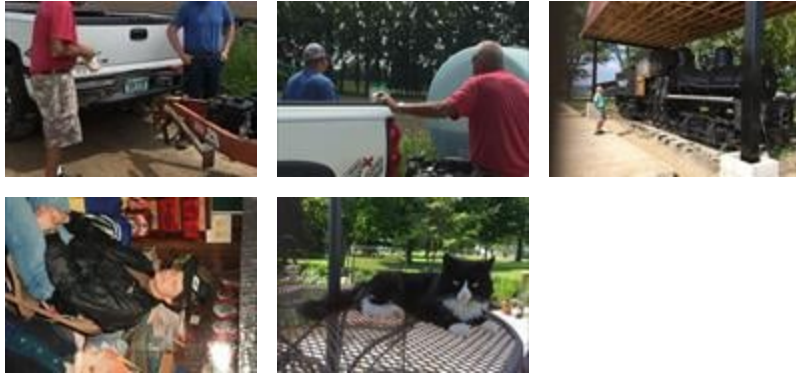
“ There was no one ever that I looked forward to golfing with then you. It wasn't that we were in Florida, or we were going to a different course, it was because I was going with you
I remember when I first met you; you asked where I worked, where did I grow up, and then asked well do you golf? When I said yes you got that devilish grin on your face and said good
We created memories that I will never forget. I want to thank you for those, as well as the lessons learned on our minor farm equipment, and of course your feel for politics.
I will never forget what you would say to me if you beat me on a hole or the whole round of golf even if it was by one stroke,” I am 25 years older than you and still kicked your A**”
I dreaded the phone call or text after MSU would beat Michigan at basketball or football. The first thing you would ask is what happened? Through a proud laugh.
Two things that will never change, you won't golf from the right side of the ball, and NO I don't need an MSU flag.
Miss you and love you like a father.
Bill



Bill Rentz - June 03, 2022 at 12:43 PM

CG

“ 29 files added to the tribute wall



Cortney gardner - June 03, 2022 at 07:39 AM

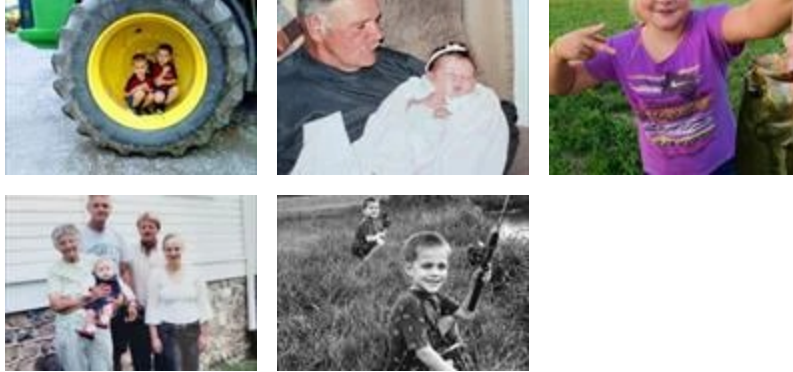
GG

“ Growing up on a farm I knew what it took to be a good farmer and Roger was the best dam farmer I knew, seeing his crops was proof of how hard he worked and it was all self taught, driving by his beautiful fields will be missed.

Gary Goris - June 03, 2022 at 07:25 AM

CG

“ *Damn you grandpa im not gonna share what i want to say to you but you know me to well and probably already know what that is lol but we will have that coversation when we see each other again one day*



Cortney gardner - June 02, 2022 at 08:56 PM

KH

“ *Diane, Jeanne and I send our condolences to you, and your family during this difficult time. Roger will most definitely be missed at "The Room Of Knowledge" in the mornings. I always enjoyed talking with Roger. Hit em straight Roger. R.I.P my friend.*

*Ken & Jeanne Hester
W39*

Ken Hester - June 02, 2022 at 03:44 PM

RH

“ *Roger was a real down to earth person that we really enjoyed at the family get togethers. He was great to talk and laugh with and always had a wealth of stories to tell. He will be remembered and missed by all the family and friends who knew him.*

Rod and Rita Hahnemann

Rod Hahnemann - June 02, 2022 at 02:38 PM

JE

“ Memories so many, the last memory I have was when Roger came and sat down with me on the deck and just visited which was nice because he was always working. He was always a hard worker and a great friend. I will truly miss him and all the laughs we had. Love Jim

Jim Elenbaas - June 02, 2022 at 02:22 PM

KR

“ You smile was like a million dollar. The love of the land will miss your hard working hours. Kevin will miss you picking on him, talking fish an hunting.

Kevin an Beverly Rost - June 02, 2022 at 12:44 PM

TP

“ Terry And Cheryl Pierce lit a candle in memory of Roger Lewis Gardner



Terry and Cheryl Pierce - June 02, 2022 at 12:14 PM

RJ

“ R.I.P. Roger an fly high in those great heavenly sky's I know you will Be missed. So very sorry for the loss an my prayers go out to you all Roger was a kind, loving, an great man very hard worker. my god guide you thru these hard time an keep his hands up on you. Didee your in my prayers an thoughts.



Robert Miller Jr - June 02, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ Roger always knew how to make you smile or laugh, even if you didn't feel like it! Hardest working man I have ever met in my life. He will be missed terribly, not just by me but everyone that knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Gail Gray - June 02, 2022 at 10:41 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.



June 02, 2022 at 10:39 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.



June 02, 2022 at 09:52 AM



“ Crandell Bros. Trucking and families purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.



Crandell Bros. Trucking and families - June 02, 2022 at 09:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.*



June 02, 2022 at 08:34 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.prayfuneral.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Roger Lewis Gardner.

June 02, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *He loved his great grandkids, his smile always said it all.*



Amanda Coblentz - June 02, 2022 at 12:26 AM



Jeff and I are so heartbroken for this loss. What a character Roger was. Enjoyed the visits and coffee mornings. He will be greatly missed. Guess now he won't be complaining about Jeff eating is cookies lol sending love to all of his family especially Diane, love you.

chelsey wetzel - June 02, 2022 at 06:58 AM

CJ

“ Roger was a man with a mischievous sense of humor and a heart of gold. We are so sorry to hear of his passing. He will be missed greatly at Holiday. All our love to you Diane. Peace to his memory.
Love, Mike and Caryn Johnson

Caryn Johnson - June 01, 2022 at 10:08 PM

JD

“ Junie And Larry Decker lit a candle in memory of Roger Lewis Gardner



Junie and Larry Decker - June 01, 2022 at 09:39 PM

JD

Diane and Rogers many loved one's. We're so sad knowing of Roger's passing. He always had a hug for me and oh how I loved his smile and great talks together ❤️. Your ALL in our loving thoughts and prayers....

Junie and Larry Decker - June 02, 2022 at 06:55 PM

DH

“ We want to send our sincere sympathies to Diane and all of Roger's family, his laugh and gift of gab will be missed greatly, Regards
Brinda and Dave Hawkins

Dave Hawkins - June 01, 2022 at 08:22 PM

RH

“ We would wish you Godspeed in your journey, but you are already there. It has been a honor and pleasure to share June 15, 1974 as our wedding day, Go easy Bro. Your sister, Shirley and Brother in law, Rod.

RODNEY HARMON - June 01, 2022 at 07:42 PM