



## Ralph E. Moote

November 7, 1930 - October 21, 2019

Moote, Ralph Edward, aged 88, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 20th, shortly before midnight. Ralph succumbed after a several year battle with loss of kidney function. Daughter-in-law Denise and granddaughter Rachel were by his side at his passing.

Ralph is survived by his son John Michael Moote and his wife Denise Marie Moote from Salem Township/Plymouth, MI, grandchildren Rachel Elizabeth Moote, Pinckney, MI and Jacob John Moote, Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, MI. He is also survived by his brother Richard "Dick" (Mary) Moote and four sisters Donna (Fred, deceased) Schwallier, Dolores "Dee" (William "Bill", deceased) Aseltyne, Virginia "Gin" (Marcel "Joe") Lemay and Jean "Jeanie" (Steve) Lizak. He was predeceased by his wife, Jacqueline "Jackie" Marie (Witkowski) Moote and parents Ralph Marsden and Agnes Mary (Larabel) Moote. He is also survived by 30 nieces and nephews and an even larger extended family of cousins, second-cousins and great-nieces and nephews.

Ralph was born and grew up in Grand Rapids area and later, in Detroit near Del Ray and later still, in the Belmont area on Prest. Ralph spent his early adult years as a monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky at the same time as the well-known Catholic author, Thomas Merton. Later he served four years in the Air Force in Washington DC as a mechanic during the Korean conflict. Upon his return to Detroit, he married Jackie and spent many years as a mailman in the Brightmoor area. After moving his family to Plymouth in 1971, he worked in maintenance in the Plymouth School District. Never fully retiring, he worked for many additional years at the Plymouth Historical Museum, performing all sorts of maintenance and odd jobs.

But Ralph was even more well-known for his outside interests. He was a lifelong tinkerer, ham radio operator (W3CMZ, later K8DPL), electronics wizard, nut grower, avid gardener, beekeeper, geneologists and master of an eclectic mix of hobbies and interests. He began the Plymouth Flying Pilgrims Radio Controlled Airplane club and was the first president. He was actively involved in the Stu Rockafellow Ham Radio club. He was an active member of the Michigan Nut & Fruit Growers Association for many years. If you see a nut

tree growing in the Ann Arbor Matthaei Botanical Gardens, it was probably planted by Ralph.

Ralph's stories and anecdotes will be sorely missed. The family will gather with friends Saturday, October 26th at 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Rd. W., Plymouth. The family has asked that any donations be made to the Michigan Fruit and Nut Growers Association through the treasurer Cecelia Fydroski, 722 Andrews, Commerce Township, MI 48322 or electronically to the MichiganNutGrower@gmail.com via PayPal. They are going to use any donations for the purpose of buying tools for the education of young folks in the art of grafting.

Alternatively, donations to the Yankee Air Museum are also appreciated on their website at <https://yankeeamuseum.org/support/>

To share a memory, please use the Share A Memory tab on the web page.

# Events

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**OCT**   **Memorial Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM

**26**

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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth, MI, US, 48170

**OCT**   **Memorial Service**    11:00AM

**26**

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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth, MI, US, 48170

# Comments

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“ A few years ago when the museum hot water heater burst and flooded the basement I was shocked to see Ralph although already ill, was pushing the commercial vacuum because he felt compelled. I immediately took over for him. What a great guy you couldn't help but be drawn by his great sense of humor and his dedication.  
Nancy Jowsey

**Nancy Jowsey** - October 28, 2019 at 09:30 AM

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“ Hi John,  
I am very sorry to learn of your dad's death. You will remember that your debate coach at Salem HS many decades ago knew both of them. Your mom and I stayed connected long after you graduated when we both worked at the Park. You and I reconnected at the funeral home when your mom died. It was great to see you then. I hope that the many decades of wonderful memories of your dad will sustain you and your family during this challenging and sad time. Very unfortunately, I have a prior commitment at the same time of the gathering and service on Saturday and will not be there to give you my condolences personally. But do know that my thoughts will be with you and your family. Be well, John. Your coach, Patrick Barry.

**Patrick Barry** - October 25, 2019 at 10:11 PM



“ Pat thank you for your kind comments. You are my first and best coach. The days in debate and extemporaneous speaking are great memories of growing up and both mom and dad were very appreciative of all the time you invested in us. The lessons I learned have lasted a lifetime. Sorry you could not make it to the memorial, you would have been very proud of what what we put together to honor dad, in no small part due to you coaching us in the art of presentation.

**John** - October 26, 2019 at 05:26 PM

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“ Just a couple of years ago I wanted to transplant some peonies and was hacking away on the roots. An older gentleman walked over and asked to lend a hand, took the pickax I had been working with for about a half-hour, and chop Chop CHOP! He had the job done in about 3 minutes. Not only did he handle the tough job with finesse, he was gracious enough to tell me that I "did most of the hard work". Not really... I would have been there at least another half hour. But most certainly Ralph Mootte landed a very sweet spot in my family's heart.

We are so very sorry to hear of "Grandpa"'s passing. We always call him Grandpa, because we have felt since we first met him all the warmth and happiness as if he were truly our Grandpa too. We only knew Grandpa for a couple of short years, but in the time we did he made a permanent and uplifting impression on us.

Heartfelt condolences to the Mootte family from the Zielen/Beatty family

**Wendy Zielen** - October 25, 2019 at 05:45 PM



“ Wendy - Wow! Thank you so much for sharing this sweet memory. If it weren't for you and Alison and, of course, Grandpa Ralph, Rachel would not be in her much loved, little lake house in Pinckney.

**Denise** - October 25, 2019 at 07:01 PM

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“ It has been a true pleasure and honor to know Ralph over the years.

We met when his son John married my sister Denise - a few years back! Our whole family liked him right from the start. He was friendly, positive, and genuine. A wonderful man. We really did come to admire Ralph and looked forward to seeing him as often as we could.

Our sincere condolences go to those that loved Ralph, and those loved by him.

Rest In Peace, my sweet friend. We know you are with your dear loved ones, and the angels.

With much love and gratefulness,

Buddy & Linda, Joe, Jack & Rose Dembowski

**Walt Dembowski** - October 25, 2019 at 08:16 AM



“ Thank you. Yep, just a few years back! ;) Safe travels and lots of love to my family in Poland!

**Denise** - October 25, 2019 at 10:42 AM

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“ Ralph was a joy at the Plymouth Museum. Always there when he was needed with a grin on his face, a twinkle in his eye, and a quip to make us laugh and smile. He will be so sorely missed. Pam Y

**Pam Yockey** - October 25, 2019 at 12:36 AM



“ Pam, thank you so much for your kind comments. He loved the Museum!

**John M Moote** - October 25, 2019 at 08:02 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph E. Moote.



October 24, 2019 at 02:35 PM

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“ from: Battery Team (Wen Wen& Qiang Li) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph E. Moote.



from: **Battery Team (Wen Wen& Qiang Li)** - October 24, 2019 at 09:43 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Beverly Schmidt** - October 23, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ Ralph and Betty at Christina wedding.

**Beverly Schmidt** - October 23, 2019 at 07:58 PM



“ This beautiful picture is so wonderful. Thank you for sharing Beverly. Much happiness expressed here.

**Jean Iizak** - October 24, 2019 at 08:00 PM



“ Thank you for sharing such a nice pic!

**Denise** - October 25, 2019 at 10:43 AM

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“ Ralph was the kindest, sweetest, most genuine man I have ever had the pleasure to call 'My Dear Friend.' He was Always upbeat and Never had a harsh word to say about anyone. I will never forget the day we met in the basement at the Plymouth Historical Museum. God sent him my way, to be my buddy and My Mother's very good friend. I could always count on Ralph and never lacking a smile. We shared many world views, and he had knowledge about any subject we touched on. I respected and admired his wisdom. He was kind enough to give me a small wooden Madonna that he carved himself and I will treasure that forever. God broke the mold when he made Ralph and I was lucky enough to call him, "My Dear Friend"

**Beverly Schmit** - October 23, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ Beverly - thank you so much for sharing. John, I, and the kids hope to see you on Saturday.

**Denise** - October 23, 2019 at 02:11 PM



“ Ralph was a very interesting and upbeat guy.

**Charlie Roebuck** - October 23, 2019 at 07:19 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Beverly Schmit** - October 23, 2019 at 01:57 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy, may he rest in peace! Love, , Morey & Dorie

**Morey, Dorie Bowman** - October 23, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ Thank you so much.

**Denise** - October 23, 2019 at 02:42 PM



“ Morey and Dorie, thank you so much, the whole Grand Rapids crew and family was really special to dad. We really appreciate your condolences.

**John** - October 25, 2019 at 08:18 AM

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“ GM Warren Materials Lab purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ralph E. Moote.



**GM Warren Materials Lab** - October 23, 2019 at 09:07 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Denise Moote** - October 23, 2019 at 08:28 AM



“ These are Ralph's Granddoggers, Jazz, Indie, and Ruby. He loved them very much. He loved to come over and "watch" them whenever I went away. I write "watch" because I really think he NAPPED with them more then anything else! I'd call him to check-in and every time he'd say, "Well, we went outside and played for a while and now we're just taking a little nap on the couch."

Please come to Ralph's Memorial to see a sweet video of him meeting his most recent Granddogger, Tessa.

**Denise** - October 23, 2019 at 08:31 AM



“ He Loved those dogs!

**Beverly Schmidt** - October 23, 2019 at 02:15 PM



“ Funny story, he watched Jazz one weekend, she would scratch at the covers while he was sleeping. He got up and let her out, like 1AM. This repeated three or four times over the next two hours. Finally, he realized she wanted under the covers, not outside. Vizslas have short hair, they get COLD. Once they were all snuggled, everyone got a good night's sleep. Dad was the best grandpa to his grand-doggers!

**John** - October 25, 2019 at 08:24 AM

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“ Here is the message I have sent to the MNFGA email distribution (about 250 people).

Hi MNFGA Members,

Long time, active member Ralph Moote passed away on Sunday, October 20, 2019. I did not have the pleasure of knowing him. However, from what I have learned, I missed knowing a great man. He was very supportive of spreading the word of growing nuts and fruits through his actions of planting nut and fruit trees in locations where more people could learn and benefit from them. See Marc's comments below.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ralph's family and friends.

Dennis Strahle  
MNFGA President

I met Ralph at a MNGA meeting at Leslie Science Center in Ann Arbor; he was busy hauling mulch. The association had planted about 20 trees; butternut, pawpaw, hazelnut etc. The meeting was a combination of work and meeting. We mulched, pruned and made plans, but most people lived too far away or had jobs, so the planting didn't get the attention it needed. Ralph made it his personal goal to take care of those trees. He repeatedly talked the Ann Arbor Parks department into depositing a very large (it was taller than me!) pile of wood chips at the Science Center, and he would wheelbarrow it around to all the trees.

Ralph also planted pawpaws along Hines Drive to try to reintroduce them to the Rouge River. He was irritated when the road crew cut them all down.

I got to see his hazelnut collection in his back yard. That was the first time I heard that hazelnut blight in Plymouth is different than in E. Lansing. He liked his hazelnuts.

Ralph was always eager to plant things, prune things and try out new trees. I suspect he has already applied to the gardening department in heaven.

Marc Boone  
MNFGA Member

Denise Moote - October 23, 2019 at 08:18 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to your family, John.

Helen Cunningham - October 23, 2019 at 06:49 AM

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“ This guy was one of the good ones.

I was fortunate to have spent more time with him over the last year than I had in the previous 33. We'd be driving along and he'd have something to tell me about everywhere we went and everyone we saw. We never ran out of things to talk about. He knew a little about a lot!

He was funny and giving and sometimes drove me crazy! And, I'm sure that I drove him crazy right back!

He loved me, he loved John, and boy oh boy did he love Rachel Moote and Jake Moote! I'm going to miss him...

“Now cracks a noble heart.—Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!”

Denise Moote - October 22, 2019 at 09:15 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John M Moote - October 22, 2019 at 06:13 PM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



**John M Moote** - October 22, 2019 at 05:41 PM

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“ Let me be the first to start...Dad I already miss you. You gave me so much and taught me to be interested in the wonders of the world around me, to be inquisitive, curious, to dive in and learn all there is to learn about something and then experiment to find out even more, to experience the world in all it's glory. I just hope I can pass on half of the interest and enthusiasm that you inspired in me to those that come after me! Many, many thanks and Rest in Peace.

**John M Moote** - October 22, 2019 at 05:32 PM



“ In the relatively short amount of time that I got to know Ralph (at the Plymouth Historical Museum), we had an immediate connection . Our mutual curiosity of many things was our bond. I am priveleged to have had him as a friend. And, what a teacher--always eager to share his knowledge of stuff--almost anything that I could think of asking. RIP my friend.

Sal Cavallaro

**Sal Cavallaro** - October 22, 2019 at 07:23 PM



“ Wow thank you sal

**richard moote** - October 22, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ He was my best friend also

**richard moote** - October 22, 2019 at 08:19 PM