



## Jay S. Richards

May 21, 1926 - March 10, 2023

Jay S. Richards, age 96, of Plymouth; passed away on March 10, 2023. Beloved brother of Leone (the late Floyd) Lanning, as well as many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, relatives and friends. Mr. Richards was preceded in death by his siblings, Beverly Richards, Vern Richards, and Harry Richards. A lifelong and proud farmer in the Plymouth area, worked for the Plymouth-Canton School District as a Custodian, and served in the United States Army.

The visitation will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023, between the hours of 4:00 P.M. until 8 P.M. at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road W., Plymouth, MI 48170

The funeral service will be Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. at the funeral home. The family will gather at the funeral home beginning at 10:00 A.M. until the service.

Memorial donations in Mr. Richards memory can be directed to: Boys Town, 14100 Crawford Street, Boys Town, NE 68010 or [www.boystown.org](http://www.boystown.org)  
Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home.

To share a tribute of Mr. Richards, please click on the 'Share a Memory' tab on this web page.



# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

680 Plymouth Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 15.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
[plymouth@vermeulenfh.com](mailto:plymouth@vermeulenfh.com)

## Visitation

**MAR 16.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
[plymouth@vermeulenfh.com](mailto:plymouth@vermeulenfh.com)

## Funeral Service

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MAR 16. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
[plymouth@vermeulenh.com](mailto:plymouth@vermeulenh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jay S. Richards



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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - March 16, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ Jay S. Richards

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December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM

LA

“ Well, where do I begin? I met Jay at Pioneer Middle school when I was about 12 years old. I was in detention after school and he came up and started talking to me. Asked me if I wanted a job planting pumpkins. So of course I said yes!! My Sister and I went to work for him and he paid us \$3.25 per hour. We had so much fun working with Jay that we kept coming back. He had at least 20-25 farm cats that would always be running around the farm. Not to mention the goats and chickens...

*Fast forward 30 years. So I would always tell my children how I used to work on this farm when I was a kid and they were like yeah right Dad!!! So I took them to drive by there on Canton Center Rd and I see a man with a farmer hat and I say there's no way that could be him. So I pulled up, got out and ran up to him and said, hey!! And he turns around and it's Farmer Jay!!! I was so excited to see him and introduce all my Boys to him and he asks them, you need a job?!?! So that entire summer my family and I came and worked for Jay and we will always hold those memories dear to our hearts... Rest in peace old friend...*

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Larry Anquetil - August 22, 2023 at 04:56 AM

NL

“ *New Leaves*

*My heart has been torn like a leaf from a tree and the tears flow like rain to form glistening seas*

*For a man we all loved is gone from us now and the healing must follow though we ask ourselves how?*

*For he loved too deep his animals and family so fun and all family and friends know that he is the one, who has gone on ahead to the most peaceful place, where there's no crime or sorrow and no angered faces. So we all must go on one day at a time and hold close the memories in hearts and in minds, and yes we have changed, from the pain that we've known, but where the leaf fell a new bud is grown*

*Written and read for Farmer Jay's funeral by;*

*Sylvia Monti*

*\*\*\*We miss you Farmer Jay!!\*\*\**

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**Nancy Lazarus** - March 16, 2023 at 09:59 PM

CG

*God rest this wonderful man's soul. I didn't know him, but I'm sure with the love he shared that he was an amazing person. No one is gone until the last person who remembers them is gone. So keep Jay's memory alive! With respect, Cindy Gray formerly of Plymouth, Michigan*

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**Cindy Gray** - March 17, 2023 at 06:49 PM

AS

“ Farmer Jay will truly be missed. Our family has so many fond memories of Jay. He was our neighbor for over 25 years, and we will treasure his golf cart summer visits to chat - such a blessing to have had those visits even just last year. Farmer Jay provided us land to plant our own vegetables and would always stop by to see the growing process and provide growing tips. When my children were young, the farm provided a lot of fun. Jay would let them pick out their pumpkins and mark them with their initials to save them until harvest time. He would let them dig up potatoes, they would visit and feed the chickens, goats and pigs, ride in the golf cart and tractor. My oldest son always wanted to be a farmer like Jay and still does. Thank you to Jay's family for helping him at home and with the farm these last few years. Farmer Jay's passing is sad for us, but knowing God's grace and love for Jay is joyful. With Symphaty, Ann Smith - Jordan, Alisha and Collin

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**ann smith** - March 14, 2023 at 12:46 PM

AG

“ Alma Laura Gutierrez lit a candle in memory of Jay S. Richards



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**Alma Laura Gutierrez** - March 13, 2023 at 06:51 PM

AG

“ My deepest sympathy to Leona, Tim, Dianna and all family members. Farmer Jay I will miss you so much. You were so good to everyone. I am so happy I got to do some farming with you. I will miss hearing your stories & your laugh ! God bless Dear Farmer Jay. I hope to see you again one day! Love & peace to you.

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**Alma Laura Gutierrez** - March 13, 2023 at 06:46 PM

JH

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family of Jay , To Bob Vern Leona and the rest of the family. It was great to learn from the best farmer. A Goodman he was my friend. I will miss him. Rest in peace Jay. God bless.*

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**Juan Pablo Venegas Hernandez** - March 13, 2023 at 06:36 PM

“To Jay’s entire family, I am so sorry for your loss. His passing will have a huge impact on the Township of Plymouth. He was so proud to be “the last & only farm” in the Township. So many people looked forward to buying pumpkins, farm fresh free range eggs, & produce from him. Growing up he let me work on his farm & taught me everything I know about planting from seeds, acclimating plants from the greenhouse to the outside world, & the perfect time to transplant into the ground. From there we maintained the variety of vegetables, pumpkins, gourds & other things until harvest time. He taught me how to collect rainwater & transfer it to the field to keep the plants watered all season. One of his biggest lessons was teaching you the difference between male & female pumpkin blossoms why it was important to pick off most of the females. He also taught me how to raise, feed & care for a variety of animals. He loved the fall when he had visitors out to buy pumpkins & he got to show them all of his animals. He let the children feed the goats which was always a big hit. He loved kids so much & always said “any kid that hasn’t been raised on a farm was cheated!” He loved to tell stories of all of the different jobs he had before becoming a full time farmer. The array of different things he did was amazing. He could tell you every corner he sold produce, Christmas trees, or other products on. I loved listening to his stories. If you knew Jay, you knew he never threw anything away. Everything that others viewed as trash, he viewed as useful. He could repurpose anything, & if you needed something it was guaranteed that he had it right there for you! I am forever grateful for all of the valuable life lessons he taught me. Things I never could have learned in school or in today’s fast paced world. The neighborhood is going to be really different without seeing him driving his golf cart in the field or down the bumpy dirt road. Thank you to Tim, Diane, Sylvia, Laura & the rest of the family for continuing to keep the field growing & things running as they always did these last few years while Jay was physically unable. And thank



*you for taking such great care of him & allowing him to remain in his home, on the farm until his final day!*

*With love & respect,  
Sarah Briney*

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**Sarah Briney** - March 11, 2023 at 09:51 AM

“ My sincerest condolences to everyone who loved “Farmer” Jay. Farmer Jay was my neighbor for over a decade and my friend for many more years.

It truly was a joy to have my yard back up to Farmer Jay’s and be able to have my own garden but also help garden with Jay, Bob (nephew) and Susie. Farmer Jay allowed my children to learn a valuable skill of planting and several other things around his land, with his animals too.

Farmer Jay was of the old school beliefs, your hand shake was your word. Unfortunately, not many were honorable on their words with Jay, he was taken advantage of.

Farmer Jay enjoyed having the local school children come for tours and dig a hill of potatoes. My children got to participate when in kindergarten. Farmer Jay would visit Isbister daily, to collect their food scraps for his animals. The children enjoyed seeing Farmer Jay.

Farmer Jay enjoyed Three Brothers restaurant, and went often for their home cooked type meals. I would pop in to sit with him, to keep him company while he ate.

Farmer Jay told interesting stories about his early days around Plymouth-Westland areas. Farmer Jay and I shared a fondness for “curb side shopping”, garbage picking. Sharing stories of various treasures we found around the Plymouth areas on our separate adventures.

Farmer Jay enjoyed his crops, one of his favorite was to grow very large pumpkins in the fall. He would carve his initials into his pumpkins. Farmer Jay and I shared the sadness when Plymouth Fall Festival stopped having local farmers bring their fall crops to show. Farmer Jay and myself and one of my daughters drove his pickup truck to town full of his large pumpkins to the local newspaper. We expressed our sadness for the Festival and hoped they would change their minds. No luck, but they wrote a story about Farmer Jay and his large pumpkins.

Farmer Jay would have loved to have lived to 100 years old, farming and telling his stories. He was blessed to be able to farm his land as long as he did, and the last couple years with the care from

*his nephew Tim.  
Plymouth Michigan lost their last old school Farmer, Farmer Jay.  
But Heaven gained a Farmer on March 10th, Farmer Jay Richards,  
my friend.  
A much better place to be than our crazy world here now*

*Sincerely,*

*Nancy Lazarus*

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**Nancy Lazarus** - March 11, 2023 at 08:45 AM

SL

“ 4 files added to the album Family Memories



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**Sue Lanning** - March 10, 2023 at 07:37 PM