



## Dr. Richard T. Browne

October 20, 1928 - June 24, 2018

Browne, Dr. Richard T., June 24, 2018 age 89, longtime Plymouth resident and practicing Physician at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Pontiac/Oakland. Beloved husband of Nancy. Loving father of Mary (Robert) Donaldson, Dr. Thomas (Elaine), Amy, Mark (Daria Hrynicky), Matthew (Cynthia Janes, M.D.), Elizabeth Anne (Scott) Quashnie, Paul (Kim Hawk), Patrick (Victoria), and COL Kathleen (LTC Edward) Reder. Also survived by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Preceded by siblings Ruth, John J. and Faith. Visitation Thursday, June 28th 4:00-8:00 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth (between Sheldon and Beck). Rosary, Thursday 7:00 PM. In state Friday June 29, 9:30 AM until the 10:00 AM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Interment New Calvary Cemetery in Midland, Saturday June 30 at 1:30 PM. Memorials can be made to The Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mount Elliott, Detroit, Michigan 48207. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

# Cemetery Details

## New Calvary Cemetery

Midland, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 28. 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

## Rosary

JUN 28. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

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

## **In state**

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**JUN 29.** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
47650 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## **Funeral Mass**

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**JUN 29.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
47650 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Richard T. Browne*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Dick was a remarkable person. He amazed me the many challenges he faced to not give up. Truly amazing. I'll miss his friendly welcomes and our chats about the Lions and Tigers! ( he did give up on them! Lol) Dick you will be missed but I know I'll see you again someday.*

karen lantgios - June 28, 2018 at 01:37 PM



“ *Violets And Butterflies was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



June 28, 2018 at 09:32 AM



“ *Linda & John Votaw, Jeremy, Julie & Daniel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



Linda & John Votaw, Jeremy, Julie & Daniel - June 28, 2018 at 12:53 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



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June 27, 2018 at 02:49 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



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June 27, 2018 at 02:40 PM



“ *He was a loving Grandpa. When I was with him, I felt good around him. He was a very very nice and kind Grandpa. He lived through many things and recovered to be better than ever. He was one of the nicest people that I ever met. Love, The Reder Girls.*

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**The Reder Granddaughters** - June 27, 2018 at 08:27 AM



“ *Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts. "God will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore."*

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**T.M.** - June 27, 2018 at 06:04 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.* ”



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June 26, 2018 at 11:40 PM

AN

“ I knew Dick, aka, Dr Browne, aka Brownie as a professional colleague for many years. For those of you who didn't know him in that capacity, he was quite a remarkable professional. Some of his basic background is as follows:

*Profession: Physician*

*Specialty: Radiology*

*Sub-specialty: Coronary Angiography*

*Practice Group: Associated Radiologists of Oakland County (AROC)*

*Hospital: St Joseph's in Pontiac (now St Joe's Oakland)*

*Med School: Wayne State*

*Undergrad: Lawrence Tech (never finished his bachelor's degree)*

*Residency: Several Metro Detroit Hospitals (mostly Providence)*

*Medical Approach: Minimalist*

*Motto: Attention to Detail Leads to Success*

*Notable Items:*

- *Never earned a bachelor's degree but was smart enough to get into medical school*
- *Started med school older than most – about age 30*
- *Reportedly did most of his studying at the original Buddy's pizza with a cold beer in hand*
- *Served as the financial leader for his medical group, AROC*
- *Was a pioneer in charity care financial policies – his policy was if a patient is willing to pay at least one dollar per month of their debt, they will never go to collections*
- *Was a pioneer in the idea of 'physicians as executive leaders' – he was the first VPMA in what is now Trinity Health, one of the largest health systems in the nation*
- *Leadership style – quiet, focused, disciplined, let his actions speak for him*
- *Despised arrogance, especially in physicians*
- *Felt you should always treat staff well, they are part of the team*
- *Claims to have been told by a judge in court while on the witness stand to stop intimidating the plaintiff's attorney*
- *Only sued once in his career, in a case that he was not directly involved in*

- *Decried the greed of physicians as the issue that would destroy the profession, encouraged docs to join together in negotiations and go directly to purchasers bypassing payers (perhaps a nod to the collective bargaining approach of his days as a Teamster)*
  - *Strong dislike of meetings – claims to have invented the five minute meeting which is how he ran meetings when he was the chair*
  - *Was once called at home by the head of medical transcription department who was concerned that he might not know how to use the dictation equipment because his reports were so short, he kindly replied that he said everything he had to say in as few words as possible and everything was working just fine*
  - *When the Pope was in Pontiac MI, St Joe's was designated as the trauma center and Dick was designate as the lead radiologist, he spent the afternoon at home 45 miles away commenting that the Pope's destiny was in God's hands not any doctor's*
  - *During his career he had opportunities to move and practice in Arizona and Northern MI but he chose to stay and serve the needs of Pontiac, MI (a pretty rough community)*
  - *Ultimately he stopped practicing medicine because he could no longer tolerate bad attitudes of physician colleagues in his group*
  - *I'm told while he practiced his home was filled with medical journals that he was constantly reading to make sure he was keeping up with the latest advancements in his field*
  - *While doing all of the above he raised nine kids. I don't think he was able to spend as much time with them as he wanted when they were young but he sure spent plenty of time with them when they were grown and he was retired*
  - *And I don't think he ever forgot flowers for this wife on their anniversary or her birthday*
  - *In fact, for many years he made a point to spend one afternoon a week with his wife, often at the Fischer Theater in Detroit*  
*Sure, he had his flaws. He pissed some people off along the way and probably made some errors in judgement but, who hasn't.*  
*As I noted at the start, he was quite a remarkable man. The world will miss him but the world is a better place because he lived.*
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**Anonymous** - June 26, 2018 at 05:55 PM

AM

*Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Would love to know who this is from.*

**amy** - August 11, 2018 at 08:19 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



June 26, 2018 at 04:11 PM

CT

“ *Chris & Valerie Tyler purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



**Chris & Valerie Tyler** - June 26, 2018 at 02:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.*



June 26, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.



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June 26, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish* was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.



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June 26, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ *Garden of Serenity Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.



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June 26, 2018 at 07:30 AM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard T. Browne.



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June 26, 2018 at 07:27 AM

VI

“ *All my memories of Richard are tied to Nan and Dick as a couple. My heart breaks for Nan. Every time we spent time with them, their generosity, hospitality and love of intelligent conversation defined the visit. Dick impressed me most in the way he faced adversity -- thoughtful discussion, confidence in experts, and gritty determination. Be at peace.*

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**Vicki** - June 25, 2018 at 09:21 PM