



Robert Marcel Vercruysse

May 12, 1944 - February 1, 2023

Robert Marcel Vercruysse, was born on May 12, 1944 and died on February 1, 2023 in Plymouth, MI. He passed away peacefully with his wife by his side. Beloved husband of 39.5 years to Cynthia (Kabza) Vercruysse; loving father of Gary Vercruysse, Nicole (Kevin) Nemec, and Anne-Marie (Robert) Welch; grandfather of Claire, Alec, Jacob, Thomas, Addison, Alexandria, and Amelia. Bob is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends and his sisters-in-law Lesley (Daniel) Kabza Criscenti and Susan Vercruysse. He was preceded in death by his infant son, Robert Marcel Jr., his parents Roger Sr. and Mildred Vercruysse and brothers Roger (Lois), and Donald Vercruysse. Robert grew up in St. Clair Shores, Michigan where he attended Lake Shore High School and excelled at sports, especially basketball, earning many varsity letters. He also enjoyed boating, fishing and duck hunting in his youth. He attended the honors collage at Michigan State University and obtained a BS in Mathematics, and a teaching certificate. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School, summa cum laude, where he served as a research assistant to his mentor and later good friend, Professor St. Antoine. He clerked in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, served as an adjunct professor for the University of Michigan Law School, and had a long and prestigious career as a labor and employment attorney beginning at Butzel Long; forming his own firm, Vercruysse Metz & Murray; and later, partnering with his daughter at Clark Hill. He was actively engaged in mentoring, providing sound counsel, litigating cases, and negotiating labor

contracts until his death. When not at work, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends on his sailboat or at his cottage, watching his grandchildren play sports and perform, helping others, and finding the best deals. At the end of each night, he could usually be found in a comfy chair with a newspaper and a good novel, a cold beer, and his loyal cat in proximity. He was a great Husband, Dad, Grandfather, Uncle and Friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Visitation on Friday, February 10, from 2-6pm at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth, MI 48170. Funeral on Saturday, February 11, 11am at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home in Plymouth. Donations in Bob's honor can be made to Special Olympics Michigan.

<https://support.specialolympics.org/a/change-a-life-macy?ms=URL>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **10**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

FEB **11**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Marcel Vercruysse*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



February 09, 2023 at 10:53 PM



“ *I was quite surprised and saddened to learn that Bob has passed. This may not be the best forum to express this, but I do want the Vercruysse family to know that I knew Bob, I very much liked and respected him, and that his passing is a great loss, not only to me but to all of his clients. He helped me out tremendously on a number of cases. I always knew when I hired Bob or any of the other attorneys in his firm, the matter would be handled correctly, efficiently, and successfully. I enjoyed his wit and wisdom, his gruff yet charming demeanor, and his ability to translate difficult matters into understandable terms. The last time I had a meaningful conversation with Bob he told me he planned to spend more time at his place up north on a lake, and tooling around on his little boat. I hope Bob got a chance to do that as much as he wanted. Bob, it was sad to learn that you had died, but I will be forever grateful for having known you and for the help and guidance you provided to me, both professionally and personally (you know what I'm talking about). Godspeed!*

Richard G. Raymond - February 09, 2023 at 05:44 PM

DI

“ *D.A. Alexander & Company, Inc. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



D.A. Alexander & Company, Inc. - February 09, 2023 at 02:16 PM

LJ

“ *Love, Sunnie & James purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



Love, Sunnie & James - February 08, 2023 at 07:28 PM

PG

“ *Peter Lemmer and Elana Fata, GreenStone purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



Peter Lemmer and Elana Fata, GreenStone - February 08, 2023 at 02:40 PM

“ It was a shock to learn of Bob's death, and I have spent this past week thinking of him and our long friendship. Even though we were basically the same age, I did not attend law school at the University of Michigan until some 5 or more years after him. Bob interviewed me for a position at Butzel Long and, typically, tried to see if he could get me riled up by immediately asking me why I thought I could practice law with men. He was instrumental in hiring me and he became my mentor. In addition to working as partners in the labor department, our families on occasion got together socially since we lived in the same general area and both had younger children. It was a real pleasure to visit him at his home in St. Claire Shores and picnic, boat and ice skate, thus getting to know Gary and Nicole and later Anne-Marie.

Bob shaped much of my life as an attorney and helped me and others throughout our careers. I have been recalling the many, many evenings we worked late at the office, especially when we were working on important court briefs (that were anything but "brief" because the federal courts did not have page limits back in time). In those days there were no memory typewriters and if we made even one change on a page it had to be retyped by our shared original secretary, Wanda. It was such a thrill when we got the firm's first memory typewriter that could save 10 whole pages and then was able to save up to 20 pages.

Bob was always hard working, legally creative, full of ideas about how to best serve clients, very capable about developing new clients and keeping them, and unwilling to give up without a strenuous fight. He also had a good business ethic and aptitude. My life today would be very different if he had not been my mentor and friend and allowed me to achieve a great deal as an attorney prior to my retirement. I could never believe that he would retire from the law and now it appears that he never did.

I send my deepest condolences to his family. I very much wanted to attend his funeral service and share memories of him with others. However, due to prior commitments with out-of-state friends and the fact that we live in Phoenix, Arizona, which is hosting the Super Bowl this week, flying in and out of Phoenix is not possible. Virginia

(Ginny) Metz

Virginia Metz - February 08, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



February 07, 2023 at 03:25 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



February 07, 2023 at 02:27 PM



“ *The HRUnite! Community (Tina Marie) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



The HRUnite! Community (Tina Marie) - February 07, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



February 07, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



February 07, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ *From Butzel Long purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



From Butzel Long - February 06, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Marcel Vercruysse.*



February 05, 2023 at 08:18 PM