



Rodney Lane Rickard

October 15, 1940 - April 15, 2026

Rodney L. Rickard, age 85, of Canton, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2026.

Born on October 15, 1940, in Florence, Alabama, Rodney was the son of the late Henry and the late Ruby Rickard. He grew up with a deep appreciation for hard work, education, and family—values that remained at the core of his life. Rodney attended Redford High School before continuing his education at Harding University, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He later received his master's degree from Western Michigan University and went on to earn his Ph.D. from Detroit College of Law, reflecting his lifelong dedication to learning and personal growth.

On August 15, 1964, in Dexter, Missouri, Rodney married the love of his life, Marilyn Faye Rickard. Together, they built a life centered on family and faith as a member of the Church of Christ. He was a loving father to his two daughters, Elizabeth (Robert) Luke and Alyssa Pakulski, and a proud grandfather to Christopher, Joshua, Emily, and Josie. Rodney shared a special bond with each of his grandchildren, always making time to attend their plays, choir recitals, and sporting events—moments he treasured deeply. He is also survived by his cherished sister, Paula Rhodes. Rodney was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn; his son-in-law, Scott Pakulski; his sister, Sandra Page; and his beloved dog, Pepper.

A man of few words, Rodney carried a quiet strength and presence—when he spoke, people listened. He was known for his practical wisdom, kindness and

generosity. He found joy in life's simple pleasures: reading, running marathons, watching baseball, listening to 1950s music, playing card games, enjoying breakfast outings, and, above all, spending time with his family. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Gathering with family and friends on Friday, May 8th 6-7 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

MAY 8. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Livestream

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Rodney Lane Rickard



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - May 05 at 02:56 PM

JP

Rod will be missed...

John Preville - May 08 at 06:51 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rodney Lane Rickard.



April 27 at 12:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rodney Lane Rickard.

April 27 at 12:03 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Rodney Lane Rickard.*



April 18 at 12:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rodney Lane Rickard.

April 18 at 12:31 PM



“ *Uncle Rod will be missed. A fun memory of him when I was a child; he let me shift the gears of his VW Beetle when we were out and about. He laughed loudly when I grinned the gears.*

Eric Riley - April 17 at 12:13 PM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - April 16 at 09:59 AM



Rod was my Harding Elementary School and Redford High School buddy. We always had smiles and fun between us. I'll be seeing him again. <><

Linda Tucker - April 18 at 10:04 AM

EV

We want to say thank you to Rod for the 35 get well cards he sent my husband Ralph, and for being such a good friend to him since grade school.

Elaine and Ralph Vogan - April 18 at 12:13 PM

KP

Lovely memories flood over me as I recall Rod as the young man my dear high school friend, Marilyn, fell in love with at Harding College. Their wedding was a glorious event full of love, thunder and lightning. Their life of love, compassion, generosity and special Christmastime celebrations was a blessing. It was my honor to witness some of Rod's proud moments when he'd quietly and gallantly share about Alyssa and Elizabeth's accomplishments. As his grandchildren arrived Rod's smiles and laughter increased.... He so enjoyed their presence in his life!! May Rod's memory be a blessing to his family and friends.

Katie Plass - May 06 at 05:25 PM