



## Sam J. Kennedy

April 24, 1951 - April 25, 2025

Sam J. Kennedy passed away peacefully at his home Friday April 25th, a day after his seventy-fourth birthday, surrounded by loved ones.

Beloved husband of Elaine. Loving father of Hugh (Nicole Michaud) Kennedy, Orin (Megan McLaughlin) Kennedy, Monica (Rachel Freund) Kennedy, Heather (Jason) Johnson, and Lauren (Spencer Schroer) Yagiela. Proud grandfather of Cleophee, Aidan, Caitlin, Claire, Avery, Elliot, Zachary, and Carter. Dear brother of Alexis (Steven) Blomfield, Timothy (Kimberly) Kennedy, and Dennis Kennedy. Loving uncle of Joseph Kennedy, Pamela (Adam) Medjesi, and Douglas Blomfield. Dear friend of Judy Wernette.

He preceded in death by his parents, John "Jack" Kennedy and Marie Scherer Kennedy, and his twin brother, Christopher Kennedy.

Sam helped raise three children, and was a doting grandfather to his eight grandchildren. He led a life of service; as a Boy Scout, educator, development director for several educational institutions, school board president, and dedicated Rotarian. He used his passion for worthy causes to inspire and connect people and organizations around the world. An avid outdoorsman and lifelong Michigander, he enjoyed camping, sailing and hiking with his family and friends. He traveled the world, vaccinated children against polio in Africa, visited Denali, drove a station wagon (and camper) up Pike's Peak, and would

never admit to having gotten lost. Sam wove his twin brother's name into the names of his sons, a reflection of the profound impact that his twin's death at a very young age had throughout his life. His father's love of the automobile led to an enduring relationship with a long line of practical and collectible classic cars between Sam and his siblings. Sam loved science, music, the magic of the cinema, theatre, irreverent wit, and the verse of Robert Service.

Visitation Tuesday, April 29th from 3 PM until 9 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Rosary service Tuesday at 7 PM.

In state Wednesday April 30th from 10 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Road, Plymouth.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fisher House Michigan, PO Box 130466, Ann Arbor, MI 48113, or to Kevin's Song, 30425 Stephenson Hwy., Madison Heights, MI 48071.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **29**. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Rosary Service

APR **29**. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## In state

APR **30**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

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

## Funeral Mass

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APR **30**. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.*



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May 12, 2025 at 02:21 PM



“ *I remember one morning sometime in the 1960's. I went over to Sam's house to see if he could come out an hang out. Sam's mom answered the door. I asked if Sam could come out. His mom said Sam didn't feel to well today. She said his grandfather passed away. She said Sam and his grandfather were really close. I left feeling kind of empty. Kind of like I feel today over hearing Sam has passed away.*

*We went to school together. We were in the same Boy Scout troop. We developed film together in his basement. Even though we haven't kept in touch very much I alway considered him a friend. The last time I saw him is when he came to the funeral home when my mother passed away in 2016. I thank him for coming by. It meant a lot to me. I could tell you a few more stories about Sam in his younger days. I still laugh to myself thinking about them. What more can I say about a great guy like him?*

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**Dean J Poepoe** - April 30, 2025 at 11:42 PM

JW

“ *Dear Elaine and family,  
Becky and I are saddened to learn of Sam’s passing. We  
appreciated his keen intellect and his quick wit!  
Blessings to you and your family during this difficult time. Prayers  
for comfort and peace from the Holy Spirit to you and those you  
love.  
With love and sympathy, Joe & Becky Wagley*

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**Joe Wagley** - April 30, 2025 at 03:09 PM

LI

“ I had the pleasure of Sam’s company for many morning shifts, courtesy of Rebecca’s Restaurant. As a server, I opened the doors at 7:00am and Sam was often my first customer through the door (scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, black coffee - a man of distinguished taste!).

Restaurants attract all types of people, not all of them enlightened, and Sam was a consistent spot of sunshine to me for many, many years. He let me read newspaper headlines over his shoulder as I did my rounds, and we would exchange a daily critique on the “Pearls Before Swine” comic (not that good today / solid gold, etc.). On days when the rush hit early, he would leave the comics behind so I could catch up later. Sam was thoughtful like that. In exchange, I would write a “word of the day” on his carryout coffee. A fun tradition for us both.

It’s the little things that add up to a rich life, and seeing all the pictures at the Funeral Home today - it’s clear how many of those little things Sam invested in everyone around him. He brought out the best in people and challenged us to choose the better version of ourselves.

To his beautiful wife and family - he was so proud of you all. He talked of you often, bragging and laughing and loving. ❤️ I’m honored to have had a court-side seat to a life well-lived.

With love and gratitude,  
Lauren Iwema

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Lauren Iwema - April 29, 2025 at 05:30 PM

KV

“ Dear Elaine and family ~ Sam was a kind-hearted man who was also thoughtful, caring, and dedicated to the advancement of education for all children. I'm grateful to have known him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Kerri Vizena

KERRI G. VIZENA - April 29, 2025 at 09:03 AM

TF

“ The Haas Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



The Haas Family - April 29, 2025 at 09:00 AM

TF

“ The Haas Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

The Haas Family - April 29, 2025 at 09:00 AM

DC

“ What a legacy Sam has left behind! While we are so sad for the Kennedy family, we wish you nothing the best memories he left behind for you all to enjoy! We are honored to have donated to the Fisher House in his memory!

Doug & Dana Cooke - April 28, 2025 at 09:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



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April 28, 2025 at 04:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



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April 28, 2025 at 02:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

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April 28, 2025 at 02:24 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



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April 28, 2025 at 12:32 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.*



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April 28, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

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April 28, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ *With Love: The Vartabedian Office purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.*



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**With Love: The Vartabedian Office** - April 28, 2025 at 11:42 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.*



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April 28, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



April 28, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

April 28, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



April 28, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

April 28, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ The Heaven family and Nicole purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



**The Heaven family and Nicole** - April 28, 2025 at 08:52 AM

FN

“ From all of us at NSF purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



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From all of us at NSF - April 28, 2025 at 08:47 AM

FN

“ From all of us at NSF planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

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From all of us at NSF - April 28, 2025 at 08:47 AM

JL

“ Sam allowed me to steal his giant leprechaun hat many years ago at a NMS fundraising event. I still have it and have worn Sam's hat every St. Patrick's Day since then! Sam enjoyed a bit of mischief like any good Irish American. He was a generous listener and always up for an engaging conversation. A true gentleman and caring human, Sam brightened this world for many who crossed his path in life. His light remains bright in our hearts.



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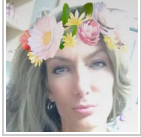
JaNele Jordan and Jeff Learned - April 27, 2025 at 07:36 PM

CS

“ Christine S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

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Christine S. - April 27, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Sam would come into Rebecca’s Restaurant often before work. I will miss his early morning wonderful conversations and great shared wisdom!! I will definitely miss him! Im glad I got to know him!!  
Jenn (Rebecca’s Restaurant)

JL Morg - April 27, 2025 at 03:28 PM



“ Carol G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

Carol G. - April 27, 2025 at 03:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

April 27, 2025 at 10:21 AM



“ Some moments feel memorable at the time, only to fade with the years. Others, we recognize almost instantly as permanent residents of our hearts. Attending one of Sam’s weekly Rotary meetings with him recently was one of those lasting moments. It was a wonderful gathering of people, and sharing that experience with Sam is a memory I will always treasure. - Carol Gray

Carol - April 26, 2025 at 06:32 PM



I appreciated Sam’s service and Leadership S Grand Knight of St Regis Knights of Columbus Council. He was a great contributor to our Council.

Jack McGrath - April 26, 2025 at 10:38 PM

JM

*Please edit "S" out and insert "as".*

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**Jack McGrath** - April 26, 2025 at 10:41 PM

CG

*Helped get me through college at Oakland U. And made it fun to do so. Thanks Sam.*

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**christopher jerome grant** - April 27, 2025 at 09:42 PM

JM

*Sam made several special presentations. One was on Christopher Columbus. Another was on his experience on a US Navy Aircraft Carrier. Sam was impressed with the precision. He was awarded the visit as a navy recruiter.*

*He did great jobs on both presentations.*

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**Jack McGrath** - April 28, 2025 at 02:33 PM

KK

*Dear Elaine and family,  
It shocked and saddened me so to learn of Sam's passing. He was just the utmost kindest human being. My heart goes out to you and your family. Regards, Kim (Kimothy as he called me) Sears Kelley.*

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**Kim Sears Kelley** - April 29, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.*



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April 26, 2025 at 06:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

April 26, 2025 at 06:15 PM



“ Beverly K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sam J. Kennedy.

**Beverly K.** - April 26, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ RIP, Sam. I remember you fondly. Love to your family, Grace Baker Adams

**Grace Baker Adams** - April 26, 2025 at 04:23 PM



“ Pamela and Adam Medjesi purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Sam J. Kennedy.



**Pamela and Adam Medjesi** - April 26, 2025 at 02:42 PM