



Harvey L. Brown

MAR 4, 1944 - JUN 21, 2025



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Harvey L. Brown

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Harvey Lawrence Brown, 81, of Richmond, went home to be with the Lord on June 21, 2025.

Harvey was born on March 4, 1944, to Harvey and Delores Brown. As a young boy, he was a wild child, famously climbing the drawbridges in Port Huron at the age of six to catch pigeons with the older kids in the neighborhood. This fearless and daring identity shaped Harvey's persona for the rest of his life. He also learned the value of hard work at an early age, understanding that dedication pays off—a work ethic that became ingrained in every part of his being.

At the age of 13, Harvey moved back to Richmond to live with his grandmother, Mae Ottenbacher. He excelled in sports, particularly basketball and football, and graduated from Richmond High School in 1963.

One day, while cruising through Richmond, he met a girl from Adair named Diane Achatz. They soon fell in love, and Diane played a significant role in “domesticating” and calming down our beloved Harvey—though he still had his wild side. Her parents, Vincent and Irene Achatz, truly became like parents to Harvey, and he loved them deeply.

Harvey was drafted into the Army and stationed in Germany in the late 1960s. After returning from the service, Harvey and Diane were married at St. Augustine Catholic Church and went on to raise three children: Scott, Reneé, and Andrew. They enjoyed many summers in Caseville, trips to Las Vegas, and so much more.

Harvey also founded the building company HB Homes in 1976 and went on to build many custom homes in the area. He also developed two subdivisions: Diane Lane in Richmond and River Ridge Estates in St. Clair Township. His legacy and love of building carried on to his oldest son, Scott, who continues the hard work through his company, Marlin Building. Harvey was often a senior advisor to Scott, even in the last few years and months of his life, and was very proud to see his legacy carried on.



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In 1999, tragedy struck when Diane was diagnosed with cancer. She passed away on June 22, 1999. Harvey was beyond devastated but stayed resilient and strong for his children.

Chances are, if you went to the McDonald's in Richmond in the past 40 years, you likely had a conversation with Harvey. He was there nearly every day, and what should have been a 15-minute lunch break often turned into a 90-minute endeavor because Harvey loved to shake hands and talk to everyone. Harvey said his goal was to shake a million hands in his lifetime, and we think he achieved it.

But not only did the Richmond McDonald's bring Harvey great conversation, it also brought him love. In the early 2000s, Harvey ran into an old friend he rode the bus with as a child, Mary Ann Maedel. They struck up a conversation over a coffee at McDonald's, and the rest is history; they were like two teenagers in love. They married in 2013.

Although Harvey never won the lottery, he struck gold twice with two remarkable women in his life. He and Mary Ann traveled the world together, spoiled their grandchildren, and, above all, found true love a second time.

Harvey is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Brown; his children, Scott (Tammy) Brown, Reneé (Whitney) Brown, and Andrew (Susan) Brown; and his stepchildren, Edward (Colleen) Maedel and Jan (John) Long. He is also survived by his sisters, Margaret Kelch, Helen Brown, and Georgina (Roger) Daggett, and his aunt Rose Chartland as well as his grandchildren: John Long, Blake Brown, Brendan Maedel, Garrison Brown, Harvey Brown, and Jackson Brown. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Diane Brown; his grandmother, Mae Ottenbacher; his best friend, Lee Griffin; his brothers, Virgil and Eugene Brown; and his sisters, Delores Fallena and Fern Davis.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at Marwood Nursing and Rehab in Port Huron, as well as to all the new friends Harvey made during his final month of life there. A special thank you goes to nurses Stephanie, Kristen, and Nicki, and an extra special thanks to aides Alicia, Tamika, and Marlene. You treated our beloved Harvey with the utmost dignity and respect in his final days, and for that, we cannot thank you enough.

Mass of Resurrection will be at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 30 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Richmond. In state from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. prior to mass. Grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Visiting hours will be Sunday from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Young Funeral Home, China Twp.



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Donations can be made out to the family and will be given to local charities in the area.
To leave the family a message of comfort please visit: www.youngcolonial.com



Events

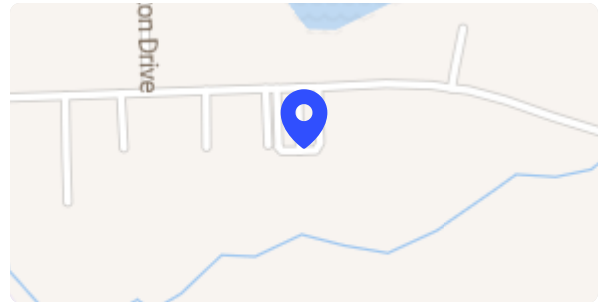
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Visitation

Sunday, June 29, 2025

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home, Inc.
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI 48054

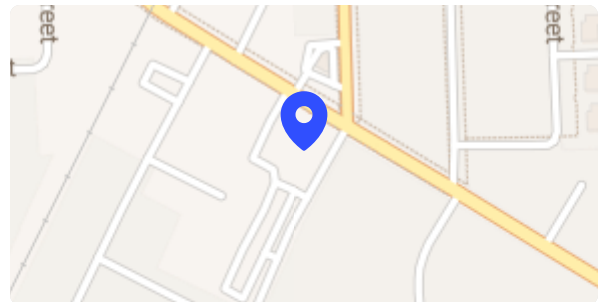


Visitation

Monday, June 30, 2025

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ET

St. Augustine Catholic Church
68035 South Main St., Richmond MI

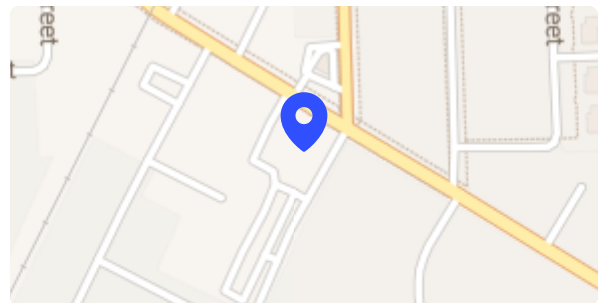


Funeral Mass

Monday, June 30, 2025

10:30 AM ET

St. Augustine Catholic Church
68035 South Main St., Richmond MI



Cemetery Details

Cremation



Tribute Wall

Harvey L. Brown
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Tom Rewalt posted:

When Harvey graduated in 1963 he still had competitive basketball in his system. Harvey with a group of basketball buddies formed an unofficial Richmond "Town Team". Harvey, Terry "Rip" Carpenter, Don Schultz, Clarence "Squeak" Collins, Don Rewalt and an occasional handful of roustabouts from the oil rigs and others practiced and played home games at the Richmond Auditorium ("The Aud"). It was the 60's, remember the nighttime skys aglow with the burn off of natural gas? They would travel to local cities and an occasional prison to put up or shut up. I imagine they did some of both while enjoying the comradery. RIP Harvey. I imagine you made you million handshakes.

June 29 at 9:30 AM



Georgina Daggett posted:

Rest in peace my brother. Love you. 🌹❤️. Georgina Daggett

June 29 at 3:44 AM



Susan C. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Harvey.



June 27 at 3:45 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Brown family.



June 27 at 4:30 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harvey.



June 27 at 4:30 AM



From Your Prevention Family sent a Serene Retreat to the Brown family.



June 26 at 7:22 PM



Tribute Wall

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JJ

Jon And Kathleen Johnston sent an Arrive in Style to the Brown family.



June 26 at 3:53 AM

JW

John Walsh posted:

To the entire family, my deepest condolences. Harvey was great, sweet guy who will certainly be sorely missed by all. I know my dad will glad to see him. If there are corny jokes in Heaven, I'm sure my dad will have a few for him! Scott, my dad was so thankful for having a place and purpose with you, your dad, and the crew. I look forward to seeing them both again in Glory. God bless and comfort you and the entire community of family and friends. He and my dad are hammering in Heaven now! Hallelujah! John Walsh Jr.

June 25 at 4:06 PM

RC

Roseann Cray sent a Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses to the Brown family.



June 25 at 10:19 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harvey.



June 25 at 7:21 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Brown family.



June 25 at 7:21 AM

SJ

Sarah & Casey Jacques sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Brown family.



June 25 at 2:31 AM



Tribute Wall

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With Love, Joe And Deb Olczak And Family sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Brown family.

June 24 at 1:19 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Brown family.

June 24 at 12:20 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harvey.

June 24 at 12:20 PM



Marilynn Pavlov posted:

Scott, Tammy and boys, we want to express our most sincere sympathy to all of you on the loss of your dad/ grandfather. After reading his obituary, it looks as if he were quite a guy! He was strong and certainly raised good kids. Scott, although I didn't know your dad, I know you and you are a fine tribute to your father's influence.

June 24 at 8:03 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Brown family.

June 24 at 7:57 AM





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Charles Claerhout posted:

I worked with Harvey back in 71' on the drilling rigs'. Always had to tell Harvey to slow because he was making us look bad. Harvey was strong, smart and hardworking. After a few months working with Harvey, he decided to give carpentry a try. Just like Harvey, he became very successful with the trade, as a builder. Had a lot of good memories with Harvey on and off the job. He will be sorely missed. My sympathy to the family..Chuck Claerhout

June 24 at 4:52 AM



Jim Heinrich posted:

I remember Harvey as the best athlete in our class and a good friend. Always enjoyed his company and friendship. God Bless you Harvey. Jim Heinrich

June 24 at 2:20 AM



Diane Minnich Dymond posted:

My condolences to the family. When I was a child, my father brought Harvey home to live with us for a short time. As a little boy, Harvey worked for him at the boat livery on the Black River. He was a hard worker for his age. I have fond memories of Harvey.

June 24 at 2:05 AM

AB Andrew Brown June 24 at 4:09 AM

Hi Diane, thank you for commenting. My dad often shared about his time at Ed Minnich's and how hard he worked. He said he learned a lot from Ed about hard work. He also told us about the time he was at the Catholic school in Algonac and climbed on the roof to get a basketball. He said the nuns really let him have for that one. Thanks for sharing this memory!



Tracy posted:

Harvey was a great friend as well as the one who built our house in St. Clair on Yankee Rd. after we lost my dad. Harvey was also the husband to my GodMother Diane God Bless Her she was and is an Angel. They were like family to me so I always referred to them as Uncle Harvey and Aunt Diane. He will surely be missed but now he's up in Heaven with Aunt Diane and my mom,dad, and brother Cole and every loved one we have lost.My memory's of Uncle Harvey are visiting them at the house on Palms Road and just having a fun talking. Or when we had parties at my house and everyone got together and just had a fun time. Those were great memories ❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏

June 23 at 7:04 PM



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MS

Marilyn Schade posted:

Thank you to whoever composed the tribute obituary. It really summed up his personality. As members of RHS class of 63, my husband and I have many memories of crazy fun times. He will be missed!

June 23 at 3:09 PM

DS

Debra Schanaman posted:

Harvey had such a great sense of humor. Always so happy and loved life. I remember him calling me up to book cruises for him and Mary Ann. He would be so excited. He will be missed dearly by everyone that knew him! Rest in Peace Harvey.

June 23 at 2:50 PM

RN

Rose Nash planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harvey.



June 23 at 2:41 PM

RN

Rose Nash sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Brown family.



June 23 at 2:41 PM

GS

Georgine Siudym posted:

Mary Ann, Scott, Renee, Andy and family - please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. Harvey had such a great sense of humor. I still remember a surprise birthday party you had for him years ago. Know that thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

June 23 at 1:35 PM

RA

Rosemary A. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Harvey.



June 23 at 1:08 PM



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Leora Newman posted:

Harvey was one of the best. Went through school with him and he was always the nicest most polite kid in our class. Stan remembers him driving around in a 1948 Ford 4 door, which was his grandmother's car. We have only the best memories of Harvey. He will be missed by so many people. Our condolences to his wife and family.

June 23 at 1:00 PM



Teds Coney Island Of Richmond planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harvey.



June 23 at 12:03 PM



Teds Coney Island Of Richmond sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Brown family.



June 23 at 12:03 PM



Tina Tucker Closs lit a candle in honor of Harvey.



June 23 at 12:02 PM



Bill Kurkowski June 23 at 1:01 PM

Harvey was one of my good friends when I came to richmond in 1961. We had a lot of good times in his 54 chevy he bought from kieth potter. I just seen him for the 1st. Time in 52 years last summer. What a truly nice man.



Vicki Steve Kerszykowski lit a candle in honor of Harvey.



June 23 at 10:35 AM



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Jeff Samolej posted:

Harvey was a great man. Lots of great memories of him from way back when he played softball with my dad.

June 23 at 10:05 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Harvey by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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