



Richard Elwood Messel

June 23, 1939 - October 18, 2024

Richard E. Messel passed away on October 18, 2024. He was born on June 23, 1939 in Pontiac, Michigan, the son of Herbert and Jessie (Winemiller) Messel. Richard attended Milford schools before going to Holly High School for his senior year, graduating in 1957. He spent his entire career at General Motors, first at Fisher Body and later Orion Assembly, and was a member of UAW Local 5960. He retired after 41 years in 1999. Richard played football in high school and loved sports, coaching his kids in softball, football, and baseball, and later watching his many grandkids' games. He was an avid hunter, traveling across the state and country to camp and hunt with his friends and son, Chad. He was also a storyteller, telling (and sometimes re-telling) hilarious stories and sharing big laughs with all who spent time with him. Richard also loved spending time with his big, blended family. He spent 42 years with the love of his life, Betty (Tinsman) Messel, marrying in 1999 after dating for many years. He loved being a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to his and Betty's families. He is survived by his wife Betty Messel; his children Christine (Rob) Rhoades, Patrick Messel, Leigh Messel, and Chad (Andrea) Messel; Betty's children Bill (Jane) Angus, Laurie Olson, and Mike (Dolores) Angus; grandchildren Meghan (Michael) Palma, Andrew Rhoades, Hannah (Ron) Van Wagoner, Erin (Dale) Benson, Alexandria Reickel, Jacob McHalpine, Emily McHalpine, Brendan Messel, and Jack Messel; Betty's grandchildren Laura (Eric) Hall, Sarah Angus, Steve (Rachael) Angus, Jay Angus, Corey Angus, Christopher (Shelby) Angus, Kyle Angus,

and Emily (Corey) St. Clair; and great-grandchildren Kaylee Palma, Bodhi Palma, Adalyn Jarrett, Madison Benson, Rowan Benson, Carson St. Clair, and Connor Angus; sister Diana (Michael) Erickson; many nieces and nephews; and many close friends. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, and sister Pam Buell. The family will receive friends from 3-7 p.m. Monday, October 21, 2024 at Dryer Funeral Home. A visitation will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at the funeral home until the time of the service at 11 a.m., with interment to follow at Lakeside Cemetery in Holly. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Lakeside Cemetery

Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Visitation

OCT **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Graveside Service

OCT **22** (ET)

Lakeside Cemetery
Holly, MI

Tribute Wall

SF

“ was a Classmate with Dick and saw him many times at our Mini get togethers he always had a story to tell and he loved talking to people he will be missed

Shari Franklin - October 23, 2024 at 12:10 PM

RH

“ Richard H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

Richard H. - October 22, 2024 at 08:11 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



October 21, 2024 at 02:57 PM

ME

“ Michael and Dianna Erickson purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Michael and Dianna Erickson - October 21, 2024 at 09:46 AM

ME

“ Michael and Dianna Erickson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

Michael and Dianna Erickson - October 21, 2024 at 09:46 AM

BG

“ Bill and Lori Giles purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Bill and Lori Giles - October 21, 2024 at 09:10 AM

DJ

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Dick's passing.

Denise Jensen - October 21, 2024 at 07:33 AM

ML

“ Much Love, Shannon, Luke & Leigh purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Much Love, Shannon, Luke & Leigh - October 20, 2024 at 07:30 PM

ML

“ Much Love, Shannon, Luke & Leigh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

Much Love, Shannon, Luke & Leigh - October 20, 2024 at 07:30 PM

JL

“ Jackie & Jim. Buzz & Lynne purchased the County Basket Blooms for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Jackie & Jim. Buzz & Lynne - October 20, 2024 at 04:49 PM

TB

“ Tammi Buell purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Tammi Buell - October 20, 2024 at 02:44 PM

TB

“ Tammi Buell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

Tammi Buell - October 20, 2024 at 02:44 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



October 20, 2024 at 01:08 PM

DA

“ Dad planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

Dad - October 20, 2024 at 01:08 PM

RF

“ Russell Cockerham Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Russell Cockerham Family - October 20, 2024 at 09:22 AM

JC

“ Jessica Buell & Harper Christenson purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Jessica Buell & Harper Christenson - October 19, 2024 at 10:30 PM

BM

“ Brendan M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

Brendan M. - October 19, 2024 at 06:53 PM

JB

“ They say organized sports can teach invaluable lessons about life. They are right. At a time when I needed discipline in my life, you molded your teams with a "no bullshit" attitude. When participation trophies weren't even a thing, you also taught goals would be achieved through fundamentals and hard practice. And even though I struggled at the plate, perhaps most importantly you instilled confidence in me to run the base pads aggressively, using my own judgement to help the team score more runs.

Your coaching helped shape me then, as it continues to do so today.

Thank you Coach,
John Boone

John Boone - October 19, 2024 at 02:50 PM

CM

“ Cousin Bob Cockerham and Mary purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Cousin Bob Cockerham and Mary - October 19, 2024 at 02:33 PM

FO

“ From the Orfin's purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



From the Orfin's - October 19, 2024 at 01:14 PM

FO

“ From the Orfin's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Elwood Messel.

From the Orfin's - October 19, 2024 at 01:14 PM

FG

“ Forever and always your Grandchildren purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Richard Elwood Messel.



Forever and always your Grandchildren - October 19, 2024 at 01:04 PM