



Samuel Ruble Rye

May 30, 1944 - September 13, 2020

ADRIAN- Samuel Ruble Rye, age 76, died peacefully surrounded by family, on September 13, 2020 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Born on May 30, 1944 to Ruby (Gilmore) and Samuel A. Rye in Hamilton, Alabama. Sam, also known as Ruble by many, is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia A. Rye (Snyder) and children Scott Rye of Spring Lake, MI and Krista McFarland of Grand Rapids, MI, brother Harold Rye (Nell) of Maybee, MI, sister Judy Ward (Roscoe) of Adrian, MI, brother-in-law Jim Snyder (Sue) of Adrian and many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Sam was preceded in death by his parents Ruby and Samuel Rye, in-laws Eunice and Richard Snyder, and his son-in-law, Dan McFarland.

Sam moved with his family from Alabama to Michigan at the age of 8 when his dad and uncles relocated during the automotive boom of the 1950's. He graduated from Adrian High School in 1962 and then attended Adrian College. He married his high school sweetheart, Pat, in 1966 at the First Presbyterian Church where he was a proud member and served as a deacon and on the church session for many years. He worked his entire career at Walter Frazier and Associates Land Surveyors, becoming owner until his retirement in 2010.

A public servant at heart, he served the City of Adrian as a Commissioner beginning in 1989 and becoming the longest serving mayor being re-elected for five consecutive terms from 1995 through 2005. He was active in the Adrian Jaycees and the Adrian Rotary where he formed many lifelong friendships. He also served on many local and state nonprofit boards, and most recently the Lenawee County Historical Society.

Sam had a great sense of humor and appreciated the lighter side of life; he was always up for sharing a funny story, a good laugh, or playing a practical joke. He appreciated his southern roots, western movies, the history channel, his dog Sami, and most importantly time spent sharing a meal with good friends or family.

He and Pat enjoyed traveling and were blessed to go on many trips around the states and

internationally, including family reunions and annual stays in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Funeral services for Sam will take place on Friday, September 18, 2020, at 4 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian with Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until the time of the service. Following the Governor's executive order, all attendees are required to wear a proper face covering, with the exception of those under the age of five years old or those who cannot medically tolerate.

For those unable to be present, a live streaming of the service will be accessible from Sam's tribute wall on www.WagleyFuneralHome.com, where a link to view the recording will be available for 90 days.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Lenawee County Historical Society, the First Presbyterian Church of Adrian Memorial Fund, American Heart Association, National Kidney Foundation, or an organization of your choice. Memories and online condolences may be shared at www.wagleyfuneralhomes.com.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

18

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)

1501 W. Maumee St., Adrian, MI, US, 49221

SEP **Funeral Service** 04:00PM

18

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)

1501 W. Maumee St., Adrian, MI, US, 49221

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Wagley Funeral Home - September 17 at 12:47 PM



“ Just a beautiful service. Thank you so much for streaming.

Tammy Childers - Yesterday at 05:01 PM



“ Beautiful eulogy & many happy memories shared. It was good to have the laughter & remember the good times with Sam & Pat. He will be missed.

Judie Doan - Yesterday at 05:05 PM



“ If I have the lineage right, Sam was my Mom's (Jewel (Rye) Swindle) 1st cousin-once-removed (in southern speak) making Sam my 2nd cousin. I met him a few times, usually just long enough to say hello at a family gathering. He seemed to remember me each time, if only because I "looked like a Rye."

My son's (Christopher Swindle) Master's Thesis was about the migration of Rye Beat, Alabama to Michigan and to Adrian in particular after WWII. It touches on how "hillbillies" weren't always well accepted back then. Within a couple of generations, families from the south were not only accepted, but prospered and became pillars of the community. Sam was a featured exclamation point of the thesis, having become Mayor of the city so many southerners had migrated to. The last time I saw Sam was at a Historical Society presentation about that thesis.

If Mom were still with us, she would have been to the services, likely would have brought me with her, and once again introduced me to cousins I rarely see. And Chris would have been there, too, if he were still with us, and no-doubt would have spoke about the times he interviewed Sam. I wasn't able to attend in person, but know I was there from a distance, thanks to it being available online.

Our condolences to Sam's family (our cousins) and friends.

George Swindle & Mary Ann Ruesink

George Swindle - Yesterday at 05:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Samuel Ruble Rye.



September 17 at 07:44 PM



“ 98 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wagley Funeral Home - September 17 at 04:19 PM



“ I am so sad to hear this. I always called him “Ruble”. He and his family lived in an upstairs apartment in our house (in the 50’s). He and I use to play ball in our back yard, and of course, like kids, we fussed at each other....who was safe, etc. Those are some good memories of him. I always remember him as a good friend and fun to be around. Sending my deepest sympathy to his family.

Peggy Knight Hocutt
Mobile, Alabama

Peggy Knight Hocutt - September 17 at 12:42 PM



“ Sam was a first class public servant and pillar of the community. Always fun to be around. He forgot more about Adrian than I’ll ever know. He was universally liked.

My favorite Sam story is his comment on returning from a Sister City tour of Japan. He said he was the honoree at a banquet and to commemorate it they gave him a miniature “Sam Rye” sword.

A life well lived.

Keith Dersham - September 17 at 09:35 AM



“ I'm so very sorry to the family of Sam Rye. He was my employer at W.E. Frazier & Assoc from 1996 to 2010. He was a very good boss to work for & I enjoyed my tenure there.

Stephen Harris - September 16 at 11:58 PM



“ Had the privilege of serving with Sam in the Jaycees and working with him when he was mayor. Great man and well respected. Condolences to Pat and the family. Rest in peace.

Steven McGee

Steven McGee - September 16 at 07:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Samuel Ruble Rye.



September 16 at 03:08 PM



“ A consummate gentleman, Sam was a patient listener and a thoughtful decision maker. His experience as city commissioner and mayor helped guide the Historical Society through tough times. I will miss our lengthy phone conversations.

John Kuschell - September 16 at 01:00 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel Ruble Rye.



September 16 at 10:17 AM



“ Pat, don't forget to check our Class Page, "AHS CLASS of 1962" as many friends are responding here.

Judy Kastel - September 16 at 09:29 AM



“ Kelly Jay Israels lit a candle in memory of Samuel Ruble Rye



Kelly Jay Israels - September 15 at 09:35 PM



“ Dear Pat , Scott , & Krista ,
I am so very sorry for your loss of your husband & Dad . Our family has so many fond memories when we were backyard neighbors . Sam always had a smile on his face . Gary told me about the time that he & Scotty & Matt we're hitting go,f balls & put a hole in your siding . They filled it with chewing gum & a quarter & painted over it . It took a while for Sam to discover it ! He had a little talk with the boys ! I am so sorry that Covid is preventing me from being there to give you comforting hugs . Please know that you are in my thoughts , heart , & prayers during this very sad time .
With Sincerest Sympathy & Love ,
Mary Lundy Sylvester

Mary Lundy Sylvester - September 15 at 03:53 PM



“ Pat and family, we are saddened by the news of Sam's passing. He was an easy man to visit with when you came to The campground to see Judy and Carl. Our prayers extend to you all during this difficult time. May God grant you peace through all the wonderful memories you hold in your hearts.





“ Pat, I am very sorry to hear about Rube.. I will always remember all the good and fun times we shared for several years. I'm sure he will be greatly missed by you and family and his many friends.

My best to you and the family. Will be thinking of you.

Love

John Elum

john elum - September 15 at 01:51 PM



“ Sending hugs and condolences to the Rye family.
Lisa Darrow (aka Sister Malbec)

Lisa Darrow - September 15 at 11:51 AM



“ Lisa Darrow lit a candle in memory of Samuel Ruble Rye



Lisa Darrow - September 15 at 11:48 AM



“ My heart is heavy having to say goodbye to my Uncle Samuel Ruble Rye, known to me as Uncle Ruble. I am so thankful for all of the fun-loving, happy, family memories. As his niece, one of the most special memories for me was in 2008, when I was being sworn in as President of the New Bern NC Rotary Club. When Uncle Ruble learned the news, he said that he would like to attend the induction ceremony(along with my dad and Nell). They drove to North Carolina and Uncle Ruble participated by pinning me as I was being sworn in. It was a very special time for the both of us as Rotarians. Uncle Ruble served as Past President of the Adrian MI Rotary Club and was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. He truly lived the Rotary motto “Service Above Self” his entire life and was such an inspiration to me. More recently, after the Covid19 pandemic started, Uncle Ruble called me and wanted to make sure I was okay. Family was always his top priority and greatest joy. Uncle Ruble, I wish we had one more conversation, but all of them are memories etched on my heart. Thank you for making this world a better place by being an example of what that looks like. I

love you and will miss you. For my Aunt Pat, cousins Scott and Krista, I love you and wish I were there. I know that you are comforted in a very special way by the lifetime of love and happy memories that you carry in your heart. I pray that you are also comforted by knowing just how special Uncle Ruble was to so many.

Tammy Childers - September 14 at 11:55 PM