



## Edward James "Duke" Burgermeister

April 25, 1931 - September 27, 2019

BLISSFIELD – Edward James “Duke” Burgermeister, age 88, of rural Blissfield, died Friday, September 27, 2019, at Blissfield Place. He was born April 25, 1931, in Riga Township, MI, to the late Edward and Helen (Pflum) Burgermeister.

Duke was a 1950 graduate of Blissfield High School, where he excelled at sports and was inducted to its Hall of Fame. He was a proud member of the Sugar Boys and even tried out for the Detroit Tigers. He later served Lenawee County for 25 years as a referee for high school basketball and football, and coached little league in Blissfield, where he again was recognized in its Hall of Fame.

He married the former Verlinda Ford on August 11, 1951, and they became loving parents to two children. She preceded him in death on July 4, 1972. Catholic by faith, Duke was a lifelong parishioner of Light of Christ Parish, St. Peter the Apostle Church. He worked primarily as a farmer, but also was employed for over 25 years at the former RevCo, and several other factories after its closing. He was proud to serve a short tenure as a member of the Palmyra Fire Department.

Duke was able to find love again, and married Carol Crunkilton on November 17, 1974, at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Blissfield. They were blessed to spend over 25 winters together in Sebring, Florida. In his later years, he especially enjoyed making memories with his beloved great-grandchildren. Surviving in addition to his wife of over 46 years, Carol, are a daughter, Sally

(David) Fritz of Blissfield; a sister, Rosemary (Larry) Truckor;; grandchildren, Steven (Amanda) Burgermeister of Adrian, Deatra (Nick) Nieman and Heather (Ryan) Walentowski all of Blissfield; step-grandson, Kyle (Nicole) Cheney of Blissfield; six great-grandchildren, Kenley and Braxton Burgermeister, Grace and Wyatt Neiman, and Landen and Brayden Walentowski; two step great-grandchildren, Jonathan and Hannah Cheney; and daughter-in-law, Jeanne Burgermeister of Blissfield.

Preceding him in death were his parents; first wife, Verlinda; his son, Mark Burgermeister; and his three brothers, John, Ray, and Robert Burgermeister. The family will receive friends for visitation on Sunday, September 29, 2019, from 1-8 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Tagsold Chapel, Blissfield, with a vigil prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Monday, from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. at Light of Christ Parish, St. Peter the Apostle Church. A Mass of Resurrection for the soul of Edward will begin Monday, September 30, at 11:00 a.m., at the church with Rev. Jeffrey Poll as Celebrant. Rite of Committal will follow in Pleasant View Cemetery in Blissfield.

Memorial contributions in Edward's memory are suggested to Careline Health Group. Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **29**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home Tagsold Chapel (Blissfield)  
301 S. Lane St.  
Blissfield, MI 49228  
(517) 486-2133  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Prayer Service

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

Wagley Funeral Home Tagsold Chapel (Blissfield)  
301 S. Lane St.  
Blissfield, MI 49228  
(517) 486-2133  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Visitation

SEP **30**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Light of Christ Catholic Parish  
309 South Lane Street  
Blissfield, MI

## Funeral Mass

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SEP **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Light of Christ Catholic Parish  
309 South Lane Street  
Blissfield, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Edward James "Duke" Burgermeister*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *I'm so sorry, Carol. We have such lovely memories of Duke and you. I hope your memories are blessed and provide comfort to you during this difficult time. Sending you our thoughts and prayers.*

*-Valerie (Shreffler) Krueckeberg*

*P.s. mom and dad are traveling out of the country and are so sad and sorry to not make the service. They're thinking of you, too.*

Valerie Krueckeberg - September 28, 2019 at 10:19 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward James "Duke" Burgermeister.*



September 28, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Edward James "Duke" Burgermeister.*



September 27, 2019 at 09:10 PM

KM

“ Carol and family...Ed and I are so sorry for your loss...you will be in our prayers...Ed & Kim Miller

Kimberly Miller - September 27, 2019 at 08:28 PM

CC

“ Carol, Sally and family you all have my deepest sympathy. Duke was such a great guy who I knew my whole life and will be missed. Going through old pictures at mom's Chris found a picture of Duke holding me when I was a baby. So I have known him forever. My prayers go out to all of you.

Connie Cox - September 27, 2019 at 06:38 PM

JW

“ Carol and family so sorry for the loss of Duke. He was a very kind man to me. You all are in my prayers. God bless. Janine Emerson Walters.

Janine Emerson Walters - September 27, 2019 at 01:24 PM

CV

“ My sincere sympathy to Carol, Sally and family for the loss of Duke. You are all in my thoughts and prayers...may he rest in peace.

Chuck VanVleet - September 27, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edward James "Duke" Burgermeister.



September 27, 2019 at 12:11 PM