



## Theodore "Ted" William Vassar

September 18, 1939 - December 20, 2023

BLISSFIELD- On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, Theodore William Vassar, 84, passed away peacefully at the Hospice of Lenawee Home. The world has lost a great father, grandfather, husband, brother, uncle and friend.

Ted was born on September 18, 1939 in Toledo, Ohio, the son of Theodore and Julia (Tumey) Vassar. Ted grew up in Point Place working at his father's gas station. His interest in art took him to Bowling Green State University where he earned a Master of Arts degree.

On July 13, 1979, Ted married Eva (Urban) Waggoner at Adrian College Chapel and they shared 44 years together. They spent many summers on Beaver Island where all their families would gather for camping, fishing, laughter and enjoying the great outdoors.

Ted's talent and passion for art took him to Monroe County Community College where he was an art professor for 47 years. During his time at MCCC, Ted's dedication and commitment to art impacted the lives of many students. Ted was an award-winning artist, starting with pottery and working through his realistic wildlife paintings, and eventually building an extensive portfolio of unique abstract watercolors. Ted was also an avid outdoorsman, and enjoyed fishing, hunting, and traditional archery. He spent many years as the master fisherman of Lake Genesareth on Beaver Island. But his greatest joy came from spending time with his family, many of whom were taught his fishing

secrets.

He is survived by his wife, Eva Vassar; sister, Mary (Bill) Cervený; brother-in-law, Charles (Kathy) Urban; and sister-in-law, Gloria Happel. Left to honor Ted is his son, Todd (Trisha) Vassar and children, Timothy, Marylynn, Samantha, Zandra, Jason, Justin and Sherri (honorary granddaughter); daughter, Tara Vassar (Gehao) and daughter, Nolene; son, Trent Vassar; stepson, Guy (Angie) Waggoner and children Carley, Alex, Austin, Ayden, Ella and Garrett; stepson, Ryan (Karen) Waggoner and children Georgia and Vincent. He will also be missed by eight great grandchildren, five nieces and nephews, and countless friends. Ted was preceded in death by his parents and his nephew, Greg Cervený.

Following Ted's wishes cremation will take place. There will be a private memorial service held for the family in the future. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lenawee.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Tagsold Chapel in Blissfield. Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *I had Ted Vassar for art class at MC3. He was a great art teacher and a very gifted artist. Rest in peace, Mr. Vassar.* ”

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**Shelly Vorrath** - December 24, 2023 at 11:55 AM

“ In the summer of 1978 Ted and I planned a trip to Montana, back packing, fishing and enjoying the mountains. We bought new backpacks, a packable camp stove and decent sleeping bags, packed the Jeep and headed west to Red Lodge, Montana where I have lots of relatives.

A couple days after arriving we packed up our gear in our new backpacks and headed up the trail to Ship Lake, a long one day all uphill hike into an official Montana wilderness area. We were pretty beat when we arrived at the campsite early that evening. Deciding to set up camp first I started unpacking my pack: tent, tent pad and fly, stove, fuel, mess kit, cooking gear, freeze dried food, my fishing gear...I looked over at Ted and he had kind of a sheepish grin... about 3 changes of jeans and T shirts, a jacket, a coat, extra socks some food and his fishing gear. But still a great time, caught lots of fish, sat around the campfire enjoyed the nite time Montana sky with the kind of star display you only see when you are far away from the lights of civilization.

Ted had never been to Yellowstone Park so a few days later we set out for a visit. Red Lodge sits in the edge of the Rockies and going south out of town, over the Beartooth Pass, tons of switchbacks and reaching 11,000 elevations it is a spectacular drive. To really enjoy it we took the doors off the Jeep and left them behind and headed to the park. You can't really see Yellowstone in a day but we made a valiant effort and as the sun went down we headed back to Red Lodge. In the dark with all the switchbacks it was a slow drive and despite the fact we had taken the doors off we were in jeans and T shirts and the temperature had dropped a lot. We cranked up the heater and started out. About 3/4 of the way up the wind started blowing and before long we had snowflakes blowing in one side of the Jeep and out the other. We scrounged around the Jeep looking for anything that might help and all we came up with was a couple life vests we had brought along. By the time we got back to town we were frozen, hunched over in our seats with our life jackets still on. Needless to say we headed directly to a local bar for a hot meal . Still an awesome trip with a great friend. I can never forget the trip because when Jill and I got married Ted gave us a painting called

*“Montana Remembered” that hangs in a place where we see it every day.*

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**Pete Loughney** - December 23, 2023 at 12:21 PM

EV

*Great time. Thank you. Love to you both*

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**Eva Vassar** - December 26, 2023 at 07:15 PM

DM

*“ I had Ted as an instructor at MCCC back in 1989, and I've never forgotten how much I learned from him. His attention to detail, his love of creativity and all things beautiful. Heaven just became a little more beautiful...”*

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**Dr. Maureen Monhollen** - December 22, 2023 at 05:30 PM

EV

*Thank you*

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**Eva Vassar** - December 26, 2023 at 07:16 PM

KQ

*I was out of the country for the holidays and returned last week to hear this sad news. Ted was a great man that I admired very much. When I arrived at MCCC a little over ten years ago, I bonded with both Ted and Gary, his officemate. I used to stop by and chat with him on a fairly regular basis. Ted was always so calm cool and collected and doled out advice that was extremely helpful to me as a leader. He very much cared for and valued MCCC, and our Art Program is what it is today because of his contributions. He will be sorely missed. Kojo (President, Monroe County Community College)*

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**Kojo Quartey** - January 08, 2024 at 12:58 PM

MF

“ I was a student of his in the early 80's at MCCC. He was an awesome teacher and taught me so much as an artist. Honored he placed one of my pieces on his office wall back then. He will be missed.

Mike Friar - December 22, 2023 at 10:09 AM

EH

“ Evelyn Ron lit a candle in memory of Theodore "Ted" Vassar



Evelyn & Ron H. - December 21, 2023 at 01:52 PM

RK

“ Eva, My condolences to you and your family over the passing of your beloved Ted. I pray the memories of the joy shared with him will sustain you.

Richard A Kerbawy - December 21, 2023 at 12:17 PM

EV

Thank you, Richard

Eva Vassar - December 25, 2023 at 06:38 PM

DG

“ Don G. purchased the California Grandeur Wine and Gourmet Gift Basket for the family of Theodore "Ted" William Vassar.



Don G. - December 21, 2023 at 11:52 AM

DG

“ Don G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theodore "Ted" William Vassar.

Don G. - December 21, 2023 at 11:52 AM

JU

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie - December 21, 2023 at 09:02 AM

DG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Vassar family. We pray that God grants you peace and comfort through this difficult time. Your TrussWorks/Axis Family.

Don Groom - December 21, 2023 at 08:49 AM

EV

Thank you

Eva Vassar - December 26, 2023 at 10:43 PM

PK

“ We are privileged to have one of his pieces hanging in our home. RIP my brother 🙏

Patti Kaires - December 20, 2023 at 09:44 PM

RO

“ *Eva and family .. sharing love and light at this sad news .. Ted was a “favorite” of the family through Kevin’s eyes .. many memories to cherish. Sincere condolences, Kevin and Robyn*

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**robyn** - December 20, 2023 at 07:04 PM

EV

*Thank you*

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**Eva Vassar** - December 26, 2023 at 10:41 PM