



## John Joseph Rae

September 11, 1935 - April 5, 2020

John J. Rae , Fox Run Village, Novi, MI 48377

John Rae was born on September 11, 1935 in Battle Creek, MI to Kathryn (McGrail) and Gordon Rae. He was the oldest of five siblings: Mary Martha Rae (deceased); Catherine Kunitzer (Dan Kunitzer) of Battle Creek and St. Pete Beach, Florida; Margaret Ann Kronk (Andrew Kronk) of Livonia, MI; and Michael Rae (Suzanne Rae) of Battle Creek. He graduated as the salutatorian of St. Philip High School in 1953. After high school graduation, he attended and graduated cum laude from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in social science. During his college years, he performed throughout the Midwest and East as a soloist with the John Carroll Glee Club. He graduated from DePaul School of Law in Chicago, IL in 1961 with the degree of Juris Doctor. John married Ann Kinskey in 1961. They have three daughters: Elizabeth Ann Rae of Farmington Hills, MI; Susan Vecchio (Christopher), of Birmingham, MI; and, Mary Lynn Rae of Chicago, IL.; and, 5 granddaughters and 3 grandsons; ten nieces and nephews.

John also served in the U. S. Army and the U. S. Army Reserves being honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

He was a member of The Church of the Holy Family in Novi, MI and the State Bar of Michigan. He was known by his peers as “the lawyer’s lawyer.”

John began his professional career with the law firm, McDermott, Will and Emery in Chicago, IL. In 1965, he went into private practice in Battle Creek, MI. During this time he also served part-time as an assistant prosecutor for Calhoun County. He was appointed Prosecuting Attorney by the Calhoun County Judiciary in 1975 and served in that position until 1977 when he accepted a position to become the City Attorney for the City of Midland, MI.

John was past president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and a past chair of the Public Corporation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He was a past member of the Michigan Municipal League’s Ad Hoc Annexation Committee, drafting and assisting in the enactment of 1995 PA 108 which modified and reinstated optional tax base revenue sharing among municipalities in Michigan. He also initiated the concept of and worked with others in the drafting of legislation authorizing municipal civil infraction

laws in Michigan.

John was the author of articles appearing in Public Corporation Law Quarterly, Planning and Zoning News, Michigan Bar Journal and Michigan Municipal Review. In 1999, he edited a ground-breaking two volume book, Local Government and Practice in Michigan. In addition, he wrote several articles on ethics in municipal government for various legal publications.

He retired as City Attorney of Midland, MI in 1995, and served as a consultant on municipal law related cases for several years. He received the Battle Creek St. Philip Catholic Central Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2004. In 2016, he was awarded the William L. Steude Civility in the Practice of Municipal Law Award by the Michigan Municipal League.

John was a loving husband and proud father, a devoted grandfather and a role model for his children and grandchildren. He served as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector in several Catholic parishes in Michigan and Arizona. He was a deeply spiritual man. He liked reading historical books, especially about Winston Churchill, and the American Civil War; and, spy novels. John loved music, classical and musicals, just as much he loved reading. One of his favorite composers was John Williams and the movies that he scored. He was fortunate to hear musical performances all over the world during travels with his wife, Ann. He also enjoyed hiking and golf during retirement in Tucson, Arizona; and, visits to presidential libraries. John Rae was an unwavering supporter of the Detroit Tigers and Lions and will still be continuing to cheer them on to victory.

"In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Michigan Parkinson's Foundation,  
30400 Telegraph Rd.,

Suite 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Phone: 1-248-433-1011, or 1-800-852-9781; Fax:  
248 433-1150.

[www.parkinsonsmi.org](http://www.parkinsonsmi.org)

Services will be at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W 10 Mile Rd  
Southfield, MI

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ I first met John & Ann Rae when they moved in next door to us in Battle Creek in 1965 & we shortly became good life long friends. Ann & John were an independent couple but shared many values & interests & were obviously devoted to each other & their three daughters, & were supportive of each other’s goals.

John was a special person who was intellectual yet down to earth & was one of the most honest people I was privileged to know. His sense of humor, as mentioned by others, was often subtle & always kind. I’ll never forget when he told me he had Parkinson’s disease – he & Ann & I met for lunch & just as we were starting to eat John gave me the news. Naturally I was shocked at the news, & sensing my turmoil he tried to reassure me by saying: “At least it doesn’t hurt”! That was the last time I saw him before symptoms of the disease were becoming apparent.

True to form, Ann cared for John in every way she could until he lost his battle with life. I share Ann & their daughters’ loss but know their faith will help them through this different chapter of life & feel sure John will always be with them.

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Jackie Sheldrick - May 12, 2020 at 09:54 PM

SU

“ Suzanne lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Rae



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Suzanne - April 16, 2020 at 08:13 PM

SU

“ I was blessed to met and come to know John and Ann 1.5 yrs ago. What a delightful couple who I admired for their love and dedication to each other. My sincere condolences to Ann, family and friends. I know he will be missed by many and remembered by all.

Suzanne

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Suzanne - April 16, 2020 at 08:12 PM

BC

“The law is life. Life is the law!” - JJR  
My life was significantly impacted both personally and professionally by John. His passing is the end of an era of municipal law in Michigan that will not soon be duplicated. Condolences to Ann and the girls. Bill & Jan Clarkson

Bill Clarkson - April 15, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ Miss you Grandpa! Happy Easter in heaven!



Katie O'Donnell - April 12, 2020 at 03:47 PM



“ Adam Kronk lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Rae



Adam Kronk - April 09, 2020 at 10:40 AM

BR

“ Brian Rae lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Rae



Brian Rae - April 08, 2020 at 06:19 PM

GH

“ Gail H. purchased a sympathy card for the family of John Joseph Rae.



Gail H. - April 08, 2020 at 02:02 PM

GR

“ John was the consummate gentleman lawyer? Always treated everyone with respect and dignity. John was well respected as a municipal law expert and practitioner. The City of Midland was well served by his civility and skill.

Geoffrey Rettig - April 08, 2020 at 11:18 AM

RD

“ I remember John's tremendous contributions to the city of Midland. He was a remarkable man who distinguish himself in the legal profession. I am also reminded of his post-retirement contributions to me during the time that I served is chair of the Midland County Democratic Party. On one occasion when representing a client in the courts in Battle Creek, I was approached by other attorneys who remembered John for his service as The Calhoun county prosecutor. A distinguishing honorable person. My condolences to Ann and his family.

Robert L. Donoghue - April 08, 2020 at 10:13 AM

NH

“ Our sincere condolences, Ann, to you and your family on John's passing. We so enjoyed our lunches together and good conversation on many everyday events. John had excellent opinions! We are left with great memories. You will be missed, John. Love and prayers, Nancy and Loren

Nancy and Loren Huff - April 07, 2020 at 07:06 PM

MV

My deepest sympathy to Ann and the girls. I remember this wonderful family as neighbors on Elizabeth St. In Battle Creek.

Mary Atchley Vasquez - April 12, 2020 at 08:37 AM

ER

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



elizabeth rae - April 07, 2020 at 01:50 PM

ER

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



elizabeth rar - April 07, 2020 at 01:49 PM

MB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



mary bosrock - April 06, 2020 at 08:55 PM

MB

“ I will never forget John's laugh. It was infectious. He and Ann were amazing together, I could sit and listen to their conversations and think Wow those guys disagree on lots of topic but neither were ever nasty. They were a team.

*Ann, you were a wonderful wife right to the end. Thanks for sharing John with us no matter how difficult it got.*

*Hugs and love. Mary Murray Bosrock*

Mary Bosrock - April 06, 2020 at 05:49 PM

BM

“ My heart is breaking for all of you. I loved John, as did so many others. He was always thoughtful, caring, kind, honorable, and funny. He always made me feel like I was special, and I know those of us who were lucky enough to know him felt the same way. He will always live on in the memory of those of us who were touched by his presence.

*Barb McGregor*

Barbara McGregor - April 06, 2020 at 12:27 PM

ER

“ Elizabeth Rae lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Rae



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elizabeth rae - April 06, 2020 at 07:13 AM