



Ralph James Erickson Jr.

MAY 18, 1934 - MAR 14, 2026

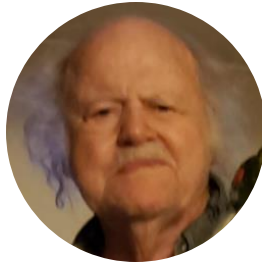


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FUNERAL HOMES

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Ralph James Erickson Jr.

MAY 18, 1934 - MAR 14, 2026

Ralph James Erickson, Jr. of Rochester Hills, Michigan and a former resident of Troy, Michigan passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at the age of 91. He was born on May 18, 1934 in Royal Oak Township, Michigan.

Ralph was married to his beloved wife Juanita Erickson for 61 years until her death in March of 2024. He is predeceased in death by his parents, Ralph Erickson, Sr. and Regina Erickson, his Sister Madeline Erickson Vale, and son Kirk Erickson.

He was a cherished father “Daddy” to Randall Erickson of Rochester Hills, Michigan, Roger Erickson of Rochester Hills, Michigan, James Erickson of Madison Heights, Michigan, and Taryn Erickson of Rochester Hills, Michigan. He was also a grandfather to William Hersha-Erickson and Jonathan Erickson.

Ralph was born in Royal Oak Township and raised in Madison Heights where he attended and graduated from Madison High School. He then went to college at the University of Detroit while working construction. After he left college he joined the Army. After he served his time in the Army, he took a big chance and spent all of his money on a building that he actually helped build when he was doing construction. He put a cot in the back of the shop and that is where he stayed until he could afford a place. He opened John R. Appliance in 1961. In 1962 he married his beloved wife Juanita. They moved from Royal Oak to Troy, Michigan in 1964. They were together for 61 years and ended up having 5 children.

Ralph supported his family with the money from the shop. He worked full time until the age of 89 when he physically could not do it anymore. Ralph was a kind and generous man, the level of his generosity can't be fully known. He thought helping others is just something you do and didn't feel the need to tell anyone. We do know some of what he did, like donating to churches, local kids football teams, Make a wish of Michigan, and helped Forgotten Harvest. Ralph would also help people who were struggling and came into the John R. Appliance needing parts or appliances. For example, I met a woman that I got to talking with and in the conversation I



Obituary

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mentioned him. She perked up and said she knew him and how much it meant to her that he helped her out. She had a disabled son who had lost both legs and was in debt. Her fridge had broken down. She hoped a part would fix it but she ended up needing a new one and could not afford to purchase one. She said when he heard about her son and she showed a photo of him, Ralph decided to give it to her for free. He didn't tell anyone about. When I mentioned it to him he confirmed it and asked about her son. That is the kind of man he was.

Ralph was a kind and gentle man with a huge heart. He had a great sense of humor. He would tell tall tales at times and liked to give people silly nice names. He loved fishing and occasionally going to the casino. He was an honorable man. He was very loved and respected. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, March 22nd from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm and the Funeral Service will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 11:00 am at Hopcroft Funeral Home, 31145 John R. Road, (1 block N. of 13 Mile Road, west side of John R. Road), Madison Heights, Michigan. Burial will be at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, Michigan.



Events


Ralph James Erickson Jr.

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Visitation


 **Sunday**, March 22, 2026

 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET


 **Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights**
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071

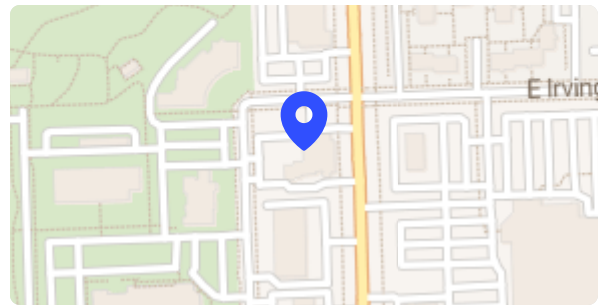


Funeral Service


 **Monday**, March 23, 2026

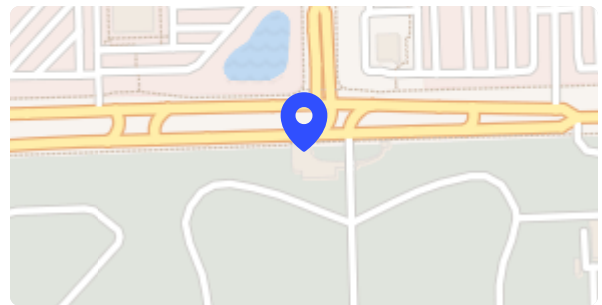
 11:00 AM ET

 **Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights**
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071



Cemetery Details

 **White Chapel Cemetery**
621 W. Long Lake Rd, Troy MI 48098





Tribute Wall

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Danny Briggs, Noel Briggs & Marian Hull sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Erickson family.

March 20 at 4:36 PM



Cranes L&M Appliance Family sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Erickson family.

March 20 at 3:20 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Erickson family.

March 20 at 2:27 PM



Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Erickson family.

March 20 at 12:38 PM



Douglas Anderson posted:

Ralph was a great guy and fellow small businessman. We've never bought a new washer or dryer in our 37 years in our house because Ralph was always there for us with great deals on sound appliances. What else he did for me personally was to support me in my small linen business by buying my old towels to use as rags and providing me with quality starter washers and dryers that got our business rolling. Ralph, Randy and crew also became my favorite stop in our ice cream trucks when we ran those. I still smile at the thought of him announcing me arriving at his shop hollering "ragman is here" back in the day. Rest in peace Ralph, you were a blessing to your family, friends, customers and the community that your business served and not like so many other businesses that just take from their community. Kathy and I are keeping Randy and the rest of your family in our thoughts and sending our warmest condolences.

March 20 at 11:08 AM



Tribute Wall

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MJ

Melanie & Jim Jones sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Erickson family.



March 19 at 6:45 PM

J

Joseph E posted:

Ralph was a great man he was always ready to lend a helping hand or answer a question about working on appliances he was a all around nice guy and wouldn't hesitate to try to help anyone out of a jam or reduce a price on a part if you didn't have the fund to paid. I will truly miss you my friend and I will see you again sometime in the future my friend. Joseph Esser

March 19 at 2:09 PM

T

Timothy Krist posted:

I remember working at the shop and Ralph told me to sit down I want to tell you this story that he was related to general Sherman and he always told me about all his old stories or being in a war and I sat down and I listened to him and it was really interesting he was a smart man and he always took care of his family I can tell you that he very well took care of his family he was a good man I never met anybody like him that was the hardest worker like I was until I can't work anymore and he always told me Tim keep on moving or you'll die and I've been trying to do that I don't know how much longer I got cuz it's hard for me to get around but I love I love the man and times we had in Vegas me Randy Roger and him went to Las Vegas I wouldn't trade none of it for the world and Ralph was a good man he was I liked working for me is very good person he buy you lunch if he had the money he made sure that she ate he took care of his people I never met anybody like I said in my life that was as nice as them nicer than even my own family he was very good to me that's all I can tell you God bless you Ralph I hope you're not hurting no more and you're in a good place and God be with you and you are the best man that I've ever met my life

March 19 at 1:20 PM

S

Sammy Sam posted:

I don't think there was a mean bone in his body. He will be truly missed!!

March 19 at 1:13 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ralph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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