



## Raymond A. Zehel

July 14, 1977 - May 26, 2019

Raymond A. Zehel, of Garden City, passed away on Sunday, May 26, 2019, at the age of 41. He was born July 14, 1977 in Detroit, Michigan to Judith B. Portugal and the late Thomas J. Zehel Sr. Ray attended Queen of Apostles and graduated from Warren Mott High School. Ray was diligent just like his fathers, in all that he did. From the early age of 7 years old he worked for Krott funeral home as a greeter and funeral assistant, and for a local Hamtramck car wash. While he began managing the car wash grounds, that is where his love for landscaping pioneered. Raymond continued to work for various companies such as Vidosh and D&A Landscaping until he became an entrepreneur. Raymond founded and operated English Heritage, LLC for many successful years. Ray was the epitome of a gentlemen, and was taught and practiced the strengths of being a man. He could do anything from flooring, remodeling, and most brilliantly, brick paving. He came to know God at an early age. He served as an altar server as a raised Catholic, and later found his Christian calling and practiced his faith through reading the Bible. Ray was a dear lifelong friend to so so many. Raymond considered himself to be shy and an introvert, however, those that knew him and loved him know that he was quite the opposite. Raymond was the talented life of the party! Hobbies included being artistic in nature to such as drawing, painting, building, carpentry, and horticulture. Raymond loved the art of a deal greatly which included buying/ selling cars or trading tools. Ray will be missed for being the talented life of the party, and for his laughter that he

could bring to any crowd with his comedic ways.

Preceded in death by his father(s), Thomas J. Zehel Sr., Ronald J. Portugal, one sister; Kathrine Zehel Penzak, two brothers; Jeffery Portugal, and Robert Portugal.

Survivors include mother, Judith B. Portugal; six sisters, Kimberly, Jennifer, Sabrina, Mary, Elizabeth, Sheila; four brothers, Thomas Jr., David, Jimmy, and Ronnie; five nieces, Jessica, Kayla, Kelsea, Zaydriana, Valora, and one nephew, Kevin. And also a magnitude of family and friends.

Visitation Saturday 2-8 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (West of Hoover) Warren. Friends and family will gather Sunday from 11 a.m. until the time of funeral service, 2 p.m., at the funeral home. Interment of ashes at a later date.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Visitation

JUN 2. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Funeral Service

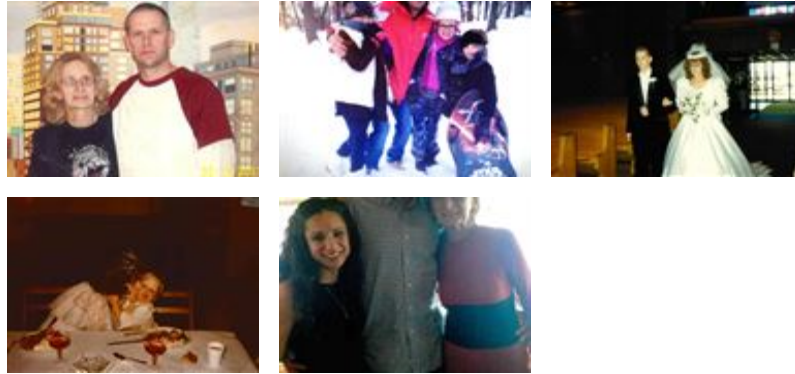
JUN 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ 88 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - May 31, 2019 at 03:07 PM



*Ray had a big heart, he was a good person, truly a tragedy. Luv you Ray*

Christianne Wozniak - June 02, 2019 at 08:25 AM

SM

*Did not know him but heard many good things about him. He was a great guy and did beautiful landscaping. Judy I'm so sorry for your loss. He is in God's arms now eternally.*

Shirley McClintock - June 02, 2019 at 12:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond A. Zehel.



May 30, 2019 at 06:44 PM

SM

“ Ray had one of the best souls of anyone I've ever met. He really cared about the people he knew and loved and would go out of his way to help people. He made sure to let me know I was loved and I will never forget that, it brings tears to my eyes just thinking of how he won't ever be there to talk to again.

*I remember him telling me how he reached out to the person that shot him in the neck and almost killed on his birthday. He got a hold of him on Facebook and after so many years of being bitter he decided not to tell him off or seek revenge but instead to forgive him. He chose love over hate and that's the type of thing that makes mountains move in this world. Not many people have the heart and goodness in their mind and soul to do that. His heart was so huge. I don't think he ever understood how much of a difference he made in the lives of people. He was quiet but made me laugh whenever he spoke. I just want everyone to remember that no matter what the circumstances were around his death he never meant to hurt anyone. Ray battled with his own problems but I know wherever he is now, he surely is sad seeing his friends and family cry.*



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**Sarah McIntyre** - May 29, 2019 at 07:25 PM

AP



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**April** - May 30, 2019 at 04:56 PM

RD

*Very true! Definitely one of the most thoughtful and kind hearted people that I've ever had honor of calling my friend. Now in the aftermath I feel incredibly heavy hearted that I didn't reach out as much as I probably should have in the past few years. He always looks so happy in his Facebook posts, and looked as though he was back at creating beautiful masterpiece brick paving projects again...I just assumed things were looking up for him. I also believe he meant to hurt no one, and doubt that it was intentional. From I what I understand depression is a monster that takes on a life if it's own. Ray was probably the least selfish person I've ever met in my life. My heart goes out to; you, Judy, Jenny, Kim, and the rest of his family. God bless you Ray Ray, May you finally find peace my friend. See you on the other side. ❤️*

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**Robin Davies** - May 30, 2019 at 05:11 PM



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**Jennifer Zehel** - April 15, 2025 at 12:32 PM