



## Richard A. Swift

November 25, 1943 - November 3, 2020

Richard Anthony Swift, 76, passed peacefully away at the Village of East Harbor on 3 November 2020. Richard was born 25 November 1943 in Uniontown, PA, son of John Edward Swift and Margherita Ann (Adreoni) Swift and brother to Robert Swift. His dear wife, Barbara (DeMartino) Swift, passed away December 2010. It was a marriage made in heaven filled with great joy and laughter. Those who knew Richard will remember him as friendly, funny and spiritual. He was very generous in giving of his time and worldly goods to his church and friends. Richard was an elementary school teacher in the Anchor Bay School System. He loved to volunteer, cook, celebrate holidays and play cards. He loved playing cards almost every day and if short players would recruit anyone around him to join in. Richard had many hobbies, such as music, studying different cultures, and donating trinkets. Richard is predeceased by his parents, Edward and Margherita Swift, brother Robert Swift and wife Barbara (DeMartino) Swift. Visitation from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020 at Gendernalik Funeral Home. Instate at 9:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, 31555 Hoover Road, Warren, MI.

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ Any doubts? Fears, trials or tribulations? Mr. Swift used to say this constantly after giving a lesson. I still say that to this day now 24+ years from the 4th grade. Nothing I write here will be able to describe the sheer impact Mr. Swift had on my life. From getting upset with me for passing notes to my new little girlfriend in class to voluntarily tutoring me after school on math. To introducing me (and the class) to the wonderful sounds of Enya as we did or class work to handing out chocolate chip cookies from what I believe was Kroger or VGs. What a tremendous loss. I had hoped to connect with Mr. Swift just one more time as I had gotten older just to give a heavy thank you, but we shall meet again in Gods kingdom. Immense condolences to the family and rest well Mr. Swift.

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**T. Stallworth** - February 01, 2024 at 05:47 AM

SB

“ I believe he was my 5th grade teacher at St Basil? Loved that guy. RIP

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**Sharon Borrocci** - October 30, 2023 at 09:51 PM



“ This is his son Nick. We are still in shock here, My mother's last dying wish was to keep in close contact with my dad. My family and I talked with him frequently. Thankyou everyone for the kind words. We love and miss very much. Even thought we live in a different state we stayed close.

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December 01, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MG

*I came across the picture of your Dad looking for a different relative of mine. The first thing I said to my son was, "Wow, this guy looks like my Dad." Then I saw that he passed in Pennsylvania and figured he was a relative of some kind because the majority of my Swift/Ridenour (regardless of spelling) line came out of PA.*

*Then I clicked on the link and read the obituary and realized that your father was my uncle, the brother of my father Robert Lowry Swift.*

*That would make you my cousin.*

*I don't know if you will see this or not, but if you do, my name is Margeurite but I go by Maggie. I was named after my Dad's mom (he had a different mom than your Dad).*

*My name on Facebook is Maggie Swift Gutierrez and I live in Copperopolis, CA.*

*My email is wildbynaturebailbonds@yahoo.com*

*If you want to reach out I am more than willing to connect. If not, I will respect that.*

*I hope life is treating you well.*

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**Maggie Gutierrez** - September 23, 2024 at 11:26 PM



*“ Just heard the news and I am so sad, you were a great teacher and mentor to me. Thanks for being my friend.*

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November 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I had Mr. Swift in 4th grade and he made a huge impact on my life. When I look back at teachers I had, he shines as one of the best! He made learning so fun, he encouraged me, and pushed me to be my best. He reached out to my parents about bumping me a grade, but I attribute that to his teaching style and dedication. One of my fondest memories of him, was that he held blind taste tests that delighted the class (Pepsi/coke for example) and he brought in Haagen-dasz/ treats for the whole class. Such a sweet soul and his students adored him. 💙

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November 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I never had Mr Swift as a teacher but he was a nice man. I would love to hear from his children, Nick and Maria. I'm so sorry for your loss. Peace to all you family. Blythe

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November 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I had Mr. Swift for 5th grade. At Halloween, he invited everyone to come to his house to trick or treat but told us to bring plastic bags because he was ladling out soup instead of giving out candy. I remember really believing that he was going to do it but liked him so much I was willing to accept soup. Not a single Halloween goes by that I don't think about bringing out a big pot of soup and ladling it into trick or treat bags.

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November 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard will make all souls in heaven laugh out loud. His sardonic humor will live on in our memories of him, too.

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**Country Basket Blooms** - November 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard came into the teacher's lounge out of breath and hurried...he set down a jar of questionable liquid and a bunch of bottles! He had gone to Canada to pick up these healthy supplements on his way to work. Border Control detained him and tested his haul. Making him a bit late and frazzled.*

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November 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will always remember his very sweet smile. It was very infectious. I first came to know Mr. Swift when he would sub at the school my kids attended way back when...Great Oaks Elementary. My kids thought he was the best sub ever! From time to time I would run into him at the store and then in recent years I would run into him at the Village of East Harbor...visiting someone....and of course ALWAYS had that amazing smile. He was a diamond in the ruff for sure. I am thankful that our paths crossed many many times. Heaven has gained an amazing man and I know he will be missed greatly....but the impression he has left on all that knew him will never be forgotten.*

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November 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thank You Richard from the Rivard Family...Your mirthful way was fresh and we are so appreciative of your kind nature...A Man of God always with a kind word and soft gesture. It was great having Richard as a Fellow Knights of Columbus..He's already missed but we know he and Barbara are enjoying themselves ! We love you & You Sir will not be forgotten ....*

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November 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr Swift was my sons 6th grade teacher some years ago. I was always grateful to him for actually taking the time to spend encouraging my son. He was a special man. He would bring things to his class that his wife had made for the kids. He brought a 2 foot chocolate bunny in for the children to draw tickets for My son won it. So fun!!!!*

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November 08, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *He made a large impact on me as a young adult. He really defined what character is and the power of optimism. Glad to have had him as a teacher and as a mentor in my youth.*

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November 08, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard and Barbara will forever live in my heart. I knew Richard longer than Barbara did. He was unique, sweet , a wonderful teacher and a great man. My husband I stood up for Rich & Barb - they were the last marriage on the docket - when the judge called them forward, he said: "I saved the best for last." Truer words were never spoken. Richard cried with joy. We always shared New Year's Day together. The rule was to eat pork so we would root forward - never chicken or we would scratch back (that was Rich). In Richard's memory I will wear one of my best gifts ever - A Christmas Tree Pin. He loved them and I love him. Dance the night away with Barbara. Rest Well Richard.*

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November 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was in his last 4th grade class before he retired. Greatest teacher ever!*

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November 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember "Swifty". I started teaching in Anchor Bay and "Swifty" was a great support to me as a new teacher. He was a a super teach and friend. Those were the good old years with the Anchor Bay crowd Barb June

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November 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I had Mr. Swift for 4th grade and absolutely loved him. He taught us so much and kept learning fun. He was teaching us French and had us hold trading markets to show us how economies worked. RIP Mr Swift. Sincerely, Kirsten Demey (Kuykendall)

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November 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard and I would share a hug every November 25th because we shared the same birth date. What a wonderful man!! I enjoyed the few years that I worked with him in Anchor Bay Schools. He had such a wonderful sense of humor and it was always fun to be in his presence. When he retired from teaching, I always asked him to be my substitute teacher because I knew that my students would enjoy having him in their class, and they did. He and his wife, Barbara, were such a beautiful, caring, loving and religious couple. May God and Barbara welcome you into their loving arms. Rest In Peace, dear Richard.

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November 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard was a delight both in and out of the classroom. He was a very gentle soul to have met and shared his joy on our path of life. R. I.P. Dear friend!

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November 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ i enjoyed breaking bread with richard at the pit stop and he always had a cute little joke for me,he was one of the good one's and the lord called him home,,,,,GOD'S SPEED my friend

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November 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Wow... I had failed 5th grade when I moved to New Baltimore by a lady that was retiring ( she was awful ) but when I had to re take 5th grade I got Mr Swift.. He was so good to me a total 180 from the last teacher that I had.. He made a HUGE impact on my life.. I was feeling llke a complete looser for failing and he was the man that lifted me up out of that.. He was also just a great teacher.. I will never forget the wonderful memories that he gave me.. REST IN PEACE !!! YOU CERTAINLY DESERVE IT & will be missed greatly.  
Dan Jordan II

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Swift was my favorite teacher. He was my 5th grade teacher and his nick name for me was Cass. It was very good teacher and I learned a lot from him. He made learning fun and we all loved him! May he Rest In Peace and I have never forgotten him and never will. Sending prayers to his family as he will be missed and I am forever grateful having been a student in his class at Anchor Bay. P.s we had the pleasure of sneaking out, getting Mc Donald's for lunch and enjoying his company in his classroom. He made learning fun!

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Swift was my 4th grade teacher. Although I am 33 years old now, my 4th grade memories are so vivid because of him. Pop quizzes, red ink pilot pens, and double digit subtraction. Great teachers shape the future of the world, and Mr. Swift was one of the greatest!*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Swift, you will be deeply missed. My son Ryan was in his class the 1st year that we moved to Chesterfield, Ryan was having a hard time with the move and Mr. Swift, kept him under his wing he stayed after school and helped Ryan tutoring him and in the summer time at the library. He was the most caring loving and such a giving man that I have ever known. We owned a bakery in Chesterfield and him he and his wife used to come in and they enjoyed their baked goods and it was wonderful seeing him even years after Ryan had already graduated from school he was also so involved in the children's tent at Saint Mary's and I enjoyed helping him there he was always so welcoming with a wonderful smile on his face he was always a joy to run into and see and talk to around town. May you rest in peace Mr. Swift in the arms of our savior Our Lord Jesus Christ*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard Swift was a delightful and dear friend my first year of teaching in Anchor Bay at Naldrett Elementary! He was so funny...I smile as I remember him and am sad that he is gone. His spirit will live on for those of us who had the good fortune to know him. He was a good man. Perhaps we'll meet again if I go to heaven. I know he will be there and will make me laugh! Sharon Clemons Muncatchy*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ I taught with Rich for his 1st 5 years at Naldrett. The kids loved him. And he kept all of us teachers in stitches with his off brand sense of humor.

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Sharon, Between the 2 of you the teachers lounge was never dull :)

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard swift was my 4th grade teacher and to this day he had been the most influential teacher of my life. I have not met a more generous man in my life. I remember him splitting his lunch with me because i forgot my own. He stayed late to help me learn math. He tutored me all summer when i struggled.. and i looked forward to it most days as well. I tried getting a hold of him when i graduated college to invite him to my commencements. I was unable. I've seen him a few times at seros, a local restaurant and airways some to him given the opportunity. He was an amazing spiritual leader for me throughout middle school. Seeing him help out at ST Marys was always a great time. My deepest condolences to the family i greatly mounne with you. Mr swift in glad your reunited with your wife. Love you and thank you

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ The only Substitute Teacher I remember from my elementary days at Great Oaks. He still comes up in conversation from time to time. Rest In Peace Mr. Swift. I can still hear your voice saying "SIT DOWN CHILD!" To this day.

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



*“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Richard throughout the many chapters of his life. First as a teacher of my children, then as a coworker, and then as a friend to my mother at East Harbor. He was always kind, generous, and always happy! In his humorous way he always called me "scarpachi." Find comfort in heaven with Barbara. You will be missed by so many.*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



*“ My Cousin Dickie, Quirky, funny and many, many fond memories of growing up right down the street! I think of us cousins as we were, young and fun loving, not the aged people we have become. It is easier that way! It is good you are back with Barbara and all the Aunties. They will all take care of you now. as we are.*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



*“ Richard is always the spirit of light- our ray of sunshine, curious and exclaiming wonderment! He made sure we celebrated life's important moments- was so very proud of his wife's needlework creations that he gave to us all! Every time I ran into him in the neighborhood he remembered that I collect depression glass. He never stopped wanting to teach the children. His love will forever be missed.*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



*“ The last time I saw Rivhard he gave me a picture of Saint Rita that belonged to his wife Barb very nice and Holly man and will be missed*

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November 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *The United Pioneers Seniors will miss Richard's generosity and helpfulness. I'm sure is already playing cards in heaven.*

November 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard and Barb were both friendly and kind and yes, Richard will truly be missed by his friends at the senior citizens group.*

November 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard was a dear neighbor and friend of ours. So kind and so witty! We will miss his smile and waving (from the car) so much. So happy that he is reunited with his beloved Barbara and has received his well deserved wings from Our Heavenly Father. Please save us a cloud in Heaven, so we can be neighbors again someday. :) All our love, Michelle & Jen*

**Angel Wings** - November 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard A. Swift*

**Material\_candle\_navy\_thumbnail** - November 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *The best teacher Anchor Bay ever had, also a very kind and gentle man to all . He truly lived his faith. Gods blessings to his family. He is resting in the arms of Our Lord.*

November 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard was a wonderful man. He always had a kind word and treated everyone with such love. He gave his time and generosity to all he encountered. He lived his faith in word and deed. The earthly world will miss such a great man...but heaven has gained another amazing soul. Rest In Peace Dear Richard.* 💕🙏

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November 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Such a wonderful man and married to such a wonderful woman. I love you both and will miss you....Enjoy Jesus and Barbara! Hope to see you again...*

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November 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard was a very kind and generous guy. The New Baltimore Seniors will miss him dearly.*

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November 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM