



## James "Jim" Rivard

February 8, 1940 - March 5, 2022

James J. Rivard, 82, of Sterling Heights, MI died on March 5th, 2022. James was born on February 8, 1940 in Bay City, MI to Raymond and Victoria (Justa) Rivard. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Mary Ann (Sushinsky) Rivard. James is survived by his daughter Kristen Rivard, son Mark Rivard (Joanna Sganga), and three grandchildren, Geneva, Vienna, and Julian. Also; survived by brother Donald Rivard, sister Geralyn McComb (Michael), sister in laws Faith Ann Rivard, Lynn Rivard, and brother in law Dan Dell. He is additionally survived by many loving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

James was also preceded in death by two sons Jonathan and Kenneth. Also predeceased by four brothers: Thomas Rivard, Frank Rivard, Robert Rivard, and Roger Rivard and five sisters: Barbara Rivard, Carol Rivard, Gloria Rivard, Elaine Dell, and Lorraine Kolka.

James was a lifelong educator, a career he felt very passionate about. With over 4 decades of service, starting out as an assistant gym teacher at Assumption Grotto School in Detroit, achieving his Masters Degree, his Doctorate of Education, and ending his career as a tenured professor at Marygrove College, where he developed the program for Educational Doctorial Studies, as well as teaching educational law. He was recognized for his achievements both at the local and state level, as well as receiving a Presidential accommodation for his work in education.

James married his best friend, Mary Ann, on August 10th 1963, and were together for days short of their 54th wedding anniversary. He was able to attend college on a football scholarship, and continued with a lifelong interest in football and other sports. "Jim" and Mary Ann settled in Sterling Heights, and raised 2 beautiful children. His hobbies included sports, fishing, and gardening. Growing up in Bay City, he never lost his love of the water and could frequently be found wherever he could find a water view, and put a fishing line in the water.

Viewing will be held at the Mandziuk & Son Funeral Home, Wednesday March 9th, from 3-8 pm at 3801 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights. Funeral service will be at St. Anne Catholic Church, Thursday March 10th, instate begins at 9:30 am followed by mass at 10 am, located at 32000 Mound Road, Warren MI. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or for support of Ukraine (MaryAnn's family emigrated from Ukraine) at [www.unitedhelpukraine.org](http://www.unitedhelpukraine.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Rd  
Clinton Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Instate

MAR 10. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
32000 Mound Rd  
Warren, MI 48092

## Mass of the Christian Burial

MAR 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
32000 Mound Rd  
Warren, MI 48092

# Tribute Wall



“ I was a student at Brandon High School in the early 60's. We had a math teacher Jim Rivard, he was qith us for only a couple of years, He was very good with us in teaching, als\ways wondered what may have happened to him after his time with us at Brandon High. Sad for the loss.

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**Jim Welch** - December 31, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ James "Jim" Rivard

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October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ James "Jim" Rivard

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January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ I am truly sad that I just read that Mr. Rivard passed. I was a student at Assumption Grotto . He was one of the people that changed my life. The person when you finally grow up and say he made a difference. He truly was. I had been trying to look him up to just say thank you and this is when I learned of his passing. He will never be forgotten. Thanks Mr. Rivard for everything especially when the sister used to send me to his office for the paddle. Lol. He would just close the door and we would talk about what I did to deserve the paddle. That was on a three time a week if not daily offender. Thank you for guiding me. Heaven has a new angle. Joy Fanning/LeFevre

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**Joy Fanning/LeFevre** - April 15, 2022 at 02:48 PM

RR

“ The loss of Dr. Jim Rivard is a loss to the entire Chippewa Valley Schools community. Jim played such an important role as our district grew from a small semi-suburban district to the large district it is today. Jim oversaw our district during some of our formative years. He was respected as an elementary principal (the school where everyone wanted to teach), and then later as our Superintendent. In fact, Jim hired me for my first administrative position, and then later appointed me to be the principal of the elementary building he opened, Miami Elementary. Maybe something good rubbed off because I continued to follow in his footsteps as I became Superintendent. I'll always remember him for his kindness and respect for all people. He, in his own quiet way, always loved to laugh.

*Ron Roberts*

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**Ron Roberts** - March 15, 2022 at 01:29 PM

TS

“ Jim was always very good to me. He gave me an open invitation to dinner and he, Kris, and I had some good conversations over many dinners, holiday dinners included. He loved telling stories about his time growing up and all the different jobs he had. He didn't light up as much as when he talked about teaching, it was definitely a passion. I found out that Dr James Rivard was the superintendent when I graduated high school at Chippewa Valley. Such a fun thing to share without knowing for several years.

*I guess we came full circle Jim. I will miss you dearly and my heart hurts knowing there won't be another 5:15pm dinner. I'll have dinner with Kris for you and we'll share our memories of you.*

*Missing you, love Tracy xoxo*

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**Tracy Stenhouse** - March 12, 2022 at 05:31 PM

CK

“ Jim Rivard along with myself Carole Koelzer opened Miami in 1974. We both worked for CVS for 25 years.....He was a great friend & principal. Heartfelt sympathy to the family.

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**carole koelzer** - March 10, 2022 at 01:46 PM

ML

“ Jim Rivard was the principal for several years when I was a teacher at Assumption Grotto school in Detroit, He was an incredible leader and we were always on the cutting edge regarding education. I always found him kind and supportive no matter what the situation, My sincere sympathy to his children and grandchildren,

*Mary Loewen*

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**Mary Loewen** - March 09, 2022 at 06:31 PM

CG

“ I'm sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I was Superintendent when we hired Jim to be principal of one of our newly opened elementary schools back in the mid 70,s Jim was an excellent principal and a outstanding individual

*Charles Grove.*

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**charles Grove** - March 09, 2022 at 01:02 PM

AO

“ My deepest sympathies to the Rivard family. Jim was a well-respected professor and colleague at Marygrove College and who developed and coordinated the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership – the most successful education program at the College. He brought a wealth of practical experience as a K-12 administrator to his work. He was a wise, kind and gentle man who patiently sat through the ideological fads and shifting theoretical frameworks of higher education discussions which often had little to do with helping teachers teach and students learn. His values-based, common-sense leadership positively shaped the lives and careers of many graduate students. He was a breath of fresh air at the College and I so treasured my conversations with him. May he rest in peace.

*Anne White O'Hara*

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**Anne White O'Hara** - March 09, 2022 at 11:54 AM

JN

“ He was a kind man. I remember being taken to his office in elementary school in the early 80's maybe 1981 for fighting or something like that. I was most certainly a handful being someone who didn't speak English and had no understanding of the culture. He treated me with respect and understanding. I have high respect for him.

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**Jan Niemi** - March 08, 2022 at 11:38 PM

CR

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the family especially Mark and Kristen. Dr. Rivard hired me at Miami elementary in 1978. He was a quiet, caring, and wonderful person. Such wonderful memories I have of Dr. Jim Rivard and remember how much he cared about the students and families of CVS.  
Cheryle Rutledge

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**Cheryle Rutledge** - March 08, 2022 at 11:26 PM

LI

“ Dr. Rivard was my elementary school principal. He was always so nice and kind.  
I remember showing him my science project... I was demonstrating it (a robot toilet cleaner made from legos and sponges) and he got all wet from the water and sponges. He just laughed and congratulated me on the project. Such a fond memory. Rest In Peace.

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**Lindsay** - March 08, 2022 at 11:05 PM

LI

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**Lindsay** - March 08, 2022 at 11:03 PM

RC

“ I will forever be indebted to Dr. Rivard for hiring me back in 1977. He was such a wonderful principal (and later superintendant). He was a great role model for me as this very green teacher was learning how to teach. He was a great listener, an accomplished educator, and a wonderful person.

Ruth (Wolf) Cummins - March 08, 2022 at 10:23 PM

JV

“ Dr Richard was my principal before he was “dr” even. I am now a teacher myself. The impact he had on so many is immeasurable. What a beautiful life. My love and prayers to you all at this time.

Jodie Miller Viviano - March 08, 2022 at 09:44 PM

JV

I'm so sorry. Rivard was spell checked to Richard and I didn't catch it until after I posted.

Jodie Miller Viviano - March 08, 2022 at 09:46 PM

GM

“ So very sorry for your loss. I will always remember Dr. Rivard as a soft spoken, kind and compassionate superintendent who loved his staff, students and parents. May he Rest In Peace.

Geri Marturano - March 08, 2022 at 08:45 PM



“ Sending the Rivard family prayers and peace for your loss. Dr. Rivard was a kind and quiet man but he would move mountains for the children and staff of CVS. His time at CVS impacted so many and will be felt for years to come.  
RIP

Dawn Paul - March 08, 2022 at 06:59 PM

MD

“ Dr. Rivard interviewed and hired me in 1995. He was a kind and gentle man who loved students, staff and the community he served. I'll be forever grateful for the opportunity he gave me. My condolences to his family.

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**Mark F Deldin** - March 08, 2022 at 05:14 PM

JS

“ My deepest condolences to the Rivard family. I worked with Dr. Rivard at the CVS administration building. He was very kind and had a wonderful dry sense of humor. He always made time to stop chat with staff. You will be missed!

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**Jennifer Shalayko** - March 08, 2022 at 05:02 PM

IG

“ Chippewa Valley Schools is saddened to hear the news that Dr. James “Jim” Rivard, former Superintendent of Schools for Chippewa Valley, has passed away.

*Dr. Rivard was a lifelong educator spending more than 40 years dedicated to his profession, with 25 years working for Chippewa Valley Schools. He cared deeply about our students and families and served as interim superintendent in 1988 before being appointed superintendent from September 1989 until his retirement in August 1998.*

*During his tenure as superintendent, the district grew by more than 1,900 students and built two new schools Cherokee Elementary School and Dakota High School. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and former colleagues. He will be missed by many.*



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**Irene Grumbling** - March 08, 2022 at 04:56 PM

JE

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Rivard. He hired me, and helped me numerous times throughout the years we worked together at Chippewa Valley and at Oakland University. He was a great man.

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**Jerry Evanski** - March 08, 2022 at 03:22 PM

SF

“ Sarah Boyk and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James "Jim" Rivard.



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**Sarah Boyk and Family** - March 08, 2022 at 02:07 PM

PO

“ My deepest sympathy to the entire Rivard family, especially his children and grandchildren. Dr. Rivard, Jim, was always a patient, kind, generous and supportive principal. As one of his teachers at Miami Elementary, He always found a way to help you help your kids. I don't think he ever said no to me about anything I wanted to do. He always found the money. Being his art teacher meant he always had my back. When he became the Superintendent I deeply missed him. No other principal raised to his level quiet, unassuming Commitment to education, the teachers, and the children. I was always be proud, grateful and glad I got to be on his staff and work with him

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**Patricia ONeil** - March 08, 2022 at 02:02 PM

TL

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the family, especially Mark and Kristen.....your dad was a wonderful person and a caring Principal and Superintendent. It was a pleasure working with and for him for so many years in Chippewa Valley. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.  
Theresa Lowe

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**Theresa Lowe** - March 08, 2022 at 01:21 PM

AB

“ *My deepest sympathy to all the members of Dr. Rivard’s family. He hired me to teach second grade at Miami Elementary in 1977. Dr. Rivard was the greatest advocate for education and children. He was a wonderful person. I’m so saddened to hear about his death.*

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**Audrey Brundirks** - March 08, 2022 at 10:50 AM