



## Richard "Rich" Plangger

February 8, 1923 - May 25, 2013

Richard "Rich" E. Plangger, 90, of St. Joseph, passed away Saturday, May 25, 2013, at Caretel Inns of Royalton in St. Joseph.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, May 31 at the Scottdale United Methodist Church, 4271 Scottdale Road, in St. Joseph with Elder Yvonne Hester officiating. Military Rites will conclude the service. A memorial visitation will be held Thursday evening from 5:00 until 8:00 at the Dey-Florin Funeral Home, 2506 Niles Ave., in St. Joseph.

Memorials may be made to either Scottdale UMC or to the Lakeshore Youth Baseball/Softball Association. Messages of condolence may be sent to [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Rich was born February 8, 1923, in St. Joseph and was a life-long member of the community. He was one of five children born to Tobias and Lena Plangger. Rich proudly served his country during WWII in the U.S. Army and was a driver for General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Rich will be remembered by many for his involvement in the community in the area of competitive softball. He was owner of Plangger's Furniture in Benton Harbor since 1952. Rich was a member in the National and Michigan Softball Halls of Fame as a pitcher and sponsor. Additionally, Rich was inducted into the LMC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007 as a contributor and volunteer. His teams which represented Plangger Furniture competed in numerous state and national men's fast-pitch softball

tournaments. Rich's sponsored teams have been competing since 1956. In 1973, he purchased and developed a softball field – Plangger's Park - in Benton Township. Rich also enjoyed bowling (was a member of the Bowling Hall of Fame) and polka dancing.

Rich is survived by his sons, Rick (Joni) Plangger of St. Joseph and Scott (Amy) Plangger of Bloomington, IL; grandchildren, Meg (Chris) Johnson of Seattle, Ricky Plangger of Houston, Brock Plangger of St. Joseph, Eli Plangger of Chicago and Jake and Olivia Plangger of Bloomington, IL; two great-grandchildren, David and Grant Johnson; special friend, Ann Arent; long-time employee, Amos Ray, III; and by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to his parents, Rich was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth in 2000; his daughter, Jill; and by his siblings, Hattie Zebell, Art Plangger, Florence Youngblood, and Erna Sinn.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 30.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013  
2506 Niles Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
(269) 983-1514  
staff@florin.net

## Service

**MAY 31.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Scottdale United Methodist Church  
4271 Scottdale Rd  
Saint Joseph, MI

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Rick and Scott*

*Sorry for your loss just want you guys to know although the two of you know how great of a dad he was and a great person to all his customers. He had a heart of gold for all people for baseball and furniture. My mom was one of his customer and so as the rest of my family he will for ever be miss and loved. May God continue to strengthen the both of you and your extended family.*

*La'Verne Carter White*

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**La'Verne Carter White** - May 31, 2013 at 10:37 AM

SJ

“ *Dear Plangger family,*

*My memories of Rich Plangger are mainly of softball, and how he supplied the bases, balls, and bats for our daily sandlot games behind my house. I also remember the basement of their home and the many softball trophies that adorned the bar, shelves and virtually every horizontal surface.*

*He will be missed. My family's thoughts and prayers are with the Planggers at this time of loss.*

*Steve Jackson*

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**Steve Jackson** - May 31, 2013 at 06:33 AM

BB

“ Rick and Scott,

*May your dad be in the circle and on the field in heaven forever. He was a great man and a greater ambassador to fastpitch softball. I will always remember the first time I met him. We played at Plangger Park in the mid 80's. My dad, Jim, and I arrived at the park about an hour and fifteen prior to game time to see one man at the park getting the field lined and ready to play ball. I strolled out to the mound to see what kind of shape it was in since I would be throwing the first game, over walks your dad. He says to me " what are you checking on young man" I look at him and said " I just wanted to know what the footing was like out here" He chuckled and said " I got it around just like I always have but, if you don't like what you see, grab that rake over there and give me a hand" I said "looks good to me" He smiled a said " Good, because around here I am the groundskeeper, the scorekeeper, the cook and anything else that needs done." I said " thanks" and headed back to the vehicle to get dressed. My dad says to me "so I see you met Rich" I said "who?" He says to me "the guy that built this park and the sponsor of the team we are playing." I thought to myself ' What is this guy doing out here all alone getting this field ready for us to play on if he owns the place. But, over the next 15 years or so your dad was always at the park every time we played, still getting the field around, score keeping and feeding the teams after some great softball. I realized that the game was part of him as much as he was part of the game. He will be missed by many.*

*God Bless,  
Bryan Boyd  
Homer, MI*

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**Bryan Boyd** - May 29, 2013 at 02:42 PM