



## James D. Ritchie

October 4, 1938 - December 13, 2017

James D. Ritchie, age 79 of Harbor Beach, passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at his home under hospice care.

He was born on October 4, 1938 in Harbor Beach to the late Robert and Alice (Pettit) Ritchie. Jim and Marilyn Laeder were united in marriage on June 9, 1962 in Harbor Beach. Jim was a retired employee of the Huron County Road Commission retiring after over 30 years of service. He was the owner/operator of the Ritchie Fire Equipment, Inc. since 1967. He joined the Harbor Beach Area Fire Department in 1960, and was a former fire chief. He was a first responder with the Ramsey Ambulatory Service during the 1970s, and joined the Eastern Huron Ambulance Service in 1979. He continued his fire service career by becoming a State of Michigan Fire Instructor, he was a member and Past President of the Michigan State Fireman's Association; was a past secretary/treasurer of the past Presidents Fireman's Club. Jim was a member of the Two Cylinder John Deere Club, and was a former employee of the Toppin-Hazel John Deere Dealership. He enjoyed planting trees, and working in his shop.

Jim is survived by his wife Marilyn Ritchie, of Harbor Beach, his daughter Jackie Wehner, and her husband Darryl of Harbor Beach, 3 grandchildren: Ashley (Eric) Palmer of Akron, Kelsey (Jacob) Messing of Minden City, and Avery Wehner of Harbor Beach, 4 great grandchildren: Riley, Colton, Kinsley, and Kypton Messing, his brother-in-law Norman McLeod of Port Huron, also surviving are his sisters-in-law: Janet (Jack) Detgen of Millington, Donna Poddig of Haslett, Bonnie (Charlie) Stager of Bad Axe, Betty (Ray) Stacer of Texas, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his siblings: Robert Ritchie, Mary Nell McLeod, Jack Ritchie, and his mother and father-in-law Walter & Bessie Laeder.

Cremation has taken place at May Memorial in Port Huron. A Memorial Service will held at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach.

Memories can be shared at [www.RamseyFH.com](http://www.RamseyFH.com)

Memorials may be given to: St. John Lutheran Church of Port Hope, Harbor Beach Area Fire Department, Eastern Huron Ambulance Service, or the Family Discretionary Fund.

# Comments

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“ Mrs Ritchie,Jackie and family we are so sorry for your loss of husband and father.Gods peace to you.The Mary Jean Duggan Family



Deanna - January 05, 2018 at 12:11 PM

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“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Jackie Wehner - December 19, 2017 at 01:42 AM

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“ Dale & Pam Woodke lit a candle in memory of James D. Ritchie



Dale & Pam Woodke - December 16, 2017 at 10:43 PM



“ Thankyou Dale and Pam for your thoughts of Dad, hugs to you both!

Jackie - December 19, 2017 at 01:27 AM

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“ Bruce, Mary Alice And Courtney Kosal lit a candle in memory of James D. Ritchie



**Bruce, Mary Alice and Courtney Kosal** - December 16, 2017 at 09:52 PM



“ Thankyou Bruce, Mary, and Courtney for remembering my Dad. Hugs to you all!

**Jackie** - December 19, 2017 at 01:28 AM

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“ I learned a lot from Jim on the fire dept and really enjoyed visiting “after the meeting.” There are a few of us around who had fathers taught by Jim on the fire department as well as him teaching us kids. God comfort Marilyn and Jackie and all of Jim’s family

**Anthony and Angie Wood** - December 16, 2017 at 12:22 PM



“ Thankyou Anthony and Angela for your kind words.

**Jackie** - December 16, 2017 at 09:40 PM

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“ Dear Marilyn and Family,  
We were so sorry to read of Jim's passing in the paper and want you to know that we will be keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. We didn't realize that he was in hospice. May God bless you mightily with strength, comfort and peace in the days to come knowing that Jim rests in the arms of Jesus and that you can look forward to a reunion in heaven someday.  
Your friends,  
Marie and Bob Pangman

**Bob and Marie Pangman** - December 15, 2017 at 08:56 PM



“ Special thanks, Bob and Marie for your comforting words. Luv and hugs to you both!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:12 PM

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“ Sorry to hear about Jim. He was a great guy and the Harbor Beach area will miss him greatly.

**Beth Schumacher and Chris Schott** - December 15, 2017 at 03:54 PM



“ Thankyou Beth and Commander. Hugs to you both!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:14 PM

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“ Jim was great man and friend! I enjoyed a few rounds of golf and more than a few refreshments afterwards. Thoughts and prayers to your family!

**Ray Burkhart** - December 14, 2017 at 11:23 PM



“ Thankyou Ray, Dad spoke of you often. It was nice to meet you at the golf outing. Hugs to you!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:15 PM

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“ Marilyn, Jackie and family,

We are sorry for your loss. Jim will be missed. His servant heart was special. His friendship was a blessing. Clearly, he touched countless lives bringing reassurance and compassion when it was most needed. His wisdom and his gift of problem solving was amazing. Because of Jim's life long commitment of helping to improve the level of training, equipment and response the Fire/EMS service has been changed for the better. He was a mentor before mentoring was popular. His influence led me to my career in the Fire Service, to which I am grateful.

May God bless you all as you go through this difficult period. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Blessings,  
Robert and Kimm Eick

**Robert Eick** - December 14, 2017 at 07:11 PM



“ Robert, my Big Brother, and Kimm, thankyou so much for your friendship and luv. Bob, Dad loved having you to mentor, but Im sure you helped teach him a thing or two also. He was sooo very proud of you making Firefighting your full time career. When you became Chief he just beamed. Thankyou! Luv and hugs to you both!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:25 PM



“ The fire service has lost one of the great ones. Jim was a true friend and mentor. I am forever grateful and appreciative of the guidance he provided to me, especially during my time serving on the board of the MSFA.

May his family find comfort through all the lives Jim touched. His memory will live on forever. We pray for all of you during this difficult time.

Steve & Stephanie Richardson

**Steve & Stephanie Richardson** - December 14, 2017 at 06:10 PM



“ Thankyou so much for your kind words, he will be missed. Hugs to you!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:26 PM



“ Jim was a true gentlemen and a real friend. My memory will always be his big smile and hand out to shake hands when he saw you. He will be really missed but the fire service of Muchigan was greatly improved by his efforts and dedication. Mike Burke-MSFA Past President.

**Mike Burke** - December 14, 2017 at 03:21 PM



“ Thankyou Mike, for your kind words. I know Dad thought alot of you, he spoke very highly of your friendship. Thankyou for that! It was nice meeting you and your wife at the golf outing. Hugs to you both!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:31 PM

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“ Condolences to the family.

Rest in peace my FF Friend.

Kip Reaves (Imlay City FD - Chief - Retired)



**Kip Reaves** - December 14, 2017 at 02:42 PM



“ Thankyou Lip, for your kind words. He will surely be missed. Hugs to you!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:32 PM



“ Sorry, spell check. Thankyou Kip!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:33 PM

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“ A few times in our life God blesses us with a very special friend. Jim was one of those I cherish and meant more to me than he knew. He was a gentlemen, a mentor, a supporter and one heck of a fire fighter. He supported me through my time on the Board of Directors of the MSFA and especially my year as President. Our loss is heaven's gain. RIP my friend.

**Rick Bolly** - December 14, 2017 at 02:40 PM



“ Thankyou Rick, for your kind message, we so appreciate all of the support. Yes, he was one great guy and sure will be missed. Hugs to you!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:35 PM

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“ Our condolences for Jim's family, strength and prayers to all of you. He was a kind, caring soul, and he touched so many lives through his years. Rest in Peace, Jim.

Janel & Rusty Lemanski and sons

**Janel** - December 14, 2017 at 02:10 PM



“ Thankyou, Janelly and Rusty and boys for you words of comfort. He will be missed by many, luv and hugs to you All!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:37 PM

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“ I have had the opportunity to attended the Michigan State Fireman's Conferences since I was a child. James Ritchie was always there and he was very active in the conferences. He worked hard to make the conference great for everyone and he truly cared about others. What a great guy! He will be missed.

Captain Ron Douglas, Jr.  
Paw Paw Fire Department

**Ron Douglas** - December 14, 2017 at 02:06 PM



“ Ron, thankyou for your kind words. Yes, he was a great guy, and we will miss him so. Hugs to you!

**Jackie** - December 15, 2017 at 10:39 PM