



## Matthew Raymond Laboda

May 4, 1939 - April 17, 2018

It is with great sadness the family of Matthew Raymond Laboda (Matt) announces he passed away on Tuesday, April 17 at University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor. He had struggled with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis for 8 years. He would have been 79 years old May 4. Matt was born in Detroit, Michigan to Raymond and Stella (Boks) Laboda, who preceded him in death.

Matt was an Army veteran serving in Presidio of Monterey Defense Language Institute (1964) and U.S. Army Reserves until his honorable discharge in 1969.

Matt graduated from St. Mary's High School Royal Oak, MI in 1957 and received several degrees: B.S. from University of Detroit (1963), M.A. (1968) and Ed. S. in Psychology (1974) from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

He met his wife of 45 years, Diane Marie (Gainor) Laboda, while both worked for Dearborn Public Schools. Matt was a school psychologist and devoted his life to helping developmentally disabled students at Plymouth State Home, in Dearborn and Fruitport, Michigan, and Woodland Developmental Center in St. Clair County, Michigan until he retired.

He spent several summers in Austria and Germany attending Goethe Institut, Akademie für Fremdsprachen GmbH and Die Neue Schule earning advanced German language certificates. In 2001 he earned a M.A. in Foreign Language: German from Eastern Michigan University and went on to teach German at St. Clair Co. Community College, Macomb Community College and Capac Schools.

He and Diane owned a 53 acre farm in Yale, MI for 21 years where they raised beef cattle, pigs and chickens and crops to feed them. They both enjoyed gardening and family gatherings there. Matt retired in 1998, and they moved to Ann Arbor, MI in 2000.

The medical community at U of M Hospital cared for Matt through a seizure disorder,

quadruple bypass surgery, bladder cancer surgery, cataract surgery, osteoporosis and spinal fractures, and progressive and terminal IPF. His family is grateful to U of M doctors and nurses for their care and devotion.

Matt enjoyed all kinds of music and ushered at the The Ark in Ann Arbor and UM Music Society. He also ushered for plays at the Purple Rose and Performance Network theatres. He was a member of the local German Speakers group and Lifelong Learning German Conversation class. He was an avid supporter of U of M basketball and a member of their usher corps for 16 years. Matt kept fit at the Saline Rec Center. He enjoyed yearly spring vacations to the Caribbean.

Matt will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Diane, and his siblings: Dolores (Bob) Mullen, Chris (David) Sandlin, Stella (Gary) Carlyle, Michael (Judy) and Patrick; brother-in-law Dean Gainor; nieces and nephews: Robert and Faith Mullen, Jackie (Rob) White, Kim (Kevin) Berch, Karen (Neil) Sandlin/Shah, Jeff (Tammy) Sandlin, Lynn Carlyle, Michele (Emory) Colley and Kenneth (Kathy) Gainor; as well as several great nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life for friends and family will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. with luncheon following at:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

16360 Hubbard St.

Livonia, MI 48154

[standrewslivonia@mi.rr.com](mailto:standrewslivonia@mi.rr.com)

A private family graveside service will be held the next week at Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak.

Memorial donations in memory of Matthew Laboda may be made to:

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

888.733.6741 [www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org](http://www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org)

Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter

734.369.2716 [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

For further information please refer to the Nie Funeral Home's website at:

(734) 971-2345 [www.niefuneralhomes.com](http://www.niefuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery

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## Oakview Cemetery

1032 N Main St

Royal Oak, MI, 48067

# Events

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**JUN**   **Memorial Mass**                      10:00AM

**30**

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

16360 Hubbard St, Livonia, MI, US, 48154

# Comments

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with Diane and all of Matt's family as we remember him and celebrate his life.

Kathleen Strnad

Kathleen Strnad - June 29, 2018 at 07:50 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Raymond Laboda.



June 29, 2018 at 11:15 AM

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“ Let me tell you about my friend Matt Laboda. I did not know him well, nor had I known him long. What caused our paths to cross was a common milady we both shared, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. We met at the University of Michigan IPF support group, and aside from the monthly meetings we on occasion shared a few meals together.

I remember one time in particular Matt had been sharing with me that he needed to gain some weight but was having a hard time because his appetite was not all that great. I told him in that case he needed to consume high caloric foods so as to get maximum calories with each bite. He seemed to think that was a good idea and shortly thereafter, we met for lunch at Holiday's Family Restaurant, one of Matt's favorites as I understand. We both ordered and set back into casual conversation. When Matt's dinner arrived, his plate consisted of broiled fish (no breading), steamed carrots, coffee (black as I recall) and a small side salad. I about flipped out when I asked him why on earth he hadn't ordered a juicy burger, or perhaps a fatty pork chop, or a chicken leg with skin on! His response, "Oh, I really like their fish." I reminded him of our "calorie density, make every bite count conversation". So he ordered us each a piece of cake!

Later I sent him a clipping from Potbelly's advertising their Ice Cream Sandwich cookie. It had two delicious homemade cookies with decadent rich ice cream in between. The menu said it was over a 1,000 calories. He responded back that with hot fudge it might top out around 1200. But I never could get him to eat one. He was always too full by the time dessert arrived.

Matt, I am going to miss you old friend! Your rye sense of humor, your ability to probe and stimulate conversation by asking thoughtful questions. Just taking each day and giving it the best you could at the time. It was IPF that brought us together, and it was IPF that separated us one last time - at least on our earthly journey. But as an old hymn says, "There's a land that is fairer than day, and by faith we can see it afar; For the Father waits over the way, to prepare us a dwelling place there."

Always your friend,

David Dexter

**David Dexter** - June 28, 2018 at 10:23 PM