



Vicente Rodriguez Jr.

January 1, 1942 - May 6, 2021

Vicente “Ben” Rodriguez Jr.

Born to Vicente (Big Ben) Rodriguez Sr. and Carmen Herrera on January 1, 1942 in Mathis, Texas.

Ben grew up in Grand Ledge, graduating from GLHS in 1960. His favorite activities while growing up were fishing, boxing, football, giving advice to his friends about girls, and of course baseball. His love for the game was handed down from his father. While pitching on the high school baseball team he was awarded the honor of being most valuable player in 1960.

Ben retired after working for 40 years at General Motors. His favorite retirement pastime was rooting for the Detroit Lions, whom he loved no matter how they played.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents; step-mother Yvonne Rodriguez; his wife Mary Cordova; sister Gloria Riggs (Red); brother Joe Rodriguez; mother-in-law, Ramona Alegria.

He is survived by son Steven (Tammy) Rodriguez; step daughter Sheree Zea; grandchildren Drew and Siena Rodriguez; sister Rose Blevins; ex-wife Renee; sister-in-law, Mimi Rodriguez; many nieces, nephews, extended family

members along with close childhood friend, Clinton Sears.

A Celebration of Ben's life will be held Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 12pm at the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service. Covid protocols requiring masks, social distancing and capacity limitations will be observed. Memorial contributions may be given to the Grand Ledge High School Athletics.

Cemetery Details

Deepdale Memorial Gardens

4110 Old Lansing Road
Lansing, MI 48917

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

BB

“ So many good memories growing up with my cousins in Grand Ledge.
From baseball to boxing to fun times on the Ledges (Little Ben.) I know he's not in any pain, that he's with his family that has passed before him... RIP

Bruce Bentley - May 09, 2021 at 01:51 PM

HF

“ Helen's family... purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vicente Rodriguez Jr..



Helen's family... - May 09, 2021 at 01:46 PM

CS

“ Ben was a very, very good friend of mine. We had an awfully lot of precious memories. He would spend the night with me as well as I with him. There were times, when He spent the night, that we'd fix raw fried potatoes with onions and bacon grease in the biggest cast iron skillet and we'd eat all of them. We would pick up some breakfast food and take it out to Rosa's place for Her to fix for us. Ben really adored his sisters and brother. I can remember Him teaching me how to ride a bike (full size, without fenders). I was probably about 10 years old. He took me down, on the corner of Kennedy St and Pleasant St, put me on the bike and shoved me down the hill. Of course I crashed at the bottom.

Ben and I used to play pitch and catch all the time. I started out playing outfield, in high school. Then in the 10th grade, our regular catcher got hurt and the coach asked if anyone could catch. Of course I said I caught Ben all the time.

We'd play neighborhood football, softball, basketball. I have to attribute my success in baseball to Ben. When I was in the 3rd grade, we were playing baseball at the old union high school playground and I got hit, while I was batting. I started to cry. Ben said "You don't cry playing baseball". From then on, I didn't. Ben's dad coached the neighborhood baseball team and I learned a lot from them.

Anyway, I looked up to Ben. He was always better than I was in every sport that we played. His dad taught him a lot about pitching.

I will miss him but will always value the memories.

Thank you, Ben
Clinton Sears

Clinton Sears - May 08, 2021 at 07:03 PM