



## Mr. Guy Lance Thompson

July 12, 1960 - January 23, 2018

Celebrating The Life Of Guy Lance Thompson:

Guy Lance Thompson was born on July 12, 1960 in Detroit, Michigan. His parents, Juanita Thompson and McKinley William Thompson believed in the value of education so they enrolled Guy in the Waldorf School in Indian Village where he received a stellar education and made many lifelong friends. Guy's education continued at the Catholic Central High School where he obtained his diploma. Upon graduation, he attended Mercy College of Detroit receiving a degree in Psychology. He earned a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and later completed a 13-month graduate program in Family and Consumer Resources at Wayne State University.

Guy had an amazing penchant for spreading joy and enthusiasm among all who knew him. His sense of humor was infectious. He encouraged others, shaped lives, saved families and had an uncanny capability of "seeing through situations" in other words, he was very analytical. The lives that he touched and the work that he performed can only be described as phenomenal. His spectacular way with words and his sense of humor were unparalleled. Guy was on the Board of Directors for the Shiawassee Village Management Association as well as the Board of Directors of the Waldorf School. Guy and six associates started a travel agency. After all, Guy loved to take cruises.

Guy dedicated his life and career to assisting children and families,

particularly those involved in the child welfare system. Most recently, he was employed as Manager, Family Preservation and Prevention Services, Children's Services Agency. Prior to that Guy was a direct service worker and supervisor in residential services for youth, and a counseling supervisor for a runaway services program.

Guy has championed the cause of family preservation services in Michigan where he has worked as a trainer, consultant and coordinator for more than 20 years . He played a significant role in developing new programs and expanding existing services to reach more Michigan families including, Families First of Michigan, Family Group Decision Making, Family Reunification Program and Families together building Solutions. In 1992 he appeared on the Bill Moyers Public Affairs Television Show advocating for the Families First Program.

Guy was well-known and highly respected among his public and private agency colleagues in child welfare. He will be remembered for his compassion, understanding, strength-based approach, and extensive knowledge of preservation programming. Guy's vast knowledge and experience were sought after by other states and other countries. Most recently, he hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Social and Family Development from Singapore that expressed an interest in replicating Michigan's family preservation approach.

Guy has taught courses throughout the United States as well as in the United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands and Israel.

In 2014, former Director of Michigan Department of Community Health, James Haveman presented Guy with an award for his support of Early Childhood Home Visitation; in 2015 he received an award for achievements in Family Preservation and in 2017, he received an Angel Award from the Ruth Ellis

Center for his leadership in and support of LGBTQ programs.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Friday, Feb. **2**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Family Hour

Saturday, Feb. **3**. 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Funeral Service

Saturday, Feb. **3**. 5:30 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Keita McCoggle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



Keita McCoggle - February 17, 2018 at 02:16 PM



“ *Rhea Freitag lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



Rhea Freitag - February 08, 2018 at 01:44 PM



“ *Stacey Tadgerson, MDHHS Native American Affairs - Through Guy's advocacy and expertise at the MDHHS Tribal State Partnership, a valuable reunification service linkage for tribal children and families in Michigan was established several years ago and remains an asset to tribal families in crisis and healing phases of their child welfare episode. We will miss his kind spirit, humor, and collaboration. Rest In Peace Guy.*

Stacey Tadgerson - February 03, 2018 at 10:43 AM

JW

“ Jennifer Wrayno lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Jennifer Wrayno - February 02, 2018 at 10:52 PM

NP

“ Nancy Peeler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Nancy Peeler - February 02, 2018 at 04:40 PM

FR

“ From Donna Perry & H&R Block office in Redford purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.



From Donna Perry & H&R Block office in Redford - February 02, 2018 at 11:27 AM

PO

“ Wendi & family, thoughts and prayers are will you all. Rest in Peace, Guy.

~Pam O'Connor,  
Detroit, Mi



Pam O'Connor - February 02, 2018 at 10:14 AM

JA

“ I first met Guy at BFDI during the Families First trainings. He was progressive, creative, and generated great ideas for working with families. He was able to put a positive spin on tough situations and build hope during difficult times with our team. He was a wonderful part of the trainings and the case consults. He will be missed but his passion for helping families will be remembered. RIP Guy  
Janeen Abdur-Rahman

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**Janeen Abdur-Rahman** - February 02, 2018 at 10:02 AM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.



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February 02, 2018 at 09:57 AM

MC

“ There are some who bring a light so great into the world that even after they have gone, the light remains.  
Guy - your passion and advocacy for children and families continues to guide our work. Rest with the angels.

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**Mary Chaliman** - February 02, 2018 at 08:58 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.



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February 01, 2018 at 11:21 PM

BW

“ I worked with Guy Thompson at DYS as well as he was a patient when I worked at Dr. Barefield's Office. He was a very pleasant person with a big heart. He never knew a stranger. He would go out of his way to help anyone. To his family, I know there is a major void in your heart. Please take comfort in knowing that he was loved by many and other's have you all lifted in prayer. God Bless you all...Ms. Betty A Walker

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**Betty Walker** - February 01, 2018 at 07:27 PM

EL

“ I worked with Guy Thompson for 3 years from 2012 to 2015 before I retired from the State of Michigan. I provided computer support for the Families First program that he oversaw as a manager in the Michigan Department of Human Services Family Preservation program office. Guy was a wonderful and kind person; friendly in every way and very dedicated to supporting the mission of keeping families in tact. I was always extremely impressed with his gratitude for the efforts we put forth as information technology professionals to develop and maintain the statistical collection system they used for Families First. He was a pleasure to work with and without a doubt his passing will leave a huge hole in that program office. My sincere condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

*Eric Larson  
Eaton Rapids, MI*

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**Eric Larson** - February 01, 2018 at 04:15 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.*



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February 01, 2018 at 02:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.*



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February 01, 2018 at 12:18 PM

 Bev  
Guthrie

“ *I am so sorry for the loss of this absolutely wonderful man Guy. I have been working with him on supporting Families First/Family Reunification Programs between DHHS and DTMB for the last 3 years. I have so much respect for him with the warmest personality. Every time we meet, we chat to see how is everything is doing. He was a such a caring person with open heart. He works with anyone no matter what because I am deaf and was very well received with so positive working experience with me. I will miss him so much.*

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**Bev Guthrie** - February 01, 2018 at 12:12 PM

JS

“ Guy was a truly lovely person! He had passion in abundance, commitment to make the world a better place, and the capacity to engage all he encountered in that commitment. I knew that if I had a question or an idea that a walk down the hall to his cube would always be time well spent. I never talked with Guy without coming away with fresh ideas and a clearer path forward. His energy and joy for living will be sorely missed!!



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**Jeanette Scheid** - February 01, 2018 at 09:19 AM

KO

“ Kaitlyn Pease(DHHS Central Office) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.



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**Kaitlyn Pease(DHHS Central Office)** - February 01, 2018 at 09:10 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.



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February 01, 2018 at 09:07 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.*



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February 01, 2018 at 06:39 AM



“ *Demetrius Starling lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Demetrius Starling** - January 31, 2018 at 06:11 PM



“ *In my years of working with Guy I don't think I ever saw him without a smile and a kind word to say. He was the model of how to frame things positively and set an example for all. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.*

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**Robin Cronin** - January 31, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson.*



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January 31, 2018 at 01:19 PM

SH

“ Sherita Hopkins Spectrum Child and Family  
BCP Parent Partner



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Sherita Hopkins - January 31, 2018 at 12:53 PM

SH

“ Sherita Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Guy Lance Thompson



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Sherita Hopkins - January 31, 2018 at 12:51 PM

LL

“ Dear Wendi,  
I am so very sorry for your loss. Your brother was the best of  
humanity on this earth. I was fortunate to know Guy through work.  
He was a most considerate and compassionate friend. He  
supported people's strengths and lifted each of us up during trying  
times with his humor and smile. He was truly a "great Guy".

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Laurie Ludington - January 30, 2018 at 08:48 PM

LL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Laurie Ludington - January 30, 2018 at 08:04 PM

DJ

“ I will never forget the trip to Madison, Wisconsin that Guy, several other co-workers and I took some years ago. We drove there and back. Although we were working, we truly had a blast. We laughed and laughed. Guy's laughter in particular was absolutely infectious! Rest in Peace my friend.

Darrylyn Jackson - January 30, 2018 at 02:44 PM

DC

“ It has taken me a while to be able to send this message of sympathy. The beautifully written condolences and remembrances of time spent with Guy were at times overwhelming and at times hard to read. Remembering is often painful and there is so much to remember. Guy was a warm and gentle soul and will be missed by all who heard his laugh or saw the twinkle in his eye, I know I will. It's not learning how to live without him that is our challenge – the difficult part is learning to go forward with him in our hearts and minds. May the memories of Guy make us strong.

Dawn Callahan - January 30, 2018 at 01:34 PM



“ Ayanna Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Ayanna Harris - January 30, 2018 at 10:24 AM

AW

“ Guy was in the first class of the Detroit Waldorf School. His mother was a great help to the school. Wherever she was needed she gave a hand, from accompanying students on the bus to helping during the school day, and then accompanying the students back to their homes at the end of the day. Guy grew up to be a truly good man. I was always happy to see him at Waldorf events. I am sad that his life was cut short. May his soul rest in peace. Sincere condolences to Wendi and his family.

*Amelia Wilhelm  
(Cofounder of the Detroit Waldorf School)*

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**Amelia Wilhelm** - January 29, 2018 at 08:03 PM

LZ

“ Such a terrible thing to happen to such a wonderful man.  
We will miss you Guy.

*Dr. Glenda Peoples and the Staff of the  
Michigan Denture and Implant Center*



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**Linda M. Zelek** - January 29, 2018 at 04:50 PM

 Chiquita White

“ My condolences to the biological family, DHHS family and the numerous families in the community that were touched by this Angel. I used to always tell Guy that I want to be on his preservation team. Now he is resting in Heaven and expecting us to carry on his legacy. Your earthly presence will be missed.



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**Chiquita White** - January 29, 2018 at 04:37 PM

AC

“ *A truly beautiful soul! The kindest man anyone could have ever had the pleasure of knowing. A true advocate for children and families. His family at MDHHS will miss him more than words can express. He was simply, the best! Prayers for your family.*  
*Alicia Cosgrove*

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**Alicia Cosgrove** - January 29, 2018 at 11:29 AM

KP

“ *My heart goes out to Guy's family and friends. I've never known Guy to be anything less than kind, compassionate, caring, and fun. He always had a bright smile on his face and looked for all that is good and positive. He tackled challenges with fervor and always strived to do the right thing. We share your sorrow and will miss Guy terribly. ~ Karen Porter*



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**Karen Porter** - January 29, 2018 at 10:50 AM

AC

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**ali cosgrove** - January 29, 2018 at 10:35 AM

EL

*A wonderful person whose life ended way too soon.*

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**Eric Larson** - February 01, 2018 at 11:24 PM

LT

“ *Lisa Trimble lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Lisa Trimble** - January 29, 2018 at 09:29 AM

LH

“ *Lynn Hedges lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Lynn Hedges** - January 29, 2018 at 09:24 AM

CW

“ *I had the great pleasure of working with Guy over the years at MDHHS. He was always wore a smile and was so friendly. We met by chance in the Denver airport last October and chatted for an hour waiting for our flight to Detroit. He will be missed dearly! Deepest sympathy to all his family. RIP Friend*

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**Corie Weber** - January 29, 2018 at 08:53 AM

LC

“ *Linda G. Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Linda G. Coleman** - January 29, 2018 at 08:36 AM

SE

“ I met Guy when he would come to the Detroit Waldorf School for various events but especially too in order to support our Open Houses at the school some years back. He was always attentive and very warm in meeting people.  
I did not know him as a child but heard that he was in the first class when the school started and that his mother was always helping and volunteering to make our school possible. I am sending thoughts and prayers to Guy's family.

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**Susann Herb Eddy** - January 28, 2018 at 08:13 PM

AS

“ April Shakoor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



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**April Shakoor** - January 27, 2018 at 10:28 PM

JP

“ Jerry Peterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



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**Jerry Peterson** - January 27, 2018 at 07:58 PM

LM

“ *Lit a candle in Memory of Mr. Guy Thompson.*



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**Letha Murray** - January 27, 2018 at 04:30 PM

QM

“ *Qubilah Murphy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Qubilah Murphy** - January 27, 2018 at 02:41 PM

KM

“ *To the Thompson Family and Friends Guy was one of the best. He was always encouraging to others and would tell it like it is. I will truly miss his presence and professionalism. Ken Marks*



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**Ken Marks** - January 27, 2018 at 11:59 AM

AL

“ *I'm going to miss your bright smiling face and our morning talks. You brought laughter and brightness to my day. You were an awesome boss and a friend. 🌸*

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**Ann LaHaine** - January 27, 2018 at 07:54 AM

SC

“ Sue Salhaney, Judson Center lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Sue Salhaney, Judson Center - January 26, 2018 at 11:35 PM

DC

“ I knew guy for more than 20 years and never saw him be anything other than kind and caring. Guy was fun, funny, compassionate, innovative and loved people. Guy will be missed.



Debi Cain - January 26, 2018 at 09:05 PM

VL

“ Verdetta Love lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Verdetta Love - January 26, 2018 at 08:50 PM

KS

“ Kathryn Waldron Child & Family Services lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Kathryn Waldron Child & Family Services - January 26, 2018 at 07:15 PM

CW

“ To the family my prayers are with you. Guy was loved by everyone.



Chontelle Williams - January 26, 2018 at 05:14 PM

SF

“ Stacie Bowens, Spectrum Child & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Stacie Bowens, Spectrum Child & Family - January 26, 2018 at 04:51 PM

DH

“ Deborah Harris-Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Deborah Harris-Neal - January 26, 2018 at 04:43 PM

LS

“ Laura Mitchell, Samaritas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



Laura Mitchell, Samaritas - January 26, 2018 at 04:20 PM

Dan  
Cowan

“ *Dan Cowan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



Dan Cowan - January 26, 2018 at 03:23 PM

KB

“ *My sincerest condolences to Guy's family and friends. Guy was a genuinely good person through and through. During the times I had the pleasure of working with Guy at MDHHS, he was always helpful, kind and pleasant; and had a jovial spirit. He, nor I, never missed an opportunity to simply say "hi" to one another. He will be dearly missed.*

Kimberly Baxter-Brown - January 26, 2018 at 03:11 PM

JG

“ *Juli Gohl lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



Juli Gohl - January 26, 2018 at 03:08 PM

ML

“ *Michelle Leaphart lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



Michelle Leaphart - January 26, 2018 at 03:06 PM

BG

“ Beverly Grant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



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**Beverly Grant** - January 26, 2018 at 02:58 PM

TH

“ Trish Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



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**Trish Harris** - January 26, 2018 at 02:47 PM

MM

“ Monique Magee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson



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**Monique Magee** - January 26, 2018 at 02:13 PM

ML

“ Guy was such a stellar act while here on earth. He left his mark in so many places and in so many hearts. Rest in peace.

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**Michelle Leaphart** - January 26, 2018 at 02:02 PM

JA

“ *Mr. Thompson and I worker together as much as we saw each other and spoke as we passed by. His smile confirmed that he loved what he did and had great passion for it. He never just looked at the numbers because he knew that those numbers were children who had the best advocate God could send.*

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**Judith Austin** - January 26, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ *Leonica Erwin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Leonica Erwin** - January 26, 2018 at 12:10 PM

ML

“ *I am one of so many who were touched by Guy Thompson. He was the face of Family Preservation not only in Michigan but over the world. We cherish is memory and will miss so many things about him. He was loved by all*

*Rest in peace*

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**Marsha Lewis** - January 26, 2018 at 11:06 AM

LS

“ *Lesley Simpson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Guy Lance Thompson*



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**Lesley Simpson** - January 26, 2018 at 10:55 AM

LS

“ Guy was loved and respected by so many people through out the world. From the US to Singapore, Canada and Europe people would seek his advice on family preservation programs and policy. When I came to MI and started working in Families First in 1996 Guy was my trainer. He was always available for advice and direction. Now he was my Manager for FPP at DHHS and he was the best. I will always remember his laugh and when he would shake his face and make the best noise. Guy could remember everyone's name he met it was amazing. He is very missed but we know he will always be looking out for his team.

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**Lesley Simpson** - January 26, 2018 at 10:54 AM

SV

“ Guy has been an inspiration to so many social workers, including me. He taught me so much as a new social worker--valuable lessons that I have carried with me throughout my career, and he did it with warmth and humor. I can still hear him laughing. He will be missed.

*Shelly Vrsek*

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**Shelly Vrsek** - January 26, 2018 at 10:31 AM

AZ

“ To Guy's family -  
We worked together on a couple of different projects -- all about bettering the lives of young children which you must know he was so committed to doing. Even though we often were talking about really tough circumstances, he approached every conversation with an infectious optimism that we could do better for kids. He will be missed at many tables.

*Please accept my sincerest condolences for your loss.*

*Amy Zaagman*

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**Amy Zaagman** - January 26, 2018 at 09:23 AM



Heather  
Joy

“ Guy, you were a force and your beautiful presence and spirit will forever be missed. You could turn a phrase like no one else - the English language hasn't know a greater verbal acrobat. Some of my fondest childhood memories feature you and Wendi. We are bound by blood and love and I will hold your memory near for eternity. Rest well, dear cousin.

Love,  
Heather Joy

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Heather Joy - January 26, 2018 at 12:02 AM

BJ

“ I was privileged to work with Guy for several years at DHHS in Lansing, I always was impressed by his commitment to working to provide helpful services to families and children in difficult times. He also cared about his coworkers. He was a joy to work with . I feel very sad about his sudden padding and wish his loved ones can experience comfort.., bill johnson

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bill johnson - January 25, 2018 at 10:32 PM