



## Dr. Richard Lawrence Blanding

September 19, 1936 - August 8, 2013

### His Journey:

Little did Rayford Blanding and Estelle Louise (Evans) Blanding know that their newly arrived bundle of joy, Richard Lawrence Blanding, would make such a difference to so many lives down through the years. Born, September 19, 1936 in Highland Park, Michigan, Richard was the only son and joined his older sisters, Glenna and Joan in fun and mayhem.

Richard attended Frances E. Willard Elementary School and acquired his high school education at Highland Park High School, graduating in 1955. His undergraduate studies were accomplished at Highland Park College and later at the University of Michigan. From 1959-1962, Richard served in the United States Army Medical Corps assigned to the 249th General Hospital in Denver, CO. After his honorable discharge from the Army, he completed course work at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry as a Dental Technician. His dream of becoming a dentist was fully realized when he graduated from the University of Detroit Dental School.

Richard married Audrea Hart and raised two children: Richelle and Richard, II. He was a member of People's Community Church, Detroit –as a tenor in the Chancel Choir, vice-president of the September Birthday Club; and a member of the Trustee Board and Finance Committee. He was very supportive of many activities in the church. Later, he joined Shrewsbury Baptist Church

(Canada) where he served as Deacon.

For over 35 years, Dr. Blanding served the community as a dentist, with the later years in partnership with Dr. Ocie Drake. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Social Fraternity; The Wolverine Dental Association; and The Jim Dandy Ski Club. Richard and friends would gather together to go hunting and fishing annually.

Dr. Richard Lawrence Blanding made his transition peacefully on Thursday, August 8, 2013.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Friday, Aug. **16.** 3:00 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, Aug. **17.** 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

Saturday, Aug. **17.** 3:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Richard Lawrence Blanding*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Richard was a wonderful man, I worked for him when he opened his first practice, infact I helped David and Leonard set up the office. That was a wonderful life lesson, the friendship lasted for ever. I know only one thing he wanted and it didn't happen, to be induced into the HPCHS Hall of Fame. I wish that this had taken place before he made his journey.*

*God bless Ricky and Shelly, you all will always be in my prayers as you have all these years.*

*-Petrice Turner-Person-*

**E. Petrice Turner-Person** - October 24, 2013 at 02:13 PM

R.

“ *Dr. Blanding was one of my first customers over 26 years ago. My wife was pregnant with our last son when we met him, and instantly became good friends. He knew my entire family and treated all of us like his kids. I helped Dr. B. find and buy his Sea Ray Boat. And I did the design work for phase one and two of his Canadian home. We spent many days at local restaurants talking about politics, business, family, and just about anything else. He was a great guy, and our world just can't afford to loose many more like him. I know that he will never be replaced because in my time I have never met anyone else like him. God bless his family, as well as all who knew him.*

*R. Young*

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**r.young** - August 17, 2013 at 10:06 AM

DE

“ *Thank you for the opportunity to start my private practice career in 1979 as you allowed me into your office and learned from you; my father was the mailman that serviced your office May God continue to bless your family Dr.Bobby Echols*

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**Dr.Bobby Echols** - August 17, 2013 at 07:19 AM

LG

“ *Sandra and Blanding Family: My deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. May God give you strength and peace in your time of sorrow.*

*Lucille Gillard and Family  
Queen Creek, AZ*



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**Lucille Gillard** - August 16, 2013 at 07:41 PM

BC

“ My Most sincere condolences to the Blanding Family. Richard was a loving kind and beautiful spirit. I was honored that I was graced to be a small part of, his life. He was wonderful man. Thank you Richard, for Loving and taking such good care of my beautiful sister. You were there for us, all the way, when our mother left us. I can still see you, with your hand gently wrapped around my sister"s hand, assuring me I could go back to New Mexico and not worry, because you would always be there for her. I wish you God speed to your beautiful new role as an Angel, although we all know this is not a new role for you because you were truly an angel, who walked among us mere mortals! May your spirit soar, sing , and maybe even dance a bit, because you were, and are, The Best of the Best!

God bless you and your family, and my beautiful sister who loved you!

*Brent Trisha and Hugo Carson (Your family in New Mexico)*

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**brent Carson** - August 16, 2013 at 07:01 PM

BC

“ Dearest Richard I want to thank you for loving and taking such great care of my beautiful sister. You are and always will be an angel to me. You were there for us when our mother left us, sitting strong and solid between the two of us with your hand wrapped around my sisters, so that I could return home to New Mexico and know that she would be ok. I will always call you my brother. To your children and all of your family, I send my deepest sympathies for your loss. To my sister Sandra, I would like to thank you for bringing Richards wonderful style, personality and spirit to our family!!! My heart is filled will love and joy for the blessing of knowing Richard, and sadness that he left us a bit too soon for my taste. I know that your beautiful spirit must be soaring, smiling and maybe even dancing a bit. Richard you are and were the cream of the crop!

*Brent Trish and Hugo Carson  
Your Family in New Mexico*

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**Brnt Trish Carson** - August 16, 2013 at 05:24 PM

HF

“ My entire Helms family went to Dr. Blanding until the time he retired. The staff always made us feel comfortable. I told him that if I had a dentist like him my mouth wouldn't have been so bad. He used to share some of the stories about treating the prisoners and we would laugh. Dr. Blanding was a great dentist. God bless the Blanding Family.

*The Helms Family*

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**Helms Family** - August 15, 2013 at 02:41 PM

RA

“ Even though I never knew you Richard, I connect each Sunday at Asbury UMC when I greet your family Joan and Randy.

*For Joan and Randy; On behalf of ASBURY UMC, we extend our condolences. From the entire community of Christiansburg, we light a candle for you in your time of sorrow. May God grant you the courage to "accept the things you cannot change....to change the things you can.... and the wisdom to know the difference"*

*We love you,  
Raymond*

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**Raymond** - August 14, 2013 at 10:04 PM

SH

“ To my Darling "Honey", thank you for the "Kiss of Life". God bless us with special people who walk with us on our path in life, I'm so very thankful that God chose you for minds. I will truly miss you my darling and your beautiful smile. For God will always keep you in my heart.

*Smiles and Smiles to Go, "Sandra"*



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**Sandra Humphrey** - August 14, 2013 at 09:35 PM

JA

“ *Life brings tears,  
smiles and memories.  
The tears dry,  
the smile fades,  
but the memories live on forever.*

*Josie & Robert Allen*



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**Josie & Robert Allen** - August 14, 2013 at 09:02 PM

DG

“ *Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4) My condolences to my friend Kent Ward and the Blanding Family during your time of sorrow. May God grant you comfort and peace in the days ahead. I will continue to pray for you and your family.*  
*Dr. Patricia Goslee*



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**Dr. Patricia Goslee** - August 13, 2013 at 01:41 AM

DS

“ *Richard was a good hunting and fishing buddy, we spent a lot of opening days during deer season in Idlewild Michigan, and also went to Wyoming to hunt antelope and mule deer. We caught a many walleye on lake Erie from his boat and mine. Richard was one of the good guys and always had some thing good to say about everyone. We were always roomates in Wyoming and always had a great time with each other. He leaves me with great memories of the fun we had together. He will surely be missed by everyone who had the pleasure to know him.*

*David L. Slater*



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**David L. Slater** - August 12, 2013 at 07:59 PM

JM

“ *Dr.Richard Blanding Family,  
I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Blanding Family.Few people have achieved the position of respect and high esteem which he enjoyed for so many years in this community.His absence will be felt by many for many years to come.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
John Mattox  
Highland Park High School  
Class of June 1958*

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**John Mattox** - August 12, 2013 at 06:08 PM

Nancy Sliwinski

“ *It was always a pleasure to see Dr. Blanding come into the Medical Records Department at the Wayne County Jail. He always had a smile on his face, an uplifting bit to share, and a super big hug when you needed one. He always knew how to make what ever was wrong or hurting you to be a little bit right and a little less painful. You will surely be missed and thought of with nothing but the fondest of memories. Go In Peace you have earned your reward. God Speed*



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**Nancy Sliwinski** - August 12, 2013 at 11:48 AM



“ *Condolences to Dr. Blanding's family. I've known Doc over 30 years, he's been my dentist that long. Gonna miss him.*

*Karen Ballard*



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**Karen Ballard** - August 12, 2013 at 08:02 AM

BN

“ *Bonita Nixon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard Lawrence Blanding*



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**Bonita Nixon** - August 11, 2013 at 06:34 PM

BN

“ So sorry for your loss, it was such a pleasure working with Dr. Blanding at Wayne County Sheriff's Department. We shared many conversations with each other and he answered a lot of my Dental questions.....Bonita Nixon LPN

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**Bonita Nixon** - August 11, 2013 at 06:33 PM

CS

“ Dr. Blanding it was a pleasure working with you at the Wayne County Health & Human Services Dept. Our last conversation you and I spoke about personnel matters and what course of action you should take. I remember you stopping by the office door peeping in asking me some personnel questions or just to say hello and talk about your garden. May your family have peace in knowing that you are no longer in need of earthly care, but with Our Heavenly Father above.....Ms. Coretta Strong

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**Coretta Strong** - August 10, 2013 at 08:33 PM

JG

“ A friend, fellow fisherman and co-worker, I will miss a good friend John Gawryk, Pharmacist of the Wayne County Jail

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**John Gawryk** - August 09, 2013 at 09:44 PM