



## Mr. Roger James Nabors

December 22, 1950 - November 19, 2011

Roger J. Nabors departed this life on November 19, 2011 while at Rose Arbor Hospice in Kalamazoo, MI. Roger was born December 22, 1950 and was the fifth child of nine born to the late Clarence and Kathleen Nabors in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Roger gave his life to Lord under the leadership of Rev. Roberson at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Roger was an excellent Usher on the Galilee Senior Usher Board, where he faithfully served for 20 years, until his health began to hinder him from fulfilling his duties. Roger was also active in sports, having gained letters for football and excelling in track, where he was known for his speed and talent in running the low hurdle event, while attending Kalamazoo Central H.S. Roger carried his athleticism as an adult, playing competitive softball for many years and was also an outstanding bowler. Roger was enlisted in the United States Army from 1972-1973 and was stationed in Korea for a tour of duty as a Medical Specialist. Roger was employed with Kalamazoo County where he worked as a Fireman for many years. Upon leaving the Kalamazoo Fire Department, he was employed with J. O. Galloup until he was unable to physically work any longer. Roger was and is known for his love for everyone, his comical behavior, brightening lives with his charisma and drawing people with his warming smile. Before Roger's illness took its toll, you could find him on the dance floor of ballrooms across the states, dancing from the first song to the very last, stepping, bopping, swirling, dipping and gliding with ease, as if he were a dancer on skates. Roger was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, friend and co-

worker who was loved and admired by all that knew him. He leaves to mourn his passing and celebrate his home going, two daughters, Maria Smith of Southfield, MI and Erika Thompson of Charlotte, N.C., one son, Erik Nabors of Kalamazoo, MI. Four granddaughters, Cachet Colvard, Kennedi Smith, Cameron Smith and Rhiley Gripper and one grandson Khalil Smith. Five sisters, Janice Crutcher, Portage, MI, Carol Nabors, Kalamazoo, MI, Bobbie Nabors, Nashville, TN, Kathie (Damond) Chenault , Kalamazoo, MI and Karen (William) Jackson, Seattle, WA. Two brothers, Douglass (Sandra) Nabors, of Laquey, MO and Michael (Sydni) Nabors of Bloomfield Hills, MI. He also leaves a host of nephews, nieces, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and a special aunt, Madge Taylor. Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Kathleen Nabors and his oldest sister, Madge Tucker.

# Cemetery Details

**A Service with Full Military Honors will be held 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 28, 2011 at Ft. Custer**

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**NOV 25.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home, Inc.  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(269) 342-1000  
info@harperfuneral.com  
<https://www.harperfuneral.com>

## Visitation

**NOV 26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

## Service

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NOV **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Roger James Nabors*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Roger James Nabors*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Erika "Nabors" Thompson** - February 10, 2012 at 07:22 AM



“ *Karen Nabors Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors*



**Karen Nabors Jackson** - December 18, 2011 at 07:40 PM



*I miss talking with you and texting you on the phone! I love you always Roger!*

**Karen Nabors Jackson** - December 18, 2011 at 07:41 PM

JI

“ Love and miss ya Unc!!

James M. Tucker II - December 07, 2011 at 09:52 AM

ET

“ Erika Thompson-Nabors sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors



Erika Thompson-Nabors - December 05, 2011 at 07:11 AM

ET

Dad, I'm missing you. You're the absolute best Dad that I have been blessed with. I Love You MORE!!! "Peace & Love"

Erika Thompson-Nabors - December 05, 2011 at 07:13 AM

Atoyia Gamble

“ Atoyia Gamble lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors



Atoyia Gamble - December 03, 2011 at 08:18 PM

Atoyia Gamble

“ Roger was a good friend and a very coach growing up, I learned a lot from him. He will be truly missed!

Atoyia Gamble - December 03, 2011 at 08:16 PM



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



Stephanie Hampton - December 03, 2011 at 04:26 AM



“ May the pleasant memories of Roger be a blessing and comfort to us all. May the Lord Jesus Christ be with the family during this difficult time.  
Georgia Moss, Muskegon, Michigan



Georgia Ann Moss - December 01, 2011 at 02:51 PM



“ Your Baby Girl, I Love You More sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors



Your Baby Girl, I Love you More - December 01, 2011 at 09:38 AM



“ Karen Nabors Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors



Karen Nabors Jackson - November 28, 2011 at 03:31 PM

KJ

*We are all missing you Roger...but we know that you are up in heaven dancing with the angels!*

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**Karen Nabors Jackson** - November 28, 2011 at 03:33 PM

DB

“ *May God Bless Dr. Michael C.R. Nabors and Family on Deacon Larry B. Boyd  
New Calvary Baptist Church  
Detroit, Michigan*

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**Deacon Larry B. Boyd** - November 27, 2011 at 04:50 PM

KJ

“ *My heartfelt sympathies go out to the entire Nabors family. I first met Roger, if I remember correctly, shortly before starting junior high school at South Junior High. Roger was always funny, kind and joy to be around. A friend throughout the years, who really seemed more like family, because I knew him for such a long time and our fathers were friends. I knew about Roger's passion for ballroom dancing and had a chance to see it on display a couple of years ago at a New Years's party. It was a joy to see him dance like that. I'm really going to miss Roger, and even though I was away and unable to attend his homegoing services, I will celebrate his legacy and cherish Roger's friendship and kind heart.*

*Very sincerely,*

*Karen Johnson-Foster*

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**Karen L Johnson-Foster** - November 27, 2011 at 01:06 PM

JB

“ J.L. & Terry Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors



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**J.L. & Terry Buchanan** - November 26, 2011 at 10:38 AM

SH

“ I will always remember Roger as a loving, kind, positive and fun individual. I have many fond memories of our family reunion softball games, where he always hit a home run over our heads after repeatedly telling us to move back, so we could catch it. We never caught the ball and he enjoyed rounding the bases to home plate, laughing. I wish to thank, God and our family for sharing such a wonderful person. Gods' Love and peace be with us all.



*Love you Cuz!*

*Sharon (Murphy) Hays*

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**Sharon (Murphy) Hays** - November 25, 2011 at 11:22 AM

VG

“ Vance & April Goodwin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors



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**Vance & April Goodwin** - November 24, 2011 at 09:24 PM

KJ

“ *Renetta, we the Nabors family would like to thank you for the love that you showed to Roger... in your own special way...Roger is probably thinking about your conversations right now and enjoying the memories of each and every meal that you so lovingly made for him! We love you always!* ”



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**Karen Jackson** - November 24, 2011 at 09:01 PM

WJ

“ *William D. Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roger James Nabors* ”



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**William D. Jackson** - November 24, 2011 at 05:30 PM

WJ

“MANY WILL REMEMBER ROGER NABORS 11/24/2011

*By William D. Jackson (Karen's Husband and Rogers Brother-in-Law)*

*I knew Roger Nabors, when we were just boys, before ever meeting him. He was more than a great athlete. As I saw him from a distance, he laughed a lot and really enjoyed life. I knew him in those days because Roger Nabors never harmed a soul. His laughter was always shared rather than targeted at someone.*

*Roger Nabors was a forward thinking fighter for justice. Later in university he would help lead a protest and take over the Student Union. I think they were protesting the Vietnam War. Though a champion for civil, human rights and justice he had the courage to serve his country, with distinction, when drafted and sent to Korea. Even in the service he continued to stand up for justice, at the high cost of some personal liberty and professional pain. Those wars killed many and harm many more survivors. Though Roger was a university Senior, when drafted, from one of the top Psychology School of the time, after the war, he would never finish college. I think he may have lost his faith in institutions in the face of greed that caused some wars and racism that sustained greed.*

*In 1979 God answered my fervent, prostrate (down on the floor) pray for an angel and allowed me to marry one of Rogers beautiful sisters, Karen Nabors (the baby girl/a twin). We would be married 20 years before she would slowdown accidentally calling me Roger. In fairness I often accidentally referred to her as a sister whom I loved.*

*My wife Karen loves her family with a special place in her heart for each one. Roger, her big brother was her hero. About Roger, Karen has a thousand stories she tells with great joy and laughter. In one story Karen would tell, from their youth, she was chasing after Roger and his friends as they all returned home from school. She would brag about how fast she was and that they could not get*

*away. One day a few years ago, Roger told us both, he always knew she was there, and he would never let the guy run so fast that he could not watch over her. And he laughed his trademark, full throated, toe tingling belly laugh. You had no choice but to join in his joy and love of life until tears sometimes came from your heart through your eyes. Roger could laugh like this, even through his painful illness, when most people would find no joy at all. What a man.*

*There is no end to Karen's instructions from Roger as the family Softball Coach. "If your glove touches that ball, you should catch it." Etc. Roger says, Roger says, Roger says. Says his baby sister, my wife Karen Nabors Jackson. Let us now hold all of these fond fun fragrant memories and share them with the children. They will help to keep us in these times of loss.*

*Roger was a good brother-in-law as well. He was never overly involved in our marriage, yet never too far from his baby sister. Karen and I have Friday nights dates. One of the best parts was calling Roger from the speakerphone in Karen's car as we drove. Roger would talk much smack, and we loved listening to him. Roger would make us laugh when lesser men would have been crying. Even as I wrote this letter, only moments after hearing of his departure, I thought to my self how much we would miss those conversations. And as I wrote, Rogers voice sounded in my head, as clear as if he were in our house, "No you won't miss those conversations, because I will be right here." Then he laughed his signature laugh. I laughed with him, thanked God for him and praise God that I had known him.*

*It is interesting how the oldest Nabors woman (Madge) and man (Roger) were the first to go to glory after Father and Mother Nabors. It is interesting to think of just the four of them together. After a brief meeting, Mother Nabors will return to traveling. Many will recall she said she was claiming her wings upon arrival. Madge may join her, but not without some books to read. Father Nabors will return to his rocking chair on the front porch of Heavens gates to continue*

*watching his grand and great grand*

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**William D. Jackson** - November 24, 2011 at 05:24 PM

DJ

“ *To the Nabor's family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I competed against Roger ih high school and he was not only a great athlete he was a great person. May God Bless you all in a special way. Heaven has welcomed a rea good man.*



*Dr. Wiliam(Bunky)Smith Phoenix, AZ*

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**Dr. William Smith Jr.** - November 22, 2011 at 09:40 PM

KJ

“ Roger you were my role model growing up as my older brother...when you were running track, there I was following you...when you went off to college I followed you several years later. I will always remember your love of family, your steadfast belief in God and your courage throughout the long years of cancer. I wrote this poem in your memory:



*I Thought About You*

*I was walking through the leaves...  
and I thought about you ~  
I saw the beautiful colored trees...  
and I thought about you~  
Every time I think about you...  
my heart floods with memories.  
I promised myself that I would always...  
remember the good times.  
I bought a brand new cap for my head...  
and I thought about you in red.  
My mind is always on you these days~  
Every time I think about you...  
I pick up a picture and see your smile...  
nothing seems to help~  
I'm constantly thinking about you.  
Had a lovely day today...  
I thought about you~  
Took a walk through the fall laden trees...  
and I thought about you~  
Had to hold back the tears...  
wishing I could have walked with you today.  
Every leaf in the trees...  
had a special hue for you~  
as I walked through the leaves...  
I thought about you.*

*Written by Karen Nabors Jackson and inspired by the singer  
"Luther"*

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**Karen Nabors Jackson** - November 22, 2011 at 09:06 PM

ED

“ *I remember Roger coming into the library, to check out movies and I would always suggest to him action and drama movies, so when he came back to return he would say "now those were some good movies give me 2 more" I enjoyed making him laugh well as him being a loyal patron at the Alma Powell Library*

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**ERIKA DOWDELL** - November 22, 2011 at 05:54 PM

LP

“ *Mr. Roger was a great man. Every time I saw him at church or work he had a smile on his face. No one would ever know he was sick unless he told you. He will be greatly missed and he will never be forgotten. John 14:1-3*  
*1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

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**Leah Pulley** - November 22, 2011 at 03:57 PM

YW

“ Come and go with me to my Father's house,  
To my Father's house, to my Father's house,  
Come and go with me to my Father's house,  
There is joy, joy, joy.



*There's peace and happiness there in my Father's house,  
In my Father's house, in my Father's house.  
There's peace and happiness there in my Father's house,  
There is joy, joy, joy.*

- Traditional Hymn

*Roger I love you and will always cherish your friendship, I know are with God now.*

*Yvonne Williams - Atlanta, Georgia*

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**Yvonne Williams** - November 22, 2011 at 02:50 PM

YW

“ To The Nabor's Family:

*You are each blessed to have such a supportive family. I also offer my love and support to you as you have graciously done for me. I know this is a difficult time.*



*I am truly sorry for your loss. Roger was always so upbeat and lots and lots of fun.*

*He will forever be missed and remembered. I love you all and may God Bless.*

*Yvonne Williams - Atlanta, Georgia*

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**Yvonne Williams** - November 22, 2011 at 02:11 PM

LD

“ There are many things that I could say about Roger but the most important is that he was my friend. It's hard to believe that I had known Roger over 25 years; but I had. He loved his children and talked about them always with so much pride. We did not get to see each other often but I would call him on occasion and he would do the same. My heart is very heavy at such a great loss but I am grateful to God that he has now found his peace and can lavish in all that heaven has for him. Good bye my friend and I look forward to seeing you again. Lolita DeYoung

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**Lolita DeYoung** - November 22, 2011 at 11:21 AM

MA

“ Victor and Margo Anderson and family



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**Margo Anderson** - November 22, 2011 at 10:49 AM