



## Hugh Emerson Jarvis

June 24, 1937 - February 24, 2023

Hugh Emerson Jarvis, 85, of Harrison Township, passed on Feb. 24, 2023, after battling lung issues caused by COVID.

Hugh was born on June 24, 1937, to Harold Samuel Jarvis and Vivian (Rhea) Jarvis in Detroit, Mich. He graduated from Cooley High School in 1955 and worked as a cadet for two years with the Detroit Police Department before enrolling at what is now Ferris State University. He later transferred to Michigan State University and received his bachelor's degree in history in 1960 and a master's degree in social science in 1964.

Hugh began his teaching career with East Detroit Public Schools at Grant Junior High, later transferring to Kelly Junior High in 1966. In 1967, he was appointed president of the East Detroit Federation of Teachers. From 1969-1970, Hugh was the staff representative for the American Federation of Teachers. He was president of the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel, now known as AFT Michigan, from 1981 to 1996. Former Michigan Governor James Blanchard appointed Hugh to the Northern Michigan Board of Control where he served from 1985-1993, chairing the board from 1989-91.

He was a member of the Democratic Party serving as a state party officer and a delegate to the national conventions in 1988 and 1992. He also served on

both the Executive Council of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO.

He was best known as a devoted partner, great brother, caring and supportive uncle, friend to all who met him, teacher, powerful labor leader, and a role model for activism and commitment to the greater good. His humility, charisma and courage inspired all those around him to do better. He was fun-loving and caring.

Hugh was an avid pheasant hunter, fisherman, and sports fan spending much of his retirement at his Douglas Lake cottage or going to MSU football games, never missing a Spartan-Wolverine game in more than 60 consecutive years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Ray Jarvis, sister-in-law, Barbara Howlett Jarvis (Dale), and nephew, Clayton Jarvis. Hugh is survived by his partner of 27 years, Alice Andrews, his brother Dale Jarvis, five nieces, three nephews, three great nieces, and two great nephews.

The family is planning a private memorial this summer at Douglas Lake. To honor Hugh's legacy, contributions may be made to his union's Reclaim the Promise Fund at AFT Michigan, 2661 East Jefferson, Detroit, Mich., 48207. The fund will assist locals and remind them of Hugh's tremendous work. Visit [www.rudyfuneral.com](http://www.rudyfuneral.com) to light a candle or leave a message of remembrance.

# Tribute Wall

PL

“ *Mr. Jarvis was my history teacher at Grant Jr. High, 1962...in East Detroit. Not knowing this at the time; but I would never forget the impression this caring and sincere individual attention he gave to me and fellow students. Some people just leave “ a mark” on your life...and so at 77 years old, I have never forgotten you Mr. Jarvis... Im sure our Lord has found a very special place for you above us all. God Bless...* 🙏

Patricia Voishich ( LaFranca) - January 24, 2024 at 12:06 PM

KV

“ *How many uncles without children would come to their brother's house and have the patience to watch hours of treasured family films that inevitably bubbled and burned causing constant rethreading? Or ride from Michigan to North Carolina in a car packed with his brother's six kids? Or give his niece a plane ticket so she could fly home for the holidays? Or take her to dinner when he came into town? Or freely give tickets to Lions, Tigers and Spartans games? Uncle Hugh, you had presence and it will be sorely missed by all.*

Kathleen Jarvis Vavoso - March 14, 2023 at 02:18 PM

"D

“ *I worked for Mr. Jarvis at the East Detroit Teachers Federation while I was in high school and into my first year in college. Mr. Jarvis was a great leader, very charismatic and generous with his time. He was a great boss and had a great sense of humor. I have some great memories....*



"Patty" (Schultz) Donegan - March 13, 2023 at 12:00 PM

GA

“ My wife and I met Hugh on the plane that left Detroit for the 1992 Democratic Convention in New York City. I was proudly and MEA rep/delegate for Bill Clinton at the time. We having both come from Macomb County shared a few of our teacher and union leader stories. Gary E. Cynowa

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**Gary** - March 13, 2023 at 11:07 AM

KM

“ Hugh has been my friend for over 50 years. There are good friends and great ones but Hugh was more than that. He held powerful positions during his lifetime but was friends with folks from all walks of life. He was an avid reader and contributed to lively discussions with our MWF luncheon group. Some will be missed more than others and his loss leaves a gaping hole for a lot of people. Condolences to the family. Love ya Hugh! Keith Moore

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**Keith Moore** - March 11, 2023 at 11:51 AM