



## Celia J. Kleinheksel

April 12, 1933 - May 3, 2025

Celia J. Kleinheksel, 92, of Zeeland, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Celia was born April 12, 1933, in Zeeland, Michigan, to Hiram and Nella (Ver Hage) Yntema. She graduated from Zeeland High School and Western Michigan University and started a career in teaching. Celia was an elementary education instructor for 33 years before her retirement. In 1972 she started the girls softball team at Zeeland High and also served as the girls JV basketball coach for many years. Celia was an excellent softball pitcher playing with the Drenthe girls on the Bon Ton team. She also pitched for Whirlpool's Semi-Pro Team. Celia was a competitive golfer. She qualified for the Senior Olympics in golf, competing at the Senior World Games in Utah for 14 years.

Celia was married to Lloyd Kleinheksel who preceded her in death.

She is survived by her brother Dale and Judy Yntema, nieces and nephews: Dan and Sherry Yntema, Jayne and Ron Nyenhuis, Doug and Laura Yntema, Janis and Toby Johns, and many extended family and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm, Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Overisel Reformed Church-West Campus, 4726 142nd Ave., Holland MI 49423.

Visitation will be 4-7 PM, Thursday at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State

Street, Zeeland MI 49464, and also 1:00-2:00 PM Friday, prior to the funeral service. Interment will be in Overisel Cemetery. Please no flowers, make a donation in Celia's memory to His Harvest Stand or the Harbor Humane Society.

[www.yntemafh.com](http://www.yntemafh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Olive Township Cemetery

6480 136th Avenue  
Holland, MI 49424

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home  
251 South State Street  
Zeeland, MI 49464

## Visitation

MAY 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Overisel Reformed Church-West Campus  
4724 142nd Ave.,  
Holland , MI 49423

## Funeral Service

MAY 9. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Overisel Reformed Church-West Campus  
4724 142nd Ave.,  
Holland, MI 49423



# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Watch Funeral Service in memory of Celia J. Kleinheksel*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 20, 2025 at 11:31 AM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Celia J. Kleinheksel*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 08, 2025 at 11:26 AM

BB

*She was my 5th grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary...because of her kindness, I decided to become a teacher...I now teach in Zeeland and after teaching for 29 years, I pray I had the impact on others as she had on me...rest in peace Mrs K...thank you for taking time to come out and play with us when I was in 5th grade...*

Bill Boerman - May 10, 2025 at 06:55 AM

DW

*She was my 5th grade teacher at Lincoln for the 1979-1980 year! Just now seeing that she passed away*

David Wyngarden - June 18, 2025 at 04:10 PM

DV

“ My friendship with Celia started back when she was my teacher at Lincoln Elementary in 1968. I was a fifth grader, and my father moved us around a lot, so teachers became my friends, but Celia was special. She became my friend after I was a child and became an adult. She was my sport spark. Thanks to her, I became an athlete, especially loving softball at the many schools I would later attend. When I became adult I joined the army and decided to give Holland a try after I served my time. Cel and I would go to dinner. Then take a walk and chat. She asked me to help her with the girls basketball team for a season. Not sure how much help I was but was honored to have been asked. I moved back to Arizona but would visit her whenever I came to Michigan on vacation with my family.

Cel and I would go out to eat, chat and walk. We never got to play that game of Golf, but She did instill in me the joy of the game. She and Lloyd would come out to Mesa, AZ to golf in their motorhome, and we get a chance to visit. I only just found out about her passing because I misplaced her address and was getting ready to send Christmas card. I google her and discovered her passing. I was overwhelmed with grief. It may sound odd but I did watch her service online. She holds a spot in my heart. Condolences to the family.

Debbie Veldhuis

Sun City Arizona

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Debbie Veldhuis - December 14, 2025 at 06:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Celia J. Kleinheksel.

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May 08, 2025 at 10:11 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Celia J. Kleinheksel.*



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May 08, 2025 at 10:11 AM



“ *Celia was a great first cousin, a great 5th grade teacher, and a friend. Whenever I was in Zeeland to visit I generally managed to at least have lunch at Frank's with Celia. She was always cheerful, happy and so pleasant to be around. She had a great sense of humor. I always teased her that she was hard on me in 5th grade because I was her cousin. It was a running joke every time I saw her. She was one of the best teachers I ever had. Celia was a devout Christian and there is no doubt she is celebrating in heaven. Will miss you Celia.*

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**Nancy Yntema Long** - May 06, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ *She was my favorite teacher, she will be greatly missed💔*



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**Kemma Walsh** - May 06, 2025 at 05:06 PM

DH

“ Mrs Kleinheksel, I could never call you Celia, you deserve that respect. You were my 5th grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary. During our 5th grade musical, you asked me to plug in the lights when the choir sang their songs. I did that then and continued doing that job for 50 years at ZPS, until I retired. I told you how much you meant to me whenever I saw you. I had the best job in the world because of you. Rest easy and make a few hole-in-ones up there.  
David Heuvelhorst

Dave Heuvelhorst - May 06, 2025 at 10:20 AM

TR

“ I got to know Cel over the last year at water aerobics. She offered words of encouragement and a very warm smile. God brings great gift to our lives when we need it and she offered it.



Trinie - May 06, 2025 at 08:03 AM

BF

“ Plain and simple , we loved Celia!! As a young family she and Loyld took us under their wing as we grew older she continued to walk along side us. Our family has been blessed to know them!! Celia will be sorely missed here on earth. 💕💕

Bettye /Bob Fields - May 06, 2025 at 08:00 AM

KM

“ Celia was the coach of the Overisel Reformed Church's Women's Softball Team when my family started attending there (and I joined the team), and for many years after. Great fun!! Loved her and her humor ❤️ I miss seeing her Sundays mornings.

Kim Mentzer - May 06, 2025 at 07:47 AM

DL

“ I was blessed to meet Cel through her niece Jayne. We shared some lunches and started talking golf and before I knew it she introduced me to a wonderful group of golf friends. She was a consistent great golfer always encouraging the rest of us. Cel was a big ball hawker. She would send me all over the course when she spotted a ball. One particular day I knew I was going to get muddy and/or wet if I went after that ball. I asked if I could just give her a sleeve of balls from my bag if she was short. Cel got a glint IN her eye and said “I’m Dutch and proud of it! Now go get that ball”. WWCD.  
She will be missed  
Debi Lee

Debi Lee - May 05, 2025 at 11:20 PM

SV

What can I say about my 5th grade teacher, high school coach, master teacher for student teaching and my friend. May you rest in peace and rise in glory!

Sue VanKley - May 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM

MK

Celia’s life sounds as superb as was her pitching for the Drenthe Women’s softball team when I was her catcher for a time. There already her considerable skills, steady persistence, and appealing supportive nature foretold what others here describe as her significant accomplishments. You “did good” Celia, and I join in applauding you for a life well-lived.  
Mary Kemme

Mary Kemme - May 07, 2025 at 12:24 PM

SG

Celia was a great client, and a wonderful person!1 She continued to drive in for her yearly meetings, right through 2024. I will miss seeing her in the office.

SHANNON GROOTERS - May 07, 2025 at 12:42 PM

MK

*She was the best. Worked with her for years at the Holiday Inn and the found out we shared the love of golf. Played in lots of outings with her and Dot! They were quite a pair. Love you Celia!*

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**Mike Karas** - May 20, 2025 at 02:01 PM