



Cleo Venhuizen

July 23, 1923 - May 15, 2022

Cleo Venhuizen, lifelong resident and an icon of Holland, spent the day saying good bye to her family, and then peacefully passed away on May 15, 2022, at the age of 98.

Cleo was a graduate of Holland High School and Western Michigan University. She was a major contributor and leader in Holland. She served as Executive Director of the Camp Fire Girls program for 30 years, creating beneficial activities and lifelong memories, including outdoor camps and social activities, for hundreds of girls and their families. She was awarded a Presidential Commendation for exceptional service to others by President Richard Nixon.

Following her retirement, she opened Cleo's Beauty, Bridal and Gift Shop in 1980. There she and her "girls" facilitated the weekly perms, colors, and cuts of countless ladies, and Cleo managed the business of weddings, anniversaries, graduations, as well as Quinceañeras for the growing Hispanic community. She managed her business for 30 years, until the age of 85.

At age 98, Cleo was honored in 2021, as the longest season ticket holder of Hope College Men's Basketball; she has been attending for over 70 years. She also served in leadership positions for Greater Holland United Way, The American Red Cross, the Women's Literary Club of Holland, and Junior

League, as a “Red Hot Mama.” Cleo was a longtime member of Christ Memorial Church, and The Macatawa Bay Yacht Club.

Cleo was a legend in this community, embracing both the history of Holland, and the more recent diversity of the city. She was profoundly loyal to friends and family alike, and quietly supported anyone who needed a helping hand, without fanfare or recognition. During the last twenty years, she was a staple at the soccer fields, Dutch dome, or high school theatre, as she watched her great grandchildren do what they love best, the yacht club on Friday nights with her widow friends, and the life of the party as she joined her family on countless vacations and excursions well into her nineties.

Cleo joins the love of her life, Bill Venhuizen, husband for almost 60 years, her parents, Ben and Betty Rutgers, and sister, Norma Longstreet, and is proudly survived by her 3 children, Kristi (Tom) Van Howe, Bill (Stacie) Venhuizen, Bob Venhuizen, 6 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, Jill (Sean) Webb (Morgan, Katie, Kelly, Connor), Katrina Van Howe-Vollstedt (Ethan, Cleo), Heidi (Mark) Kremer (Madeline, Andrew), Brooke Roetman (Paige) and Daniel Casebolt, Josh (Stacy) Van Howe (Jasper, Fletcher), Ryan (Richie) Venhuizen (Garret, Adleigh), and former daughters-in-law, Vicki Venhuizen and Sue Terrill, nephew Mark (Jane) Longstreet and nieces and nephews from the Longstreet and DeHaan families, as well as a community that knew her and loved her.

The family would like to express our sincere gratitude to Spectrum Health Continuing Care – Hospice & Palliative Care; Comfort Keepers of Holland; dear friend and family member, Sheryl Ringle, and Stacy Van Howe for caring for Cleo in her final days.

A Celebration of her Life well lived, will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Christ Memorial Church located at 595 Graafschap Road, Holland, MI 49423,

at 12:00 noon, with Rev. Peter Yoshonis officiating; and will be immediately followed by a reception. Interment will be at Restlawn Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Spectrum Health Hospice through Spectrum Health Foundation: <https://give.spectrumhealth.org/hospice/donate>

Cemetery Details

Restlawn Memorial Gardens

994 Paw Paw Dr
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 396-4949

Previous Events

Celebration

JUN 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Cleo Venhuizen*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - June 06, 2022 at 04:23 PM



“ *Cleo Venhuizen*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Charlie Vander Broek - June 11, 2022 at 07:10 AM

BV

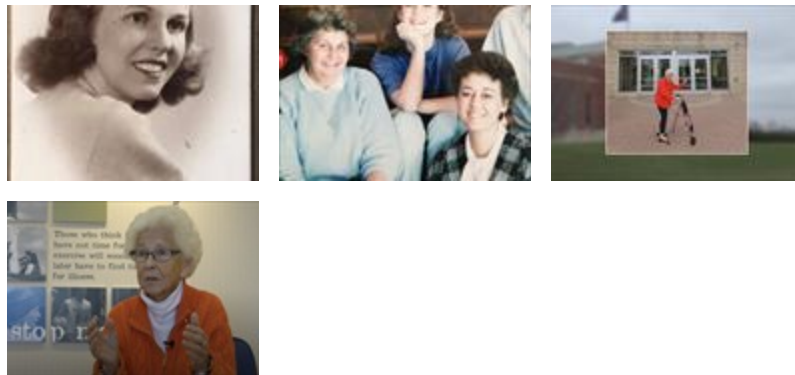
“ 6 files added to the album "Those were the days"



Bill Venhuizen - June 10, 2022 at 11:53 PM

BV

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Venhuizen - June 10, 2022 at 01:23 PM

BV

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Venhuizen - June 10, 2022 at 12:43 PM

BV

“ 32 files added to the album *Family and Friends*



Bill Venhuizen - June 08, 2022 at 10:35 PM

BV

“ 15 files added to the album *Family and Friends*



Bill Venhuizen - June 02, 2022 at 03:41 PM

BV

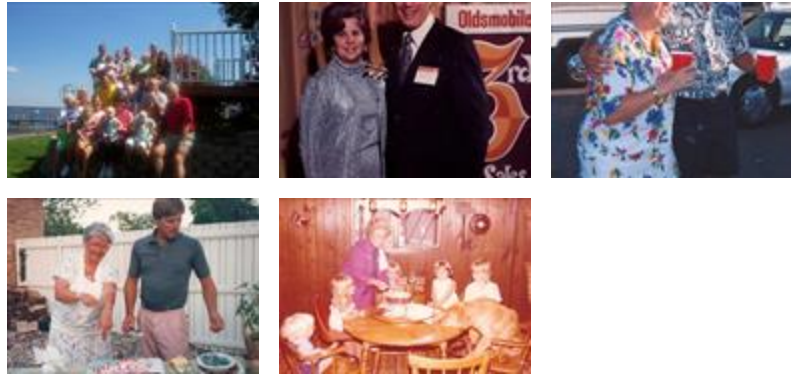
“ 1 file added to the album *Cleo's Beauty, Bridal & Gift Shop Memories*



Bill Venhuizen - June 02, 2022 at 03:29 PM

BV

“ 11 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Venhuizen - June 02, 2022 at 03:23 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Cleo Venhuizen.



May 24, 2022 at 06:58 PM

GW

“ To Cleo's whole beautiful family I send my deepest sympathy ... A world without Cleo just doesn't seem real. I worked with her five days a week for 28 years and wonderful years they were. She was never a boss just a friend who treated us all like family Bill was always such a good sport transporting us on so many motor home trips that Cleo planned. She was very special to me and I will certainly miss her. Oh how she loved all of you. Hugs and love to each and everyone!!!❤️

Gail Shinabarger Wheatley - May 23, 2022 at 06:19 PM

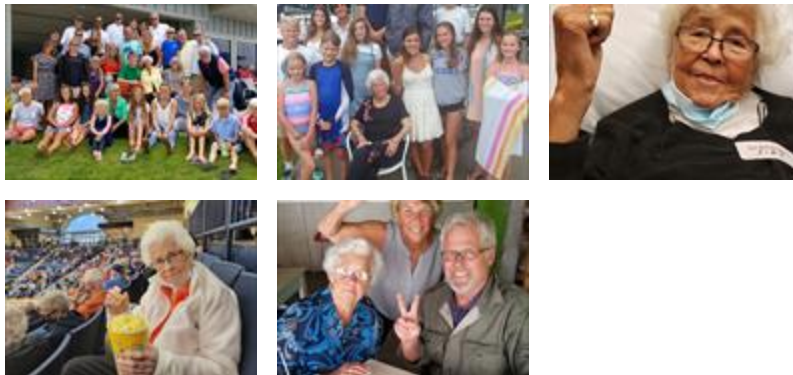
JT

“ We are sorry we are not able to attend the celebration of the life of this remarkable woman. We hold her and her wonderful family in our thoughts and hearts.
Marilynn and John Tammi

John Tammi - May 21, 2022 at 12:56 PM

KH

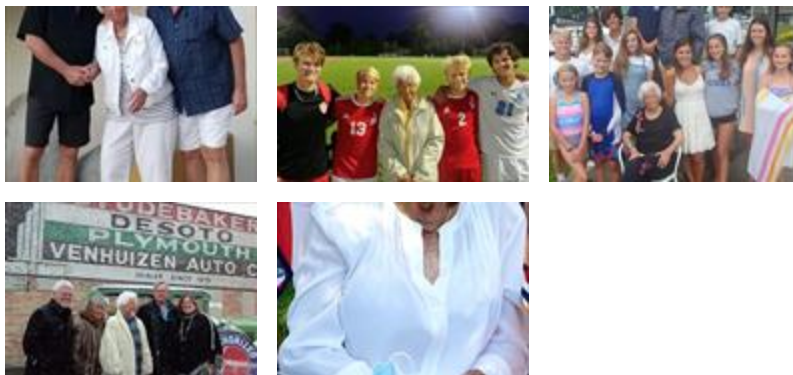
“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Kristi Van Howe - May 20, 2022 at 04:11 PM

KH

“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Kristi Van Howe - May 20, 2022 at 03:26 PM

LB

“ I got to know "Mrs. Venhuizen" through the Camp Fire Organization. My mother Billie Slagh was a Camp Fire Leader. Mrs. Venhuizen and my mother became good friends. Mrs Venhuizens's commitment to the Organization, made a difference in so many young women's lives. As life goes on, I moved away from Holland but reconnected with Cleo when we returned. I loved going into Cleo's to purchase an item or two but, I really wanted to just see Cleo and have conversation with her. She always commented on how much she liked my mother and the friendship that they had. I so enjoyed Cleo's beautiful face and smile and her way of making you feel so special when you were in her presence. Her commitment and love for her family and friends, and community is something to be admired. She surely was an icon and will be missed. My life has been blessed by knowing Cleo.

To her family - May you find comfort and peace in your wonderful memories of her.

Lynne Slagh Bekkering

Lynne Bekkering - May 20, 2022 at 10:36 AM

GD

“ 🙏 's for family as you grieve and celebrate Her life! We should let all live and enjoy life as she did.....

Graham and Sylvia

graham duryee - May 18, 2022 at 05:45 PM

EW

“ *The back row at CMC sure is getting lonely. First Dorothy, then my Mom and now Cleo.*

However, I know that they are all praising the Lord together !

*Thoughts and prayers,
Eileen and Tom Wiersma*

Eileen Wiersma - May 18, 2022 at 03:14 PM

KH

That was a very compatible caring back row

Kristi Van Howe - May 18, 2022 at 10:25 PM

MH

So sorry to hear Cleo has passed. No one has lived a more fulfilling and honorable life. My heart goes out to you. 💕

Mary Harris - May 19, 2022 at 09:20 AM

MS

She was indeed the queen! She had such a wonderful life. I loved your mom and dad. I always thought you were so lucky to have them. Your mom was an inspiration to us all and now Kristi it's your turn to step up and be the new matriarch! You will be wonderful! Prayers for you and your beautiful family. I love you..

Maureen Simmons - May 19, 2022 at 09:49 AM

JO

She was so important to me growing up. I remember thinking that I was in the presence of a great woman when I was a child. She is one of the women I remember being instrumental in showing me what a role model looks like. Rest now Good and faithful servant. You will never know how much you contributed.

Jenny Von Ins, campfire girl and Cleo fan.

Jenny Von Ins ONeal - June 03, 2022 at 08:29 PM