



## Dr. David Leo VerLee

October 1, 1937 - June 3, 2014

Dr. David VerLee, age 76, of Holland, Michigan died peacefully at home on June 3, 2014 from metastatic skin cancer. He was born in Mansfield, OH to Leo and Dagmar VerLee on October 1, 1937. At the age of 6 weeks he moved with his parents to Grand Rapids where he attended Alger and Burton schools and graduated from South High. He went on to the University of Michigan for undergrad and medical school. After an internship at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, he then completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of Michigan and went on to do two years of medical research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He and his family moved back to Michigan where he practiced ophthalmology in Flint for 25 years. In 1989 he moved back to Western Michigan in Holland where he practiced for several more years before retiring in 1999. David was a Rotarian for many years, both in Flint and in Holland, MI. He and his family are long-time members of Christ Memorial Church in Holland where he served as an elder. David was involved with many philanthropic organizations and charitable causes and contributed in many roles to the Kellogg Eye Center and the University of Michigan medical school. He was preceded in death by his former wife Gwendolyn (Lawson) who died in 1998. David is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jayne (Anderson) VerLee, and children Phillip and Jocelyn (Koning) VerLee, Amy and Rick Elias, DDS (children Jake, Lucas and Peter), Peter and Kristal (Glenn) VerLee (children Brendan and Ava), and Jon and Kerrie (Notman) VerLee (children Ella, Easton, and Emma). He is also

survived by his younger brother Thomas VerLee, MD, and Tom's wife, Lois (VanDerSchie) and family in Portland, ME. Burial will take place at Pilgrim Home Cemetery following a private family service. David's "Celebration of Life" service will take place at 2:00pm on July 5, 2014 at Christ Memorial Church, 595 Graafschap Rd., Holland, with visitation prior to the service from 12:30pm-2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Hospice of Holland or Autism Support of Kent County. Arrangements are by the Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland. Please feel free to sign an online guestbook or share a memory at [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. David Leo VerLee*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Fond memories of David and love to Jayne.  
Bill & Carol Carbrey"*

**Bill Carbrey** - June 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *"It's hard to believe David has been gone 2 years already. Our lives, however long they may seem, are just a short time in God's eyes. We will all soon be with Dave and the rest of our loved ones in the room above. May God bless and comfort us as we continue our journey here on earth."*

**ROGER THOMASMA** - June 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Jayne,  
One year has passed and David has been so often in our thoughts. He is missed and he will never be forgotten. We look forward with great anticipation to seeing him again. You Jayne, have been an inspiration and example of courage and steadiness through this first year. You are truly amazing.  
Love, Cousins Suzanne and Bob Kavgian"*

**Suzanne and Bob Kavgian** - June 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“Jayne, it was with great sadness we heard of Dave's passing. He has been a good friend for many years and leaves many fond memories that I will cherish. You and the family have our deepest sympathy. Knowing he is with God doesn't relieve the pain but does provide great comfort. Jim & Joy Bennington”

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**Jim Bennington** - July 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NK

“Dearest Jayne. Our hearts ached when we read the news of David's passing. We shared many conversations while attending the GR Symphony Pops on Sunday afternoons. We loved hearing your stories of biking adventures and travel experiences. Life often presents those brief yet special moments that stay with us even when paths diverge. Heartfelt sympathy to you. Love, Nel Belding and Kris Bishop (Flora Bishop too)”

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**Nel and Kris** - July 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“I never knew David, but I did know Jayne! The connections we make with the loving people in this world reverberate along the decades of our existence. For the short times we are able to reach out and touch those we love, and to share in the joy of life will define our legacy. To all of you who knew David, let us rejoice that you were so fortunate to know a good and gentle man who lived his life doing his best for all his friends, family, and those unknowns who benefited from his generosity. He will remain with you in your hearts. We will not dwell upon how he died, but will always rejoice in the ways he taught us to live!”

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**Joe Slama** - July 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DN

“David was a blessing to all of us at Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp in Onkama, Michigan. He was on staff here many years ago and touch hundreds of lives and then in recent year he and Jayne supported some amazing projects at camp - projects that have changed many, many lives. Blessings to the VerLee family as they remember a blessed, blessed man of God.”

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**Dave nesburg** - June 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HS

“Dear Jayne and family, Today, while I worshipped at CommPres, I read that Dave had died. I am so sad for you and the VerLee family and I am sad for me, too. You and Dave were always bright spots for me as part of the CommPres family and while I did not see you lots after I moved north again, I always kept track as best I could via Facebook. I did see Dave at the concert at a CommPres in February, but obviously did not realize what he was going through again. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Hilde Ziegler Seiler”

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**Hilde Ziegler Seiler** - June 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LE

“We are very sad to learn of Dave's passing. He was a good friend and active member of the board of VCY (Youth for Christ) in Flint many years ago. Our deepest sympathy to the family he was a wonderful person.”

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**lynn and Jeanne Eastman** - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“*"The Dr. VerLee I remember as a young adult in the early 80's in Flint , Michigan was of not just an excellent physician but also a caring and dedicated Christian who made a great impression on me to be faithful in my walk as well."*

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**Mark Munger** - June 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“*"Jayne. We just now became aware of David's passing. Please accept our deepest sympathy and sorrow. We had no idea that he was ill. He had a tender heart and much compassion. He will be missed.David and Ruth Boice"*

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**A friend** - June 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“*"Dear Jayne and all the family, Dave was a strong influence on my life in the early part of my medical career. I was fresh from my anesthesiology residency when I went to work at Genesee Memorial Hospital in Flint where Dave did all his surgery. I admired the quality of his work and the rapport he had with his patients. He truly had compassion for others which was evident from the moment you met him. He always had a kind word, a smile or something humorous to say that left you feeling better about yourself and the world in general. His faith in God was always clear. He was so intelligent and very talented in so many areas, yet always humble in his manor. I tried to learn from his example in the way I have treated my patients and practiced medicine. I remember fondly the bicycle tour in Vermont and the weekend we spent in Holland. He left the world a better place. I look forward to the day when we can reunite and reestablish our friendship when I join him in heaven. Although he will be greatly missed here, I'm sure there was great rejoicing in heaven when he was welcomed home. James C. Culver, MD (Jim)"*

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**James C** - June 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM