



Dennis "Denny" Ellens

March 20, 1955 - February 7, 2026

Dennis Hoyt Ellens, age 70, passed away on February 7, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Denny was born on March 20, 1955, in Lafayette, Indiana, to Stuart and Frances Ellens. He later made his home in Holland, Michigan, where he built a life rooted in family, hard work, meaningful relationships, and faith.

He was married to Scoob Ellens, with whom he shared 43 years of marriage together. Denny was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and is survived by his children: CJ and Lauren Ellens, Brett and Mikaela Ellens, Leslie and Jon Israels, Kate and Kyle Bush, and Carleigh and Jeff Zita; and his grandchildren, Mac, Ford, and Waverly Ellens, and Penelope and Cameron Israels. He is also survived by extended family members and many friends who will deeply miss him.

Denny's life was grounded in a deep and abiding faith and a sincere love for Jesus Christ. That faith showed up in the details of everyday life. Denny believed profoundly in creating environments where people could experience the difference between what is ordinary and what is exceptional. To him, community was not about status or recognition, but about shared values—camaraderie, respect, accountability, and care for one another. He had a gift for shaping spaces and relationships that reflected those principles, always

with the goal of making people feel welcomed, valued, and held to a meaningful standard. Denny understood that excellence, when done well, leaves a lasting impact not on places, but on people. Those who journeyed alongside him were better for it, and his influence will continue to be felt through the lives he touched and the communities he helped build.

Denny formed friendships in a rare and meaningful way. He showed up each day simply wanting to be present—to engage, to listen, and to enjoy time together. In a world where relationships often come with expectations, Denny stood apart. He didn't want anything from anyone; he simply valued being around good people. His presence had a way of making people feel truly seen. While his absence is deeply felt, there is comfort in knowing he has greeted his Savior face to face. What a blessing he was on this earth, touching so many lives in ways that will not be forgotten.

Denny was preceded in death by his parents, Stuart and Frances Ellens and his father-in-law, Ed Prince.

In place of flowers, the family encourages you to honor Denny in the way he lived each day. Denny had a quiet way of giving and doing good, simply because it was the right thing to do, never expecting anything in return. If you feel moved, consider quietly helping someone—paying for a meal, lending a hand, or supporting a cause close to your heart. Acts of kindness like these reflect how Denny showed up for others and are a beautiful way to continue his legacy.

Service Details

Visitation: Central Wesleyan Church (please use entrance "A")

Thursday, February 19, from 9:30–11:00 a.m. and 3:00–8:00 p.m.

Memorial Service: Central Wesleyan Church
Friday, February 20, at 1:30 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 19. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Central Wesleyan Church
446 West 40th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Visitation

FEB 19. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Central Wesleyan Church
446 West 40th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Celebration of Life Service

FEB 20. 1:30 PM (ET)

Central Wesleyan Church
446 West 40th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall

KV

“ thanks to Denny for buying Reliable Sport property...I am now retired after 18 years.Ken Vos

Ken Vos - February 20 at 01:59 PM

PS

“ Praveen S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

Praveen S. - February 20 at 09:46 AM

RG

“ Richard G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

Richard G. - February 20 at 08:32 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 19 at 03:54 PM

KB

“ Kylee B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

Kylee B. - February 19 at 12:31 PM



“ Denny was a great all-around guy. I first met him back in my early Prince days when he was the Chrysler Business Unit leader. He was always genuinely interested in understanding what designers did and how they could best support the business.

While I didn't spend a massive amount of time with Denny, I was well aware of his many efforts in West Michigan through close mutual friends. He was an incredibly charitable man, often offering up his lodge 'up north' to support others; those trips created many great memories for the Prince Design team as we planned our future.

He was also a true racing fan who joined our karting ventures in Southern Michigan. Hanging out with him last year on Nate's back deck in Scottsdale, he was the exact same nice guy I met 40 years ago. He will be deeply missed. All the best to Scoob and the family.
-Dave Muyres

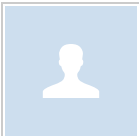
David Muyres - February 19 at 09:51 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 19 at 01:25 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

February 19 at 01:25 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 18 at 10:11 PM



“ Ashley Grills and Huhtamaki team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



Ashley Grills and Huhtamaki team - February 18 at 03:17 PM



“ Ashley Grills and Huhtamaki team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

Ashley Grills and Huhtamaki team - February 18 at 03:17 PM



“ Bill, Natalie and Team Huizenga purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



Bill, Natalie and Team Huizenga - February 18 at 01:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 18 at 11:39 AM



“ Lisa & Larry, Company Creative Studio purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



Lisa & Larry, Company Creative Studio - February 18 at 07:13 AM



“ Lisa & Larry, Company Creative Studio planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

Lisa & Larry, Company Creative Studio - February 18 at 07:13 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

February 17 at 08:21 PM

DW

“ Deidra Mitchell and Waseyabek purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



Deidra Mitchell and Waseyabek - February 17 at 09:49 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 17 at 03:34 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

February 17 at 03:34 AM

BS

“ Scoobs, I am so glad I introduced you to Denny! You had many great years together and a beautiful family. My sincere condolences to you all. My best regards, George & Judy Swiftney

Barbara Ann Kelch for George Swiftney - February 16 at 07:59 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



February 16 at 01:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

February 16 at 01:35 PM



“ *Schubert North America purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



Schubert North America - February 16 at 10:44 AM



“ *Denny was a wonderful man. Always treated everyone with kindness. We shared many laughs and stories. It was an honor to work for him and even more to have known him. Prayers to the Ellens family.*



Greg Stanul - February 15 at 06:01 AM

LT

“ Leslie’s Tribe purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dennis “Denny” Ellens.



Leslie’s Tribe - February 14 at 08:50 PM

LT

“ Leslie’s Tribe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis “Denny” Ellens.

Leslie’s Tribe - February 14 at 08:50 PM

TC

“ The Magnum Ice Cream Company purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Dennis “Denny” Ellens.



The Magnum Ice Cream Company - February 14 at 11:58 AM

TC

“ The Magnum Ice Cream Company planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis “Denny” Ellens.

The Magnum Ice Cream Company - February 14 at 11:58 AM

LR

“ What a beautiful tribute to Denny! We send our love to all his family.
Len and Lee Rhoda

Len and Lee Rhoda - February 13 at 09:53 PM

SF

“ *Saul coronado & Family purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



Saul coronado & Family - February 13 at 06:42 PM

SF

“ *Saul coronado & Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*

Saul coronado & Family - February 13 at 06:42 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



February 13 at 05:11 PM



“ *Young Life and Timber Wolf Lake would not be the same without Denny. We are deeply saddened and praying for Scoob and the family.*

Chris Theule, Regional Director

Chris Theule - February 13 at 01:50 PM

LP

“ Sending our deepest sympathies to you, Scoob and your entire family. All I can think of right now is what Job said...The Lord gave Denny Ellen's to this world to be such a beautiful testimony and the Lord took Denny back to Himself because HE WAS!! Love and prayers... Tom and Lynnelle

Lynnelle Pierce - February 13 at 12:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 13 at 08:58 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.

February 13 at 08:58 AM

PS

“ We are so sorry to hear this sad news. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathies are with all the family during this time of grief. Denny was always so warm and welcoming to us and just put us at ease with a smile, a laugh or a joke. We know that his legacy will continue through his family and the many lives that he came in contact with. We also rejoice knowing that he is in the presence of his Savior and that we will meet again on the beautiful shore! May the Lord grant you all peace, comfort and strength in the coming days.

Love & prayers,
Betsy, Praveen, Malaika & Ian

Praveen Suganandam - February 13 at 12:46 AM

DP

“ I worked with Denny at Prince Corporation 40 years ago. Was always impressed with his strong foundation in his faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Thoughts and prayers for his family at this time. .

David Plantenga - February 12 at 08:28 PM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



February 12 at 04:09 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



February 12 at 03:28 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



February 12 at 12:52 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*

February 12 at 12:52 PM



“ *Sending love to the family!*

David Tilley - February 12 at 10:46 AM



“ *From your friends and family at OSMG purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



From your friends and family at OSMG - February 12 at 08:47 AM

YD

“ Your friends at Prairie Farms Dairy. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.



Your friends at Prairie Farms Dairy. - February 11 at 07:27 PM

BJ

“ All good memories of Denny's honesty and sense of humor. And a few good evenings of pick up basketball. He will be missed.

Bob Johnson - February 11 at 05:47 PM

MW

“ Quick to smile, reach out, and share. I will cherish the conversations we had, how you remembered even the littlest of details about the team, how your eyes would sparkle whenever you heard a good joke, and how carefully you'd listen, often taking notes, nodding and encouraging me to continue. Thank you, Denny, for championing the creation of a space to grow and learn, professionally, personally, spiritually at Hudsonville Ice Cream. Every day, we will be reminded of the quiet way you served this team through the values you exemplified. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Maria White - February 11 at 03:47 PM

LG

“ A benevolent, natural leader who wasn't afraid to show his faith. A true inspiration. A rare one. My deep condolences to his family. Peace, Laura Godfrey

Laura Godfrey - February 11 at 07:05 AM

SA

“ *Fond memories. Wonderful man. Always there for me. Trusted me with his kids giving them tennis lessons. Wonderful man. That's all I got. Heart is heavy.*

*Sincerely,
Scott Appledorn*

Scott Appledorn - February 10 at 05:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*



February 10 at 03:44 PM

YF

“ *Your Friends at FlavorSum planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Ellens.*

Your Friends at FlavorSum - February 10 at 03:44 PM

AW

“ *Denny was a wonderful, Godly, and generous man. He will be missed!*

Ann Wilson - February 10 at 09:02 AM