



Dorothy Voss

February 27, 1930 - July 25, 2025

After ninety-five years of dreaming and doing, Dorothy Voss has passed the torch to those she has inspired.

Dorothy was born and raised in 1930 in Chicago (Roseland) and came to Holland, Michigan in 1948 to attend Hope College. After graduating in 1952 with an English degree, she wed Leon J. Voss of Holland, and they started their married life in Northern Michigan where Dorothy used her writing skills documenting patient cases as a psychiatric social worker for the Traverse City State Hospital while Leon was stationed at the U.S.Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. When Leon's enlistment was completed, they moved back to Holland, then Zeeland, where they raised five children.

During the 1970s, in addition to being a substitute teacher at Zeeland High, Dorothy was active on the Zeeland City Planning Commission and was appointed to ZEAL: Zeeland Environmental Action Leadership, a panel of business executives and community leaders seeking to define potential improvements to shared space, including the downtown area, historical preservation and recreation. One of the panel's findings was the need to start gathering and documenting artifacts and stories of local history. Dorothy soon became a founding member of the Zeeland Historical Society and was appointed as its first chair. After the property was purchased, became the volunteer director of The Dekker Huis Museum. Although many people were

involved in the Society, Dorothy and Wilma Veldheer were a core team, spending countless hours collecting artifacts, hosting shows and events, and learning how to build a museum as they built it. After retirement from formal roles, Dorothy remained an active member of the Zeeland Historical Society by researching, publishing books and developing a series of interpretive signs around Zeeland.

For five years, Dorothy also served as Executive Director of the Zeeland Chamber of Commerce, growing membership from 175 to 230 businesses, setting up an Ambassadors group and a program to train future civic leaders, and organizing an Industrial Retention Survey.

Dorothy was a long-time member of the First Reformed Church in Zeeland, where she enjoyed singing in the choir, editing the newsletter, teaching, and tutoring for Kid's Hope. She was very proud of her Dutch heritage and her travels included many trips to the Netherlands, including the "Roots and Branches" Witte tour she organized and led for the 150th anniversary of Zeeland's founding.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Mike (Diane) Voss of Grand Haven, Judy, Valerie and Laura Voss of Zeeland, Brian (Roxanne) Voss of Holland, granddaughters Jenna (Justin) Grewal of Ann Arbor and Erin (Matt) Viening of Norton Shores, and by great-grandchildren Eliza and Madalynne Viening, and Elden and Leon Grewal, and brother-in-law Dr. John (Lynda) Voss of Waterloo, Ontario, a niece and several nephews.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Leon in 1994, and her parents, Sofrides and Anna Fennema.

There will be a time of visitation from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29 at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 South State Street in Zeeland. A private service is planned.

The family appreciates the care and kindnesses Dorothy received at Royal Atrium Inn Assisted Living over the past year.

To remember Dorothy, please visit the Dekker Huis Museum or consider a contribution to the Zeeland Historical Society Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area, 85 E 8th St, Suite 110, Holland, MI 49423. Thank you. www.yntemafh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home
251 South State Street
Zeeland, MI 49464

Tribute Wall

CN

“ I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit with Dorothy while she lived at Royal Atrium Inn. She was fascinating to talk with, and was always very interested in others as well. I had hoped to attend her visitation but had other commitments which prevented me from this. Dorothy is already very missed at the Atrium and I am keeping her loved ones in my prayers. Sincerely, Cindy Nyhoff, Royal Atrium Inn chaplain

Cindy Nyhoff - July 29, 2025 at 10:24 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Dorothy Voss.



July 27, 2025 at 05:27 PM



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

July 27, 2025 at 05:27 PM

JH

“ *Laura and family, will always remember your mom and her involvement in the restoration of the school house. She took a lot of pride in getting it started and completed!! Was nice to run over and chit chat when she visited. You have many memories with your mom, praying they may be a source of comfort to you in the days ahead along with Jesus' promise to bring comfort.*

Jerry & Marcia Hoeksema - July 27, 2025 at 04:46 PM

JV

“ Dorothy continued to refer to me as "Little John" even in our last phone conversation a few weeks ago.. After all I was in grade school when she came into our family!. So many memories of so many loving and fun times..

Although separated by many miles, we remained in close touch and visited back and forth many many times most often hosted in their home or cottage. We were a regular part of their family when we came to Zeeland for vacations and to celebrate holidays each year..

We will always be grateful for all the kindness and care shown to my parents when we were not close at hand.

We can always speak proudly of Dorothy in reference to her skills, knowledge, and involvement in her community.

In our last conversation she talked about how lucky she was to have the support of her children.

Our deepest best wishes and a "Thank You" to Mike, Valerie, Laura, Judy and Brian.

John and Lynda and Lisa Bruce and Scott Voss

John Voss - July 26, 2025 at 10:12 PM

MN

“ I've known Dorothy for many years. Always looked up to her for being a leader.

She will be missed. Sincere Sympathy to her family.

MarLee Nykerk

MaeLee Nykerk - July 26, 2025 at 04:47 PM

TF

“ I met Dorothy in 1975, when I moved to Zeeland to work at the Highlander Men's Store. She sang in the choir I directed at First Reformed Church of Zeeland. She also sang in a ladies trio consisting of Doris Pyle, Barb Vande Waa and Dorothy. She was a source of encouragement to me during those days in my young life. She had a vision for Zeeland and the community can be indebted to her for wishing to move Zeeland forward commercially and culturally. We shared a common interest in her original "Chicago Dutch" home. She lived a full and successful life. I am sorry to hear of her passing. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thomas Folkert - July 25, 2025 at 10:16 PM