



## Edward A. Stielstra

April 11, 1942 - September 23, 2025

Edward Alan Stielstra, 83, passed away peacefully in Holland, Michigan on September 23rd, 2025. A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, October 3rd at Third Reformed Church, and a Celebration of Life service will take place at Third Reformed Church, in Holland, Michigan, on October 4, 2025, at 10 a.m.

To view a Zoom livestream of the Ed's service, please visit <https://trcholland.zoom.us/j/84261187462?pwd=NXRHVXp5WIVXcXRkc0p0UEU4Y3Fpdz09>.

Ed was born in Holland Hospital on April 11, 1942, to Edward and Gertrude Stielstra. He spent his early years in Holland, Michigan, until the family relocated to Redlands, California in 1953. He returned to Holland to study Biology at Hope College, where he met Sandra Mitter, the love of his life, whom he married in 1969. After college Ed attended the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School. His active service in the Navy included a deployment to Vietnam as a gunnery officer and chaplain onboard the USS Southerland. He then joined the U.S. Navy Reserve for 22 years where he served as a Judge Advocate and retired as Navy Commander.

After active duty in the Navy, Ed attended graduate school at San Diego State University, where he received a Masters of Science in Microbiology, and conducted post-graduate work at the University of Virginia. He returned to the

community he loved in Holland, Michigan, and built a home at Pined In Farm, on a parcel surrounded by trees planted by his grandparents.

Ed spent 17 years at Amway Corporation in Grand Rapids, Michigan in technical roles including Plant Manager. He volunteered at The Good Samaritan Center, establishing a car program to help people in Holland. When he "retired" he worked as a Realtor at Greenridge Realty in Holland, Michigan.

Ed led with a servant's heart and desire to understand. He served in his local Rotary Club embracing "service above self", including a term as president, was a member of the Laketown Township board and served on the board for the Holland Choral. He was passionate about his faith and the community at Third Reformed Church of Holland, and served there as a deacon, elder, and Stephen minister and Sunday School teacher.

Family was always a major part of Ed's life. Ed and Sandy enjoyed opening their home and making it comfortable and welcoming for their children, grandchildren, relatives and many friends. His children remember his generous and supportive nature guiding them to make their own informed decisions. Horses, donkeys, dogs, cats, vintage cars and boats also found their way into Ed's big heart and his life. His curiosity was boundless - he read a wide variety of books and developed a range of interests.

Ed is survived by his wife Sandy; his children Sarah (Timothy) Groenheide and David (Lynae); his grandchildren Elliot, Kate, Joseph, Luke, and Lillian; and his sister Karen Eiles (Rich Buerge) and brother Steven (Mimi Hills).

In lieu of flowers a donation in Ed's name may be given to Hospice of Holland or Third Reformed Church.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Third Reformed Church  
111 West 13th St.  
Holland, MI 49423

## Celebration of Life Service

OCT 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Third Reformed Church  
111 West 13th St.  
Holland, MI 49423

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward A. Stielstra*



**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - October 02, 2025 at 09:35 AM

PB

“ *Ed and I met when we both started the 6th grade at Redlands Christian School in southern California. Just as his family had moved from Michigan in 1953, my family transplanted my siblings and me from Michigan to Redlands several months earlier, in late 1952. Starting as pals, we formed a lasting friendship that continued throughout his lifetime. Ed was known by our mutual classmates as friendly and thoughtful - not to mention smart! My wife, Charla, was also a good friend of Ed's throughout high school, and listening today via Zoom [October 4th] to the Celebration of Life service, all that was said about who he was and what he stood for resonated with both of us. He lived a remarkable life . . . . he will be missed.*

**Phil Beukema** - October 04, 2025 at 03:45 PM



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

September 25, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Edward A. Stielstra.*



---

September 25, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ *My memories of Ed Steilstra is that of a kind and gentle man. He definitely tried to understand the other person and seemed so patient. And looking back to 2019, I will always remember his forging ahead of the crowd at a surprise 70th birthday party for my husband! His role was just perfect! A good husband, a good father and a servant for the Lord throughout his life.*

---

**Pat Martin** - September 24, 2025 at 09:14 PM