



## Elaine De Pree

October 4, 1925 - May 17, 2024

Elaine DePree and her husband Bruce enjoyed 71 beautiful years of marriage before his death in 2020. We wonder if Elaine's first words in heaven were, "Bruce, I can't believe you got here first!" She carried on with faith, grace and a sense of humor until her passing on May 17, 2024.

Born in 1925 in Zeeland, Michigan to Levi and Gertrude Meeusen, Elaine was a loving big sister to June and Nancy. As a child she developed a love of reading. Even as a little girl she thought the best gift to give was a book. A proud graduate of the Zeeland High School class of 1943, she continued her love of literature at Hope College graduating with a degree in English. She taught in Middleville prior to marriage and in DesPlaines, Illinois when Bruce was in graduate school. Teaching took a hiatus as Elaine raised four daughters. Elaine and Bruce were charter members at Faith Reformed Church, where Elaine sang in the choir. She also was a leader in Bible Study Fellowship. Elaine loved Zeeland, and she enjoyed her volunteer work in Zeeland as a docent at the museum, library board member and president of the Literary Club. Elaine was a gracious hostess and welcomed many into her home to share a delicious meal and laughter. She always had at least one book she was reading, and each day managed to finish the crossword and cryptoquote! Her friendships were lifelong, deep and valued.

She is lovingly remembered by daughters and their spouses, Debbie (Dewey)

VanDyke, Lynne (Kevin) Holleman, Sara (Jim) Donkersloot and Patricia (Kevin) Kraay, ten grandchildren (and spouses) and 23 great grandchildren (with twins on the way), sister Nancy (Rob) McNiven, in laws Bev DePree, Gordon (Lenore) DePree, Lila McCormack and beloved nieces and nephews.

Elaine loved us well. In her honor may we go forward and read good books, solve a crossword puzzle, pursue lifelong learning and open our homes to share a meal with others. May we honor God and live a life of faith as she and Bruce joyfully did during their long and beautiful lives. Gratitude and thanks to the staff at the Royal Park Atrium Inn and Hospice of Holland.

A memorial service celebrating both Elaine and Bruce, who passed away during COVID, will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 11 a.m. at Faith Church, 220 West Central, in Zeeland. Visitation will be Friday, May 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 South State Street, Zeeland. Memorial contributions may be given to Bethany Christian Services or Camp Geneva. [www.yntemafh.com](http://www.yntemafh.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **24.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home  
251 South State Street  
Zeeland, MI 49464

## Memorial Service

MAY **25.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Faith Reformed Church  
220 West Central Ave  
Zeeland, MI 49464

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ To Nancy and the rest of the family. So incredibly sad to hear of Elaines passing. Literally found out this evening. She was a dear soul, and so much like Aunt Gert...truly as saintly as a human being could be. I loved her very much, her sense of humor, kindness and radient being will be a loss to us and a gain to Heaven. God Bless and comfort you during this trying time. Love from Casey & Del Wedeven

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**Martha J Wedeven** - May 24, 2024 at 11:25 PM

RV

“ Dear DePree Family,

*I was deeply saddened with Elaine's passing, not for her but for all of us that are left behind. She was so ready to meet her Lord and Savior and to be reunited with her husband. She was truly a remarkable woman—loving, kind, witty, and incredibly sharp until the very end. Her warmth and wisdom touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. I will always cherish the moments we shared and the joy she brought into our lives. Please accept my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. May her memory be a source of comfort and strength for you and your family.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Rick VandenBerg, Community Manager at Royal Atrium Inn*

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**Rick VandenBerg** - May 24, 2024 at 11:50 AM

RT

“ Rob, Jenn, Jenny, Steve and Tyler purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Elaine De Pree.



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**Rob, Jenn, Jenny, Steve and Tyler** - May 22, 2024 at 06:11 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Elaine De Pree.



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May 22, 2024 at 09:01 AM

KM

“ Kelsey, Brittany, Mary and Mel purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Elaine De Pree.



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**Kelsey, Brittany, Mary and Mel** - May 22, 2024 at 08:50 AM

LL

“ Love, Brian, Tammy, Emma, Abby & Luna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine De Pree.

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**Love, Brian, Tammy, Emma, Abby & Luna** - May 21, 2024 at 01:52 PM

LL

“ Love, Brian, Tammy, Emma, Abby & Luna purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Elaine De Pree.



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**Love, Brian, Tammy, Emma, Abby & Luna** - May 21, 2024 at 01:52 PM

KS

“ What a beautiful lady❤️ so kind and so loving❤️ I enjoyed taking care of her and listening to all her stories. My sympathy to your family.

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**Kathy smith** - May 18, 2024 at 09:07 PM