



Mrs. Eleanor Ruth Steen

October 27, 1920 - May 31, 2015

Eleanor Ruth Steen, age 94 of Zeeland, formerly of Grand Rapids, died Sunday, May 31, 2015. She is survived by her children: Dr. Tom Steen and Dr. Carol Cook of Grand Forks, ND, Mary and Dr. Dale Terpstra of Holland, and Laurie Steen Pounder of New Era, MI; grandchildren: Ben Steen, Sam and Erin Steen, Molly Steen, Andrew and Ashley Terpstra and Jake Terpstra; great grandchildren: Hunter Steen, Luke and Landon Steen, Sheridan and Blake Steen and Oliver Terpstra. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband Barney in 2005 and her daughter-in-law Dr. Libby Rankin in 2007. She grew up in Grand Rapids where she attended Christian schools and Calvin College. She continued her education at the Butterworth School of Nursing, graduating with her R.N. degree in 1943. She married Barney Steen in 1943. After WWII, they moved to the Paterson, New Jersey area, where they started a family. In 1953 they moved to Grand Rapids where Barney took a position at Calvin College as a faculty member and coach. In Grand Rapids, Eleanor ("Aunt Heety" hosted numerous nieces and nephews from New Jersey and all the Calvin basketball teams of that era. She was also a member of the Garden Club and the Ladies Literary Club in Grand Rapids. In their retirement Eleanor and Barney moved to their cottage on Lake Michigan. They were members of Trinity Lutheran Church there, where she was active with quilters and the Women's Society. She also volunteered at the Oceana Veterans Facility and was a member of the Pentwater Garden Club. In 2004, after moving to Zeeland, Eleanor read widely, studied the Wall Street Journal, rang the bell for

the Salvation Army, and encouraged laughter and good cheer at Royal Park Place. A memorial service will be held at 6:00 pm, Thursday, June 25, 2015, at North Street Christian Reformed Church, 20 East Main Avenue, Zeeland MI 49464. The Reverend Shaun Furniss will officiate. A time to gather and greet the Steen family will be from 5:00-5:45 pm, prior to the service at North Street CRC. Memorial contributions may be given in Eleanor's honor to the Barney Steen Scholarship at Calvin College, or the Quilters of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era, MI. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland MI 49464. www.yntemafh.com

Tribute Wall

SZ

“ Aunt Eleanor my Father's Aunt and when my grandparents came from. New Jersey are families got together and we had a wonderful time at the cottage



Susan Rienstra Zuehlke - June 03, 2024 at 10:16 PM



“ Mrs. Eleanor Ruth Steen

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM

PD

“ "To the Steen family, So sorry for the loss of your mother. Now is the time to celebrate her heavenly homegoing with joy.. It still hurts to say good-by to a loved one. Our sincerest Christian sympathy to all of you. Lovingly, Ken and Pat 7'sma Diekevers GRCHS 1964"

Patricia Diekeveres - June 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ "Laurie-Our thoughts, prayers and love are with you during these difficult days of losing your dear mom. Linda & Tim Ippel"

Linda Ippel - June 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NO

“Eleanor was a wonderful person, friend (at Royal Park Place) and supporter. Her interest in young people was inspiring, be it at Burger King, games at Huizenga Park, or the downtown candy store in Zeeland. Her friendship was delightful and cherished as we explored and discussed her insatiable interest in almost everything ranging from Paw Paw fruit, deep fried pickles, and how to peel a banana to the bowerbird in Papua New Guinea and sports including the Cubs and would American Pharoah win the Triple Crown this year. We had many discussions and did Google searches about bitcoins, physics of the future, 3-D printing, and politics. An avid reader of the Wall Street Journal, she cut out and passed along many articles on these and other subjects. Most of all Eleanor was strong, loving and faithful in her support of my wife (Nancy) and I at Providence Healthcare Center with her compassionate attention directed to Nancy, a warm friend to talk openly with about the ravages of Parkinson's disease, the laughter when sharing Nancy's Quips and, of course, the chocolate candies she brought each time she visited. Eleanor was a special precious friend I will MISS her.”

Norm Overway - June 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SO

“I have such good memories of your mom when I was growing up on Lotus St. And I never knew anyone else with the nickname "Heetie"! Was never sure where that came from! She was always full of fun, always laughing and smiling. I remember when she and my mom would go antiquing together. They really enjoyed each other! Now they can visit together in heaven! Praying for you as you grieve-that your remembrances of your mom will be a comfort. I will not be able to attend her service as we will be out of town on the 25th.”

Susan Hennink Olthof - June 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SO

“*Laurie, My sympathy to you and your family in the passing away of your mother. Your mother was always so warm and welcoming to me and all our friends when we were at your house. You will be in my thoughts and prayers as you go through this time of Transition.*”

Shirley Oosterhouse - June 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CK

“*Many good memories. Very funny lady and full of pranks and jokes. Always made me laugh and all the residents loved her!*”

Carla Kraker - June 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM