



Eleanor Van Dam

July 9, 1924 - July 9, 2017

Eleanor Van Dam, 93, of Forest Grove, passed away Sunday, July 9, 2017. Eleanor was born in Coral, Michigan, to Leo and Annie Bernice (McGinnis) Rowland, on November 4, 1923. She graduated from high school and later married Harvey Van Dam. Eleanor and Harvey raised their children and lived in New Era while teaching there. The Van Dam family moved to Portage, Michigan, when the children were in elementary school. While they lived in Portage, Eleanor received her teaching degree and taught elementary classes for several years. In 1977, Harvey and Eleanor retired and returned to Hudsonville. In retirement, they also wintered for over 20 years in the Bradenton, Florida area. They again became members of Forest Grove Reformed Church. Harvey preceded her in death in 2010, and she was also preceded in death by her daughter-in-law Nancy Van Dam in 2009, and son-in-law Richard Tompkins in 2015. She is survived by her children: Carole Tompkins of Silver Lake, Dave and Helen Van Dam of Kalamazoo, MI; grandsons: Chad Van Dam, Matt and Heidi Van Dam, great-grandson Jack Van Dam, sister Judy (Mike) Keefe, sister-in-law Ethel Van Dam, and many extended family. A service to honor the faith and life of Eleanor Van Dam will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, July 14, 2017, at Forest Grove Reformed Church, 1630 32nd Ave., Hudsonville 49426, with Pastor Doug Hoeve officiating. A private interment will take place in Forest Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-7 pm, Thursday at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland 49464. Memorial contributions may be made to Love INC of Hudsonville, or

the Forest Grove Reformed Church Memorial Fund.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eleanor Van Dam*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Eleanor was an amazing person in so many ways I was always so excited when I knew I was going to see Eleanor, Harve and the family. I have such fond memories of all the times spent with our families together especially the unforgettable Christmas partys. I will keep you Carol and Dave in my thoughts and prayers."*

Jim McGinness - July 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"My thoughts and prayers for Carol and family. I very much enjoyed seeing Carol and Rich come in to Grand Pines to visit her. Then just Carol after Rich passed. I am so very sorry Carol you lost Rich and now your mom! Breaks my heart! Elle was such a sweetheart! We truly loved her at GP. My heartfelt condolences to all the family."*

Shelley Shinew - July 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Thinking of you on this sad occasion. Remember the good times and the wonderful life your mom lived."*

Louise Bourg - July 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"My thoughts and prayers with you all ! God bless!"*

Wanda Essebaggers - July 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“My heart goes out the family. Aunt Elenor was indeed a very special person. She had a great infuence on my life in my younger year. May you rest in peace Aunt Elenor you will always be in my heart.”

JIM McGinness - July 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RH

“Aunt Eleanor was a beautiful lady both inside and out. I was blessed to have her as my cousin. My prayers and love are with you Dave and Carol. My sympathy to all the family.”

Roberta Hobbs - July 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“Fond memories of Mrs. Van Dam. She was my third grade teacher at Pershing Elementary in Portage. My deepest sympathies to all in her family.”

Carol Stamm - July 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MI

“Mrs. Van Dam was my kindergarten teacher @ Milham Elementary, '72 - '73. She made learning fun, she made learning an adventure! Painting in our dad's oversized shirts; being picked to go get milk for our afternoon snack and then naptime on our mats - very different than kindergarten today. Her genuine love for her students is still in my heart and head to this day. Thank-You, Mrs. Van Dam for teaching us before electronics became all the rage in 'learning'. I wouldn't trade a day of my life in your classroom for a day in a classroom today. God Bless Mrs. Van Dams' entire family. She was truly one of the best.”

Missy - July 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BE

“*Just when the caterpillar thought its life was over, it became a butterfly. Thinking of you and yours*”

Betty - July 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM