



## Dr. Frank L. Pettinga

May 28, 1926 - March 13, 2019

Dr. Frank Pettinga, age 92, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Suzanne; children Deb (Ron), Jane (David), Fred (Jayne), and Cindy (Mark); 12 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Frank is now with his parents, Rhine and Adriana, and his brothers Cornelius and Paul, who all preceded him in death. Frank loved God, his family, and serving his patients. He enjoyed worshipping with believers around the world. Upon moving to Holland, he became a member of Third Reformed Church. The family is thankful for the support of his friends and others who joined him in his adventures and added to the richness of his life.

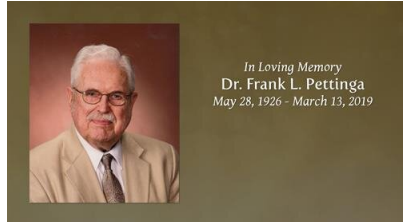
Frank was born in Beaverdam, Michigan, graduated from Holland Christian High School, and served in the U.S. Navy for two years. After graduating from Calvin College, he achieved his MD degree from Boston University and later a MPH degree from the University of Michigan. He thoroughly enjoyed the practice of family medicine for 19 years in Muskegon, Michigan, where many affectionately called him "Doc." He then joined the U.S. State Department, where he served as embassy physician for 13 years, enjoying assignments in Afghanistan, Austria, Egypt, Washington D.C., and Dominican Republic. When Frank returned to the United States, he served for 7 years as the Medical Director of Hackley Hospital in Muskegon and 6 years in Hackley's Occupational Medicine. A memorial service is planned for 2:00 p.m. Friday March 29 at Third Reformed Church, 111 W. 13th St, Holland with Rev. Kama

Jongerius officiating. Visitation is scheduled for 3:00-5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 28 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St., Holland. Memorial contributions may be given to Calvin College or Hospice of Holland. Condolences may be left online at [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Frank L. Pettinga*



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**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - March 13, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr. Frank L. Pettinga*

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August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Dr. Frank L. Pettinga*

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**CAROLYN SUE STAFFORD** - March 29, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Fred and Jayne, my deepest sympathy to you as you mourn the loss of your dad. He lived a full life. He will still be missed. I had planned to be in my car right now driving to the ceremony. I have not felt well over the past 2 weeks and sleeping poorly. I regret I will not be there. Please know that I am praying for you, your family and especially Frank's wife. Hope to see you soon."*

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**Gay Kaashoek** - March 29, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KS

“*"Sue and family, So sorry to hear of your loss. Dr. P delivered my 3 boys and he was a very caring and wonderful doctor thru my younger years. I'm so happy that I had the chance to introduce him to my high school friend, Malcolm Dewald, retired RN, just a year or so ago, at Freedom Village, and the 4 of us had such a nice visit together! Frank remembered me after all those years and it brought fond memories back for us all. God Bless. Karen VanderMolen Schaner"*

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**Karen Schaner** - March 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“*"Suzanne & Family...I'm so sorry for your loss. Dr. Pettinga was a great doctor and friend to our family. You have my sincere sympathy...Ken Pugh (son of Paul & Virginia Huth)"*

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**A friend** - March 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SH

“*"I've never forgotten the warmth and kindness that Dr. Pettinga showed me when I was a child. When my mom was very ill and he made a house call, he sat and talked with me afterwards to make me laugh and assure me she was going to be ok. When my dad was hospitalized for heart issues, Dr. Pettinga again got down to my level, smiled and looked me in the eyes while he spoke words that calmed my fears. We were blessed to have such a caring person as our doctor!"*

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**Sheryl** - March 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“I worked with Dr. Frank for a total of 13 years in family practice. Best boss and doctor I ever knew. He was always concerned for his patient's welfare. Learned a great deal from him. Deepest sympathy to Sue and family.”

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A friend - March 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“I worked with Dr. Frank (as we called him) for a total of 13 years while he was in family practice. He was unfailingly kind and concerned for his patient's welfare. He encouraged me to go back to school for Nurse Practitioner and have always been thankful for that. My deepest sympathy to Sue and family. Dolores Brondyke”

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A friend - March 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LK

“I had the privilege of knowing and working with Dr. Pettinga at the Hackley Occupational Health Clinic during his time there. He was so interesting to talk to-friendly to everyone. He was the doctor any one should have-highly skilled and caring. My deepest sympathies to his close friends and family that were so lucky to have him.”

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laura kolberg - March 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MM

“I was so sorry to read of Dr. Pettinga's passing. The Pettinga's were family friends in my youth. I remember him coming to our home when I was nudged' by a car after Sunday School at East Muskegon CRC....he just wanted to make sure I was ok. He was such a soft spoken, caring man. I'm sure our dads are reliving those Canada fishing stories at the Heavenly coffee table this morning. May you feel God's peace as you celebrate your dad's life. Love to your mom too.Mary Jo Koekkoek Mersman”

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Mary Jo Koekkoek Mersman - March 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“Fond memories of the Pettinga family and Doc. I remember him coming over after I was nudged' by a car after Sunday School at East Muskegon CRC. ...he just wanted to make sure I was ok....always such a soft spoken, caring man. Our family was so blessed to have your family in our lives. I'm sure the Canada fishing stories are being relived over coffee at the Heavenly table. Thanks for sharing your dad with so many of our families. You were blessed to call him DAD. Praying for your mom too, as she will miss her loving husband of so many years. Mary Jo Koekkoek Mersman”

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**A friend** - March 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RS

“Dear Sue and family, Our sincerest sympathies. We have so many memories: neighbors in the 1960's and 70's, small group members at Calvin CRC in Muskegon, Roger attending the Calvin Series with Frank and Sue and I being in the Grand Haven book club. We also would see you from time to time at Sunday School at Christ Memorial. Thank you all you did for so many. Love,”

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**Roger and Joan Schlukebir** - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TB

“Jane and family We are so sorry to hear of your dad's passing, and pray for God's peace and comfort to you all at this time. He is home in heaven. Celebrate his life and all of the good that he did while here on earth. God's blessings to you all...Tom and Debbie (Maycroft) Bolthouse”

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**Tom and Debbie Bolthouse** - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RR

“So sorry to hear of Frank passing. I will be praying for the family in their dealing with this loss. God will comfort all of you in this sad time. HE is always with us. Right now all I can think of, is that Frank is now talking to my dad about doing some trout fishing. I'm sure the mansion that Jesus went to prepare for him has a trout stream. He was such a caring man and even though I haven't seen him in many years, I will still miss him. He was just someone very special. My prayers and love to all of you.”

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**Ron Ruiter** - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MK

“Gene would join me in thanking God for Frank's life. He and his family have embraced our family with love and respect for thirty years as we have shared love of the lake and many meaningful conversations together. Fun too!”

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**Mary Klaaren** - March 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TB

“Sue and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers on the loss of Frank. I'll always remember his wit, knowledge and friendship he showed not only my parents when you lived on Lakeshore but me as well.. I'll always remember him saying to me when asked how he was Almost as good as you are. He was a great man who I admired and loved and I'll miss that genuine smile he always had to share with me.”

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**Tim Birdsall** - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AK

“I remember Dr. Pettinga treating me for scarlet fever when I was little. He was always such a good guy. Your whole family was very much loved by our family when you were in the Muskegon area. Thinking of you all at this time. Praying that you feel God's loving arms wrapped tightly around you as you mourn your husband, father and grandfather.”

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**Amy Koekkoek** - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MA

“My deepest sympathy to Dr. Pettinga's family. I met Dr. Pettinga in 1991 when my father (Brian McHugh) passed away and Dr. Pettinga came to fill in at the office for the following week. He was the most wonderful man, and I will never forget his kindness at that time. I felt honored to know him. God bless.”

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**Maureen** - March 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JV

“My sympathies go out to Suzanne and family at the passing of Frank. I will miss seeing him at HASP gatherings where our paths crossed most frequently. What a help to others he was; his obituary was an eye-opener! He will be missed.”

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**Jayne VerLee** - March 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BH

“I extend my deepest sympathy to the Pettinga family. My fond memories of Dr. Pettinga center around the 1960's and 1970's when both he and my father were doctors and each owned a home on Lake Michigan in Norton Shores near each other. My fondest memory was when he and his son Fred and my Dad and I went on a bow hunting trip to Canada. What fun and adventure that trip was! I remember being amazed at his willingness to serve as a doctor in Afghanistan. God used his adventurous spirit for His service. "Well done, good and faithful slave". Matthew 25:21. - Bill Hornbeck”

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**Bill Hornbeck** - March 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SE

“My sincere sympathy to you all. He truly was a great man!”

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**Sarah Jane Essebagers** - March 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AS

“I didn't know Frank Pettinga but as I read the obituary, I realized I knew his father Rhine. However Rhine was always Mr. Pettinga to me because he was my principal at North 4th Street Christian School in Paterson, NJ. (Eastern Christian)”

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**Anne Struyk** - March 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM