



Geraldine "Gerry" Vannette

November 14, 1926 - January 26, 2025

Geraldine "Gerry" Vannette, age 98, returned to God on January 26, 2025, from Resthaven Maple Woods in Holland.

Gerry was born in Muskegon and moved to Holland after her marriage to Arthur E. Vannette. Having sung the Messiah in high school, she maintained a life-long tradition of attending performances every December as well as singing in church choirs for many years. Before her eyesight failed, she knitted numerous afghans for family and friends as well as slippers, hats, scarves and mittens for local missions - too many to count. In addition to caring for a busy family, Gerry worked the restaurant business with Art, at the Sears catalog counter, and later in the kitchen at Resthaven Maple Woods. She loved entertaining family and friends at Big Star Lake as well as in the home. Gerry was a member of Covenant PCA Church for 26 years and had been involved in its initial organization.

Death was an unwelcome companion throughout Gerry's life. Her father died when she was 8 years old. She lost two babies before birthing five. She later buried three of those children: Her eldest son at age 4; her youngest daughter at 46; and her middle child, who navigated the debilitating effects of Lupus for 50 years, at 66. Gerry demonstrated her love to her children through acts of service. She saw needs and filled them - from menial tasks to periodic moves to care for her grandchildren. She modeled for them courage, acceptance,

and resilience through the tragedies and disappointments of life. Unsurprisingly, Gerry's greatest joy was spending time with her family, and she cherished every visit made by her grand and great-grandchildren. She frequently paged through photo albums to relive every special moment. Through all the loss and grief, and the gradual physical decline that shrunk her world to a chair, Gerry often stated that only her trust in and dependence on God sustained her through the despair and challenges. "Great is Thy Faithfulness!"

Gerry was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Arthur E. Vannette; her son, Robert; her daughters, Ruthie Montgomery Moody and Marsha Spykerman.

She is survived by her daughters, Mary Benedict and Keturah T. Kasen; her sister, Phyllis Van Andel; nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Profound gratitude to the staff and caregivers at Resthaven Maple Woods and LifeCircles for the comprehensive, personalized, and compassionate care of Gerry during the last year of her life.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, January 30 at Langeland Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 W. 16th St, Holland with Rev. Gordon Wiersma officiating. Lunch and a time to exchange memories will follow the service.

Burial to take place in Pilgrim Home Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Gerry's honor may be given to Resthaven Maple Woods Benevolence, 948 Washington Ave, Holland, MI 49423 or <https://resthaven.org/help-us-serve/>

Cemetery Details

Pilgrim Home Cemetery

370 E. 16th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home
315 East 16th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Watch Memorial Service in memory of Geraldine "Gerry" Vannette*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - January 30, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Geraldine "Gerry" Vannette*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - January 28, 2025 at 04:44 PM



“ *Linda and I were saddened by the news of Gerry's passing. I spoke with her last in October and we had a very pleasant conversation. I have many fond memories growing up visiting Art and Gerry especially on New Year's when the guys would watch the football games and Gerry enjoyed the bands at half time. Prayers for your family as you mark the end of her journey on earth.*

Jim Heeres

Linda Heeres - January 30, 2025 at 02:04 PM

RH

Gerry's passing saddens us, but her obituary measures a long and full life. Whether at Christmas night meals or New Year buffets or summer holidays at Big Star Lake, Gerry was always glad to see every family member and to enjoy their presence. Blessings on you as you adjust to her absence now.

RJ Heeres - February 01, 2025 at 01:41 PM