



Gordon G. Beld

May 9, 1928 - May 9, 2014

BELD -- Gordon G. Beld, 86, of Holland, formerly of Grand Rapids and Alma, died May 9, 2014. Surviving are his wife, Martha D.; a son, Dr. Scott G. Beld of Ann Arbor, a daughter, Dala J. Beld (Antxon Basurko) of Pasai Donibane, The Basque Country of Spain, a son-in-law, Thomas Wagner of New Jersey; two grandchildren, Alar and Dala Basurko of Pasai Donibane; a sister, Peg (Alvyn) Hinken of Byron Center; brothers-and-sisters-in-law, John Debbink of Ann Arbor, Carol Wehrley of Wauwatosa, Wis., and Nancy Debbink of Okemos; an aunt, Marie Beld of Grand Rapids; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by daughter Barbara Wagner. The son of George H. and Josephine (De Young) Beld, he was a graduate of Wyoming High School and received degrees from Hope College and the University of Michigan. As a trooper of the Army's U. S. Constabulary, he served in the occupation of Germany after World War II. He was an editorial staff member of The Grand Rapids Press (1944-46 and 1959-65) and The Grand Rapids Herald (1947-59), a teacher at Kelloggsville and Godwin Heights Public Schools, and a teacher/administrator at Wyoming Public Schools. For 24 years he was director of news services and publications at Alma College. He was the first chairman of the Wyoming Historical and Cultural Commission (1963-65) and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Holland Area Historical Society (1997-2003). First of his nearly 300 features on Michigan and Midwest history were published in the Grand Rapids Press during the 1960s. Later he wrote for Michigan History and Grand Rapids magazines. His

historical novel, *A Gentle Breeze from Gossamer Wings*, was published in 1999; and two books concerning the history of Grand Rapids were printed in 2012. In collaboration with Alma area historian David McMacken, he wrote *A History of Alma College: Where Plaid and Pride Prevail* which was published in 2014. Refugees and other immigrants were the focus of his voluntary efforts, and since 1980 he and Martha were involved in sponsorships of families from Cambodia in Alma, from Vietnam in Grand Rapids, and from Kosovo in Holland. For more than twenty years he provided volunteer editorial assistance to Exodus World Service, an Illinois-based organization which mobilizes Christians in service to refugees. In 1994 he was the first recipient of Exodus's Open Arms Service Award for efforts in behalf of refugees. For eight years he served in Holland as an assistant instructor in English-as-a-Second Language classes for immigrants. He was a deacon and elder of Faith Reformed Church in Wyoming, chairman of the Administrative Board and several committees of Alma United Methodist Church, and pastoral care elder at Christ Memorial Church in Holland. Memorial gifts may be sent to Exodus World Service (PO Box 620, Itasca, IL 60143). A memorial service will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at Third Reformed Church, 111 W. 13th St. Holland. A time of fellowship and visitation will follow the service. The family is being served by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland. www.langelandsterebergh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gordon G. Beld*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Loved him as a wonderful and caring teacher at Kelloggsville High. He will be missed.*

Janet (Wernette) Howland - Wyoming, MI - April 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are truly missing Gordon's annual Christmas newsletter. It was an honor working along side him at Alma College.*

Cathy Lucas - Grapevine, TX - December 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Was sorry to hear of the passing of Gordon Beld who roomed across the hall from me when attending Hope College in 1948 and 1949. He was a bright and articulate student and a pleasure to know and associate with. Please accept my sincere sympathy. Charles Buchtrup 44 Easton Cr. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558 June 25, 2014*

A friend - June 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *Dala and Scott,*

We will be praying for you today. We admire your Dad, not simply for his work with Alma College, but especially his support for exodus World Service.

May the promise of new life, that is at the core of our faith, comfort you at this time.

Marilyn and Ed Lorenz

Edward and Marilyn Lorenz - Alma, MI - Friends - May 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Our friendship was brief but you left a lasting impression on me and my work with local history. My condolences to the family and friends from all of us at Godfrey-Lee Public Schools.*

David Britten - Wyoming, MI - Friend - May 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *His kindness and selflessness touched many refugees.*

DaoLuong Lim - Yuba City, CA - friend - May 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *I truly enjoyed knowing and working with Gordon, even though briefly, at Grand Valley State University, and I admired his career.*

Stephen Ward - May 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Gordon helped me transition from newspaper to Alma College Public Relations with great grace and professionalism. I tried to carry those traits throughout my career and learned to love Alma College as much as Gordon. While retelling of institutional history can be dry, his history of the College was interesting and entertaining. Gordon your warmth, friendliness and charm will be missed. Peace be with you Martha, Dala and Scott.

Skip Traynor - Vestaburg, MI - Friend - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ He was a great contributor to the Alma community and a good neighbor. Rosemary Neilsen Mesa AZ

A friend - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I've known Gord since before I can remember. In so many ways, he was like a brother to my father and my Uncle Russ, although he was their cousin. Such a close family, such wonderful memories! We will miss him so much, but rejoice that he is at Home with God....and, I believe, reunited with Marsh and Russ, Uncle George, Aunt Jo and many other loved ones who have gone on before. It seems like I want to say "See you later, Gord". My love and prayers for Martha, Dala and Scott.
John

John Norden - Grandville, MI - CousinI never know the leve - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM