



## Herman L. Kolk

January 12, 1935 - April 16, 2022

Herman Louis Kolk passed away on Saturday, April 16, 2022, and moved along to Heaven, where he's sure to be found hanging out with the friends and family who preceded him. He was 87 years old and finally succumbed to cancer.

Herm's service will be livestreamed, and can also be viewed later via this link: <https://youtu.be/UpNrTYYddTA>.

He was born in Fremont, MI in the middle of the Great Depression and grew up on the family dairy farm east of town. He attended Fremont High School and Calvin College and excelled at sports (especially baseball) in both places.

Herm met his wife of 65 years, Carol June, on a blind date in 1955. Carol was a Strabbing from Graafschap, a small village southwest of Holland. They were married on Valentine's Day in 1957.

The newlyweds moved to an apartment in Holland and in short order began expanding the family with the addition of Rick, Mike and Tim. In slightly longer order, they decided to expand again and along came Cheri.

Softball, basketball, golf, and camping trips kept the family busy enough. But Herm was also a musician who sang. A lot. In the early days as a member of the quartet, the Fremonters, to the Magnachords, and multiple years in the

male chorus, His Men.

He was always in demand as a guest soloist at more churches in West Michigan than any of us can remember. As a result, Sunday practice afternoons at the Kolk household were a constant concert. We're sure the neighbor's loved it as much as we did.

Herm was an accountant and business office manager when he wasn't singing or taking vacations or playing sports. He started at Holland Diecasting on Lakewood Blvd in 1957 just one month before getting married. He spent nearly 30 years there in the automotive industry. Then in the mid-eighties he decided to go back to school. For the remainder of his career, he was the business manager at Holland Christian Schools, retiring from there in early 2000.

The family were (and are) members of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church on Central and 37th St for over 60 years. Being an accountant, Herm was almost immediately drafted into multiple terms as a deacon and church bookkeeper. He also served as an elder. Along with all of that, he of course directed the church choir for over half of those 60 years.

Family was extremely important to Herm. Friday lunch and Sunday tacos will not be the same without him. He adored his grandchildren and was passionate about attending their events. Whether it was baseball, football, tennis, dance, theatre, band, choir or anything else – he was their biggest fan.

Herm is survived by his wife Carol; four children - Rick, Mike (Gwenn), Tim (Jennifer), and Cheri Quillan (Steve); grandchildren Elena, Nick, Daniel & Michael; Sam & Alex; Owen, Cara & Brooklyn; eight great grandchildren; and extended family: Dick (Pat) Flickema, Rose (Ross) Kieft, Judy (Tom) Russell, Ona Strabbing, Jo Strabbing, Norma Van Popering, and Roger Shoemaker.

The family wishes to thank Beacon Hill at Eastgate, Resthaven, Hospice of Holland and the staff at Holland Hospital for their compassionate care over the last weeks of Herm's life.

A memorial service honoring Herm will take place at Noon on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, 918 Central Avenue, Holland. A time of visitation will be held Wednesday, the evening prior, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St., Holland. An additional visiting period will occur an hour before the service at the church. Burial will take place at Graafschap Cemetery. Those wishing to make a memorial donation may consider Hospice of Holland, 270 Hoover Blvd, Holland, MI 49423, or the Beacon Hill Foundation, 1919 Boston St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Graafschap Cemetery

32nd Steet at Graafschap Road  
Holland, MI 49423

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **27**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home  
315 E 16th St  
Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 392-2306  
[info@langelandsterenbergh.com](mailto:info@langelandsterenbergh.com)  
<http://langelandsterenbergh.com/>

## Visitation

APR **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church  
918 Central Avenue  
Holland, MI 49423

## Memorial Service

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APR **28**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church  
918 Central Avenue  
Holland, MI 49423

# Tribute Wall



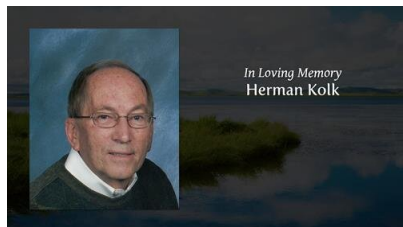
“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Herm Kolk Memorial Service in memory of Herman L. Kolk*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 07, 2022 at 08:37 AM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Herman L. Kolk*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - April 29, 2022 at 09:02 AM



“ *Herman L. Kolk*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Carol, we were so sorry to hear of Herm's passing. We were blessed to have known both of you and praising God as members of His Men. May God surround you with His comfort and perfect peace.*

John & Gesine Horsting - May 01, 2022 at 08:39 PM

LD

“ Carol-- I was so surprised to read Herm's obit in the Press. I didn't know he had cancer. Did you move to Beacon Hill? I'm wondering where to send a card. Good memories! I'm leaving Wed. for Nashville for my granddaughter's wedding so am hoping to livestream the funeral. Blessings and condolences, Laurie Deters

Laurie Deters - April 25, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Herman L. Kolk.



April 25, 2022 at 05:12 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Herman L. Kolk.



April 21, 2022 at 10:13 PM

CL

“ My condolences to Carol and all the others. Herm was probably the best tenor I ever had. He made the old male chorus (becoming the Holland Chorale) very special. He was one of those unusual singers who seemingly never saw a note that was too high for his range. We were always amused by the fact that one of my altos could actually sing lower than Herm!  
Cal Langejans

Calvin Langejans - April 21, 2022 at 10:05 AM

KK

“ I had the privilege of serving with Herm for the thirteen years he worked at Holland Christian. He was a man of humility, integrity as well as a gentle spirited person. He was multi talented and could hold you accountable with genuine kindness when it came to the books. His service was appreciated at all levels of the organization. My sympathies to Carol and the entire family..  
Ken Kuipers

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**Ken Kuipers** - April 20, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Herman L. Kolk.



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April 18, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Herman L. Kolk.



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April 18, 2022 at 02:20 PM