



Howard Bouwens

November 21, 1928 - July 28, 2018

Howard Jay Bouwens Sr., 89, of Zeeland, passed away Saturday, July 28, 2018, surrounded by his beloved family. Howard was born November 21, 1928, in the Bouwens home on West Lawrence Street in Zeeland. He was the youngest of John and Grace (Blauwkamp) Bouwens' nine children. Howard graduated from Zeeland High School in 1948 and was already working in his father's carpentry and construction business. He married Leola Schermer and they raised their three children in Zeeland and they were members of Second Reformed Church.

Howard served as an elder and deacon at Second Church, was a Boy Scout leader, and a Zeeland volunteer fireman. Howard's work life as a boy, a teenager, his adult life, and his retirement was always centered around construction. In 1988, Leola preceded him in death. Howard married Mary (Bloemsma) Yntema in 1998. Howard was very active in his retirement and was instrumental in the construction of the Paw Paw Bridge on the west side in Zeeland. Howard loved nature's beauty, and his back yard gardening was a great sanctuary for him. Howard was living exhibit of perpetual motion and diligence in his faith life, his work life, and especially his love and care for his family, friends, and all those around him. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Mary, his children: Leigh Arden Ford of Kalamazoo, Howard Jr. and Marylynn Bouwens of Holland, Barb and Chuck DePree of Holland; step-daughter Lynn Yntema of Zeeland; 7 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law Lila Bouwens, and many other brothers-in-

law and sisters-in-law, several nieces and nephews and extended family. A service to honor the faith and life of Howard Bouwens will be held at 11:00 am, Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at Second Reformed Church, 225 East Central Ave., Zeeland 49464. Visitation will be 4:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland. Interment will be in Zeeland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Second Reformed Church Youth Ministries, or The Bridge Youth Ministry Center.

Tribute Wall



“ *Howard Bouwens*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"So sorry to hear of Howie's passing. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. He was a very kind and wonderful man."*

Wes - August 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Howard Bouwens*

Wes - August 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"We are so very sorry for your loss. Howie was a very kind and caring person and will be missed very much. We could not have asked for a better neighbor or friend and we are deeply saddened. Just know that you are all in our hearts and prayers. Love - Marlin and Von Vis"*

A friend - August 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I remember Uncle Howard's good humor and tolerance for the escapades of his nieces and nephews. Good memories!Bob Strikwerda and Penny Weiss"*

Bob Strikwerda - August 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JR

“*"Sending condolences to you and your family for your loss, Mary! What a sweet couple you were!"*

Jim and Jo Rynsburger - August 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DB

“*"Just found out your Father passed away.....he was a good man."*

Douglas Barensen - August 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SV

“*"Mary We are so sorry for loss. Howie was such a kind soul. We will surely miss him."*

Stephen and Theresa VanDeWalket - August 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PH

“*"Leigh, Howie and Barbie... seeing you guys today filled my heart with joy after 30 years. Meeting your families was awesome. Your Dad was one of a kind and I'll miss him a lot. My thoughts will be with you tomorrow. I will call in bit and see if we can get together for lunch. Our childhoods together are unforgettable!"*

Pam Van Hoven - July 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AF

“*"We are going to miss you Howie, you are a great and faithful man.....Keith & Vickie Moored"*

A friend - July 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KS

“*"Mary, we are so sorry for your loss."*

Karen and Vern Steenwyk - July 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PA

“We send our deepest sympathies to the family. There are so many words that come to mind thinking about Howie. Fun, loving, thoughtful, generous, talented and so many others. He had a way of making everyone feel they were pretty special. He lived his faith and shared his life with all. He will be dearly missed.”

Patti - July 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LM

“Thinking of you Mary & family , liz & dave meyering, holland”

Liz Meyering - July 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM