



## Jack De Witt

December 17, 1942 - June 22, 2018

On June 22, 2018, Jack L. De Witt, passed away from glioblastoma at the age of 75. He was peaceful as he entered into Jesus' presence, surrounded by family and his wife, Mary, of 54 years. Living and remaining positive to the end, Jack never complained about having cancer. He was born in Zeeland, Michigan, on December 17, 1942, to Marvin and Jerene De Witt. Jack is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart, Mary; 5 children and 18 grandchildren; Jackie and Kyle Curtiss (Colton, Casie, and Coby); Laurie and Chris Wierda (Max, Sam, and Sadie); Jim and Lynae De Witt (Blake, Blaire, Brody, Brock, and Braelyn); Steve and Melissa De Witt (Zach, Jace, Logan, and Luke); and Linda and Ryan Berghorst (Ashley, Jenna, and Brooke). Jack is also survived by his 6 siblings; Gary (Joyce) De Witt; Marilyn (Tom) Norman; Don (Minnie) De Witt; Nancy (Bob) Haveman; Merle (Sheri) De Witt; Keith (Mary) De Witt. Jack grew up in Zeeland, Michigan, and had a passion for loving God, attending church and Bible Study, and spending time with his family. He was a devoted family man who loved to have fun with his family; he called his kids, "the Jackson 5." As a family, they would spend time together farming, hunting, attending Tigers games, downhill skiing, bike riding, as well as enjoying vacations and adventures together. Jack was also a devoted Christian, a very dear friend to many, an active member of the community who served on several boards, and a respected business owner. As a food service industry entrepreneur, Jack served in a variety of roles, including as executive vice president at one of the largest turkey processors in the country, Bil-Mar

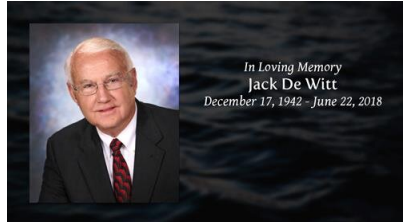
Foods of Zeeland, Michigan, whom his Dad, Marvin De Witt, co-founded. When Bil-Mar was sold to Sara Lee in 1987, a group of investors, led by Jack, purchased the prepared-entrees division of Bil-Mar and launched a brand new company, Request Foods, in Holland, Michigan. Request has been offering world-class prepared entrees, soups, and skillet meals since 1990. Faith, family, and the family business were the most important things to Jack De Witt. His Christian faith was the cornerstone of his life, which was evidenced in the way he led Request Foods. From Request Foods' mission statement to the company culture and to every corner of the facility, Jack worked to integrate faith into the workplace. Jack had stated that the most important decision he made in his life was when he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at the age of 21. He had taken this decision to heart and was an exceptional steward of the gifts, talents, and skills God had given to him and used them to bless others and glorify God. Jack was also one of the co-founders of Grace Chapel, an interdenominational church in Zeeland. Throughout his life, he served in a variety of church leadership roles. He will also be remembered for his generous philanthropic support of families, the greater Holland-Zeeland community, and institutions of higher learning such as Hope College, Western Seminary, Cornerstone University, and Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. He and his wife, Mary, have also supported several ministries and organizations who are dedicated to developing fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ. His love for baseball and kids led him to the vision of developing the Jim Kaat Baseball Park and the SportsQuest Family Center. He poured his heart and soul into these projects to make a difference in the lives of the children who use them. Jack was respected and well-known for making a positive impact on everyone who was blessed to know him. A celebration of Jack's life will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 30 at Central Wesleyan Church, 446 W. 40th St, Holland, MI 49423. Visiting hours will be Thursday, June 28 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm and from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and on Friday, June 29 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, also at Central Wesleyan Church (Please use Worship Center Entrance A). Burial will

be in Zeeland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Holland. The family is being served by Langeland-Sterenberg Funeral Home. [www.langelandsterenberg.com](http://www.langelandsterenberg.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Jack De Witt*



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**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - June 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jack De Witt*

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August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Blessings, Love, Peace to the entire De Witt family and the staff of Request Foods. Great memories. AUNT MINNIE'S FOOD, INC. (Claudia Pressly CEO)"*

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**Claudia Sebree** - July 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“*Dear De Witt Family, I am praying for your hearts to heal; such an extremely painful loss. As you know, Jack loved all of you so very much. A few months ago, when I asked Jack how I could pray for him, he didn't ask me to pray for him; rather, he asked me to pray for all of you in the family and also asked me to pray for the Request family and business. He also told me he was praying for my parents who were in need of extra prayers. So sweet! I feel so blessed to have known Jack for 27 years and witness his phenomenal stewardship of his gifts/blessings. His legacy of loving God/family/people, generosity, kindness, compassion, and faithfulness lives on through all of you in the De Witt family and also through Request Foods...this is a great comfort and encouragement to me. With love, prayers, and sympathy, Julie Von Ins*”

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**Julie Von Ins** - July 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MK

“*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in the loss of your father, Jackie. I remember him well and your beautiful wedding. I know you had a very special relationship with him and will miss him. He was an amazing man - I didn't realize how much he contributed to society and the world until just reading his tribute. He was a man who truly lived his faith. What a great example for the rest of us. I am thinking of you - I still miss my Dad. Marcia Kaye*”

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**Marcia Kaye** - July 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SE

“I had the opportunity to visit with Jack at Request numerous times in the past. I always found him to be engaged and curious about the world around him. He was generous in his support of the children and families we served. I could count on him to ask good questions of the work being done around the world on behalf of vulnerable children. My thoughts go out to the DeWitt extended family as they mourn this loss.”

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**Steve Eckert** - June 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DL

“My prayers for all of the Family. Such great memories of the kids. So many of Jack and Marys children played Tennis for my teams at ZHS and left me with such positive love for them and family. You both did a great job in raising children with grace of the Lord in their lives. My heart breaks for all of you in your loss.”

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**Don Lake** - June 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LA

“Jack was an Amazing, Generous and Loving man. His Love of Christ, his Family and His Request Family was such an Inspiration. I was blessed to join the Request Family in 1993. Jack will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the entire DeWitt family.”

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**Larry** - June 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DA

“*Jack was an amazing man, a true servant of the Lord. He and Mary are excellent Christian role models for others. They were bold and generous in their faith and example. Our community has lost a tremendous leader but Mary and the family will continue to praise and serve the Lord. May He comfort them now with His amazing Love. Dave and Beth Wright*”

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**Dave** - June 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CS

“*So sorry for your loss Jackie. I will be praying for you.*”

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**Cathy Strube** - June 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

NB

“*Laurie and Chris, So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. May the painful hole created by your loss be filled with wonderful memories in the years to come..*”

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**Nancy and Dave Bos** - June 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DD

“*Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during these difficult days. Jack's kindness and commitment to Christ and his kingdom leaves a rich legacy which will not be forgotten. He is now greatly blessed (Revelation 14:13) and his deeds follow him.*”

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**Don Denyes** - June 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“*Dear Mary and the entire DeWitt family, You have our deepest, heartfelt sympathy. We pray that you will feel our Lords loving arms wrapped around you and feel His grace and peace in the days, weeks and months ahead. Praying for you! Love in Christ, Jim and Anna Johnson*”

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**Anna Johnson** - June 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PB

“*Dear Mary and family, Please except our condolences even living so far from Mi. our memories still recall our time among our beloved Ottawa Ref. Church and our many experiences growing our families together and growing our faith in Jesus Christ together. Love and prayer. Larry and Pat Bauder*”

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**Patricia Bauder** - June 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM