



John Richard Potts

May 23, 1927 - May 27, 2025

Livestream Link for John Potts funeral service is:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/6qjZmPdUELg?si=Qq3RLRm66aJR0SHZ>

John Richard Potts, age 98, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. God blessed him with a full life of serving others and being a blessing to family and friends. He was a conscientious, hard worker whether he was handling a horse, operating a bulldozer, maintaining a ship's diesel engines, or trucking down the highway. He was an exemplary man of faith, devoted to his family, served as an elder, and was always ready to help others in need.

John was born on May 23, 1927, in Birds Hill near Winnipeg in Manitoba, Canada; the third of five children born to Wiert and Fenna (Flikkema) Pott. The family emigrated to Anceney, Montana in 1929 and moved to Bellflower, California in 1936. His dad changed their last name from Pott to Potts in 1938 when they became U.S. citizens. They returned to Montana (Gallatin Gateway) in 1942, where John helped work the family farm. He served as a Machinist Mate in the Navy during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1954. In 1955 he married Della Koeman, who had left Graafschaap to teach first grade at Manhattan Christian School. In 1972 they and their five children moved to Holland, Michigan. John had many interesting jobs: farming, ranch hand, logging, road construction, car sales, operating a trucking business, and local/overland trucking. He enjoyed hunting, golfing,

fishing, traveling, reading, and the company of family and friends. He lived through the Great Depression and World War II, his lifetime spanning 18 different presidents.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Della (Koeman) Potts; his second wife, Evelyn (Veltkamp) Potts; four siblings: Albert, Faye, Margaret, Herbert, and most of their spouses; daughter-in-law, Kristie (VanEss) Potts; in-laws: Ken and Myra Schuiteman, Dale and Shirley VanOmen, Jerry Koeman, Paul Koeman, and Carol (Koeman) Derks.

He is survived by five children: John and Kathy (Ribbens) Potts, Sheryl and David Alkema, Sheila and Leon Meiste, Jeffrey and Cathy (Haak) Potts, Greg and Carol Potts; 18 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; in-laws: Evelyn (Danhof) Potts, Ruth Koeman, Wayne and Sandy Koeman, Marcia and Evert Helms; Ken and Nancy Derks; many nephews and nieces; four step-children: Tom, Lila, Kathy, John, their spouses, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30, at Park Christian Reformed Church, 1496 W 32nd St., Holland, with Rev. Dan Steen and Mr. Bryant Russ officiating. Burial will be at Graafschap Cemetery (family only). Visitation will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, also at Park CRC. Memorial gifts may be given to Holland Christian Schools. Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Graafschap Cemetery

32nd Steet at Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Park Christian Reformed Church
1496 W. 32nd St.
Holland, MI 49423

Funeral Service

MAY 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

Park Christian Reformed Church
1496 W. 32nd St.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of John Richard Potts*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 29, 2025 at 01:39 PM

CP

Sorry for your loss. Uncle John was a good man and will be missed.

Christian Potts - June 01, 2025 at 10:18 PM

GK

“ *He was a great friend. I played golf with him April - Oct 2021-24. Great conversations with him too re. the faith we both loved and advanced. Until then, John, until then*

Gil Kamps - June 12, 2025 at 08:32 AM

DP

“ Dad (Herb Potts) shared a story of Uncle John that I remembered when Dave Alkema was sharing memories at the memorial service of Uncle John and that memory is as follows.

This happened when Uncle John was trucking in Montana. He was taking a load (probably wheat) to Ashron, ID. It was at night and he was driving up the winding Gallatin Canyon Road. A car was following him and had their headlights on the bright setting. Uncle John tapped his brakes numerous times and yet they wouldn't dim them. He slowed down to let them pass and yet they wouldn't pass. He finally pulled over hoping they'd go on and they pulled in behind him. He got out and went back to talk to them. He asked what's up and why they wouldn't dim their lights or pass him. They said that they had never driven this road and were following him and using his bright headlights and theirs so that they wouldn't go off the road. Uncle John said OK but said their lights were making it hard for him to see so could you either dim them or go around him. They said that they'd really appreciate it if they could stay behind him because it just made them feel so much safer. Uncle John then asked them to wait a moment as he has something that would really help them. He came back a moment later with a hammer in hand, knocked out both headlights and then said, now when the sun comes up you'll be able to see the road even better. He got in his truck and carried on.

Dave Potts - May 30, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ Sorry for the loss of John. He sure lived a good long life. I became friends with John when he drove truck at Herman Miller Inc., when I did. He will be missed. 🙏🙏

Jason Wolters - May 29, 2025 at 05:52 PM

WU

“ WM Uniform purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Richard Potts.



WM Uniform - May 29, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Richard Potts.



May 29, 2025 at 12:26 PM

TS

“ Tom & Stacy Schuiteman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Richard Potts.



Tom & Stacy Schuiteman - May 29, 2025 at 09:08 AM