



John Van Dam

October 15, 1937 - October 15, 2018

John Van Dam, 81, passed away Monday, October 15, 2018. John was born in Zeeland on July 18, 1937, to John and Janet (Van Gelderen) Van Dam. He graduated from Zeeland High School in 1955. He went on to Hope College where he was an OKE "fratter" and graduated in 1959. John became a teacher for few years, until his father's untimely death, when John entered the family business, Modern Beverage Co. Modern Beverage was sold in 2015 after they celebrated their 75th anniversary in business. John was a past-president of the Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association. John loved and enjoyed life, working hard and playing hard. John was a part time resident of Florida, staying in the Villages of Lady Lakes. He was a longtime golfing member of the Holland Country Club and Wuskowhan Players Club, and a member of Macatawa Bay Yacht Club. Over the years, John went on several golf trips with golf buddies, including trips to the great courses of Scotland. John's social network and restaurant connections as a beer-wine distributor made him a regular on a busy restaurant circuit. He made frequent visits to his favorites: Perredies, Goog's, The Butler, Hawk's Head, Fricano's, and Tosi's. John loved his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren. For over twenty years he planned cottage vacations for his family on Lake Michigan. The John Van Dam family is grateful for the superb care and kindness of John's caregivers: Stephanie "Seth", Tanya, Elizabeth, Sydney, Ashley; and his nurses: Angela, Amber, and Sherri. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Janet Van Dam, and his beloved cats Dodger and

Squeeker. John is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jackie, his cat Oreo, his children: Sandy Van Dam and William J. Clinton, Susan Van Dam and Kinney Clark, Steven and Lisa Van Dam; all of Cranford, New Jersey, step-son Mark and Jennifer Weaver of Grand Rapids, grandchildren: Samuel Clark, William T. Clinton, Jake Van Dam, Nellie Clark, Shane Van Dam; his brother James and Nancy Van Dam of Grand Haven, and nephews Tom and Mike. A graveside service will be held at 11:30 am, Friday, October 19, 2018, at Restlawn Memorial Gardens, 994 Paw Paw Dr. 49423. Following will be a luncheon in honor of John at 12:30 pm, at Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, 2157 S. Shore Dr., Macatawa, MI 49434 Visitation will be 3-7 pm, Thursday at Langeland-Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th Street, Holland MI 49423. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Van Dam*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"I spent a lot of time talking with Mr. Van Dam and driving around with him running errands. He was fun, caring, giving, intelligent, and I can't forget stubborn (haha) person. What I will never forget is the time he asked me to take him to Menards and I said, let's go! We got to Menards and I said, Mr. Van Dam why don't I get that motor cart from inside and you get on it? Mr. Van Dam looked at me and said, I don't know, dear. I said, let's try it. You wait in the van and I'll bring it out to you. He said, ok dear I'll be waiting, and don't worry I'm not going anywhere and we both laughed. Once he was on it and got the feel of everything... let me tell you, this man was all over that store, I couldn't keep up with him!! From then on, every time we went to Menards together he asked, dear are you going to go get that thing and I said, of course. My heart is so heavy. I think about you every time I pass the Lexus dealership and every restaurant you and Jackie treated me too. Thank you for all the wonderful memories, I will forever cherish them. My condolences Jackie, Sandra, Susan, Steven, and Jim."*

Mary Garcia - October 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FM

“I worked for Frater Van Dam in the 80s and 90s. Boss was a most unique individual. Many memories, especially of the MBC golf retreats to Boyne Highlands. Generous of both spirit and smile, he owned dozens of golf shoes, including an awful red pair. My heartfelt condolences to Jackie, Steven, Jim and family including his lifelong pal, Frater Jack Faber 59. R.I.P. brother, you made it to the final 19th hole bogey free.”

Frater Brian M - October 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HV

“ John Van Dam

Hank and Cora Visscher - October 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Jackie and Family, I will miss John a whole bunch. We met at Freedom Village and just hit it off. I always enjoyed time with him, whether it was eating, talking or just plain visiting. I will miss his surprise visits. When he grew his beard, I nicknamed him "Hagar." We always laughed about that. Everyone is in my thoughts and prayers.”

Lynn Putnam - October 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. I enjoyed our work with the MB&WWA for many years and with John present, it was a joy. Loved the man.”

Ron Schincariol - October 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ I will always remember the special time I got to spend with you JVD. We were partners in crime! I will cherish our long country rides and our stops to say hello to everyone. You taught me so much. I was your "Brunhilda". I'm so sad about your passing. I know you lived a fabulous life and enjoyed friends and family all the time. You always asked for a "kind word".. My kind word .. you were literally my best friend. We shared a ton of laughter and tears. You and Jackie were my rock and I know I was yours at times. Rest in paradise.. "old timer" I hope you enjoy your Chardonnay!"

Angela Castillo - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Our deepest sympathy to Jackie, Sandy, Sue and Steven on the passing of your dad. Lots of memories of your husband and dad in growing up. Our sympathy also to Jim and Nancy Van Dam .”

Ray and Sharon - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Deepest sympathy to all. Jackie, I can thank John for his sincere good nature, and for all his golf tips, loved him! Ellen Biergans, former director, MB&WWA”

Ellen Biergans - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ My condolences to Sandy, Sue and Steven on your dad's passing and to all his family and friends who will dearly miss him.”

Diane Johnson - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KT

“*Jackie & Family, Our hearts ache with you. John always was and always will be a BIG Presence in our hearts & memories. Much Love, Tom & Kathi*”

Kathi Tyler - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM