



Karl Lee Essenburg

January 7, 1936 - November 3, 2025

Karl Essenburg, age 89, passed away on Monday, November 3, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Karl was a member of Christ Memorial Church, taught for West Ottawa Schools and Grand Valley State University. He retired after 48 years as an educator. He impacted many of his students and their future careers into medicine. He was an amazing father, who worked hard and provided well for his children. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, loved to joke around with them but more importantly, he loved Jesus and made it known to his entire family. He was loved and will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Carolyn Essenburg; daughter, Jodi and Paul Koning; daughter, Cindy and Mike Smith; son, Brian and Pat Essenburg; daughter, Vicki and Dick Nuiver; grandchildren, Brad and Jill Koning (Ella, Kipton, Graham), Betsy and Jake Wiersema (Lily, William, Elsie, Andrew), Kylee and Drew Lampen, Taylor Smith, Madison Smith, Zach and Casey Essenburg (Rowan, Remi), Michelle Essenburg & Chad DeWilde (Sophia, Chloe), Cara and Jared Van Order (Quinn, Easton, Willow), Josh and Julia Nuiver (Eleanor, Theodore, Lucy), Mitchel Nuiver; sister, Kathy and Doug Cook; sister-in-law, Marcia and Arlyn Lanting; brother-in-law, Ken and Joni LaGrand; sister-in-law, Donna and Joe Malaukas; brother-in-law, David and

Lonnie LaGrand; and nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Visitation with the family is 12:00-12:45pm on Friday, November 7, 2025, at Christ Memorial Church in the Rotunda, 595 Graafschap Rd. Holland, MI 49423.

A Memorial Service will be the same day at 1:00 pm in the Chapel of Christ Memorial Church, 595 Graafschap Rd. Holland, MI 49423 with the Rev. Dr. Timothy Brown officiating.

Burial to take place in Pilgrim Home Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in Karl's honor may be given to Hospice of Holland at www.hospiceofholland.org or by mail to 270 Hoover Blvd. Holland, MI 49423.

www.langelandsterenberg.com

Cemetery Details

Pilgrim Home Cemetery

370 E. 16th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Rd
Holland, MI 49423

Memorial Service

NOV 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Rd
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Karl Lee Essenburg*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - November 06, 2025 at 10:52 AM

RH

“ *The only guy that ever called a technical foul on me. Ronnie Holstine*

Ronnie Holstine - December 15, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MB

“ *The fun stories and adventures my grandfather, Ron Wetherbee, would tell about Karl are burned into my memory. May Karl's love and passion for life live on through his family and friends. Sending all my love. – Michelle Bloom*

Michelle Bloom - November 06, 2025 at 08:26 PM

MB

“ *Michelle and Nick Bloom planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Lee Essenburg.*

Michelle and Nick Bloom - November 06, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karl Lee Essenburg.*



November 06, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karl Lee Essenburg.*



November 06, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ *Love, Cortney, Louie, & Peter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Lee Essenburg.*

Love, Cortney, Louie, & Peter - November 06, 2025 at 01:45 PM

MS

“ My family well remembers the work and dedication Mr. Essenburg put into his teaching career at West Ottawa. In addition to being an outstanding educator, he was also a man of high moral character and an excellent role model for his students. Because he was her chemistry teacher, our daughter was inspired to pursue a career in that field. While doing graduate work, she felt called away from research and into a career in education. Currently, she is on staff at a high school in Wisconsin, teaching all levels of chemistry. She has also influenced her graduates to pursue and excel in chemistry related fields. It's always rewarding to realize that a good teacher's influence continues to reach immeasurably in many directions in the future.

As you mourn this dear loved one and celebrate his life, please know that he will be remembered by those whose lives he touched. We send to all our deepest condolences.

Mary and John Skoglund - November 05, 2025 at 03:04 PM

CT

“ Cari, Carli, and Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Lee Essenburg.

Cari, Carli, and Team - November 05, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Karl Lee Essenburg.



November 05, 2025 at 12:58 PM