



Melvin Boonstra

September 25, 1916 - September 11, 2016

Melvin Seymour Boonstra, age 99, of Zeeland, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Sunday, September 11, 2016. Mel is survived by his children: Keith and Judy Boonstra of Holland, Kay and Philip Massaro of Phoenix, AZ, Dean and Becky Boonstra of Holland, Judi and Slavomir Kolada of Reno, NV; daughter-in-law Nancy Boonstra of Grand Haven; 13 grandchildren: Heather Boonstra and Amy Rutt, Derek and Tayler Boonstra, Holly Boonstra, Brian and Amy Boonstra, Susan and Richard Farmer, Christopher and Stephanie Kroodsma, Shayne and Yukon Tomisato, Travis and Minako Kroodsma, Mary and Bill Van Eenenaam, Mandie Boonstra, Bradford Boonstra, Eric and Moira Kolada, Kristen and Seth Caplan, and many great grandchildren; sister Lois and Clarence Ver Beek of Dyer, IN; in-laws: Janet Boonstra of Demotte, IN, and Laurina VanderAa of New Hampshire. Mel was preceded in death by his wife Alice (VanderAa) in 2000, and his son Dennis in 2012. He was a member of Third Christian Reformed Church. Mel proudly served his country in the Navy during WWII. Mel was an optimist and a ceaseless enthusiast for anything relating to family, church, friends, and community. He genuinely loved, and was loved by, everyone around him, and he was admired by all for his wisdom, his integrity, and his caring nature. He had a heart for a great number of community and charitable organizations, and he generously used his leadership skills to improve these organizations. Mel was born in Munster, Indiana, on September 25, 1916, during difficult, struggling times for his family. But already as a young man he had a strong desire to be involved in the

business world. He started a couple of local poultry retail stores in the late 1930s before moving in 1946 to Michigan where he successively owned Home Fuel & Supply, a partnership in Trend Clocks, and finally Zeeland Wood Turning Works. He retired in 1985. In retirement, Mel motorhomed the country with his loving wife, Alice. Their hobby was searching for additions to their beautiful bell collection, and feeding Mel's 70-year fascination with collector cars. They travelled throughout the world, played thousands of rounds of golf, and spent countless warm times with their friends – both in Michigan and Florida. No matter where they went, they always made a very real and positive difference, and they are both dearly missed. Visitation will be 2-4p.m. and 6-8p.m. Friday, September 16, 2016 at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 South State Street, Zeeland. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Third Christian Reformed Church, 10 West Central Avenue, Zeeland. Interment will be in Zeeland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to the Salvation Army or Calvin Theological Seminary.

Tribute Wall



“ *Melvin Boonstra*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Oh Uncle Mel!!! I have been wondering about you and just now found out you are gone. I would have loved to have attended your funeral as Aunt Alice and you were one of a kind! I know you are rejoicing in heaven with Alice and my parents. we will see you again someday! Until then, thank you for being the amazing role model of positivity and love that you were!!!"*

Lisa Vanderaa Love - January 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I love my great grandfather"*

Aryanna Boonstra - April 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"In 1995, we bought Mel's beautiful West Olive home. He was SO kind to us during our transition to Michigan; then, a few years ago, he visited us after we remodeled and added a conservatory. He was so complimentary of what we had done to "his" house. I will never forget how impressed we were that when we moved in...Mel had left us instructions on everything and every paint can was labeled. Our thoughts and prayers are with Keith and the entire family. Bill Capodagli and Lynn Jackson"*

Bill and Lynn Capodagli - September 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JO

“We met Mel through our daughter who introduced us at Oasis CRC many years ago. Over the years we would gather with Mel, and others, several times for Thanksgiving dinners at her home. Mel exhibited his Christ-like character in a kindly manner. He was knowledgeable in many areas and helped people feel comfortable in his style of conversation. He had a very generous personality.”

Joann - September 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

VP

“My sweet Mel.. He always had a bright smile! We only knew him a few years. The first time I sat and talked to him he told me he was 97! I couldn't believe it!! He look at me and said I'm still driving then smile. He reminded me of my grandfather that I lost a few years ago so love and caring. Heaven gained another angel We will miss him here at Vee's!! Our condolences to the family.”

Vicky Palushi - September 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KP

“Living next door to the Boonstra family as a child on Lincoln Ave, held some very special memories for me. I will always treasure those times. I remember the kindness, the generosity, the warmth and fun. It never ceased to amaze me that he continued to remember us over many years. He drove our son and his bride from the church to the reception in his beloved car, but first drove them to the cemetery, next door, to visit my grandfather's resting place. A very memorable kindness. He will be dearly missed, but he has made enduring memories for us all. Our deepest sympathies to the family. We celebrate his life.”

Ken and Patti - September 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JF

“Melvin was my cousin and as a kid I feel in love with him prior to the family moving to Michigan. I, too, was born in Munster and lived down the road from his family, Although I saw Melvin infrequently over the years, as my husband was career military, whenever we were together it was like no time had passed. He was warm, loving, welcoming, and inclusive with people. I last saw him in July 2011 and had planned to go up next week to see him to wish him a happy 100th birthday. My deepest sympathy to the family as truly good man is gone. Love from his cousin Jean Hough Furlong.”

Jean Furlong - September 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JK

“It has been a great joy for my wife (Ivy) and me to get to know "Melvie." We have known him for just the last 13 years and it all resulted from the Ventura group. However, during that time, we have always loved spending time with him. He had a gift of making people feel good about themselves and showed his generosity in many ways. As I walked by his condo in Ventura yesterday, I had a feeling of sadness and realized that Ventura will not be the same without Melvie. We loved him. He touched our lives in a special way. Jim and Ivy Kool”

James Kool - September 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CS

“My deepest sympathies and thoughts sent to the family in this tender and emotional time. His love and warm spirit will all be by your side. Peace be with you.”

Colleen Singleton - September 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AF

“Although I knew Mel for only 8 years, while spending the winters at the Ventura Country Club in Orlando Florida, he was a true friend and mentor to me. He will be missed. Jim Putt”

A friend - September 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RG

“Melvin Boonstra

Rick George - September 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM