



Merle W. Vander Sluis

July 22, 1944 - June 7, 2026

Merle W. Vander Sluis age 81, of Holland, died Sunday, June 7, 2026.

Merle grew up in Holland, MI where he met his wife Karen (Homkes) at Holland Christian High School. Merle completed both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in biology at WMU. Upon university graduation, they married and began their first adventure together in the Peace Corps stationed in India, where they realized a passion for living in different cultures and helping others. This passion led to travel/living in many other countries where they were educators and missionaries. Merle always had a drive for life and living it to the fullest. Merle was also known for his love of motorcycles, having owned 40+ in his lifetime. He was always up for a ride and a new adventure.

Merle is survived by his wife of 60 years, Karen; children Daniel (Cathy) Vander Sluis, Elizabeth (Robert) Brower; Grandchildren, Sarah Vander Sluis, Nathan Vander Sluis, Madeline (Cameron) Hofmockel, Connor Brower, Thorin Brower, Adrian Brower; in-laws, Jan Homkes, Larry (Carol) Homkes, Rick (Darlene) Homkes; and several nieces and nephews.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents Adrian and Wilma Vander Sluis, and brother Eugene Vander Sluis.

Merle's celebration of life will be held at Fellowship Reformed Church, 2165

W. Lakewood Blvd. Holland, MI on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 11:00am followed by a light lunch and social. Burial will be in Lakewood Cemetery prior to service with immediate family only. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, June 19, at Langeland-Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland, MI. Memorial contributions may be given to Rehoboth Christian Schools Gifts in Memory/Honor - Rehoboth Christian School or Mission Partners India; PO Box 168, Zeeland, MI 49464.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery

Lakewood Boulevard west of 168th Ave.
Holland, MI 49424

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home
315 East 16th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Celebration of Life

JUN **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellowship Reformed Church-Holland
2165 W. Lakewood Blvd.
Holland , MI 49424