



Norman Barkel

July 20, 1930 - December 5, 2018

Norman Gene Barkel died peacefully at his home on December 5, 2018 in Zeeland, MI at the age of 88. Norm was born on July 20, 1930 in Overisel, MI to Silas and Sadie Barkel. He married Thelma Voorhorst in 1954, and they made their home in Zeeland. They were blessed with four boys: David, Timothy, Daniel, and Matthew. One of their favorite family activities was camping on the weekends. After his first wife, Thelma, passed away, he married Myra Isenga. They spent many happy years together. Norm was a lifelong long-haul truck driver. He loved his job, and in fact stated that he "never worked a day in my life." He drove many, many miles safely for various companies. Norm had a great sense of humor and a great attitude towards his work. Norm was a committed Christian and a member of Faith Reformed Church in Zeeland, where he once served as an elder and Sunday School teacher. His prayers at the table and those said privately for his kids and grandkids were indicative of his deep faith and were cherished by his family. Norm was also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1951 – 1953. A funeral with military honors is scheduled for 1:00 pm Saturday, December 8th at Faith Reformed Church, 220 W. Central Ave. Zeeland, MI 49464 with Rev. Jonathon Elgersma officiating. Visitation with the family is 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm on Friday, December 7th also at Faith Reformed. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Faith Reformed Church Mission Fund or Spectrum Hospice. Norm is survived by his wife, Myra; children, Dave (Linda) Barkel, Tim (Lori) Barkel, Dan (Ann) Barkel, Matt

(Donna) Barkel, Steve (Brenda) Isenga, Tom (Anita) Isenga; siblings, Vern (Joyce) Barkel, Alden (Hester) Barkel; in-laws, Allen (Joann) Voorhorst, Roger (Dawn) VandeBunte, Harlan (Becky) VandeBunte, and Bob (Ruth) VandeBunte. Norm was greatly loved by his 16 grandchildren; Jessica (Jeremy) Brunink, Sarah (Ryan) Bekius, Jordan (Lindsey) Barkel, Travis (Laurelin) Barkel, Justin (Kelsey) Barkel, Phillip Barkel, Rachel (Andrew) Dyrdal, Joel (Christina) Barkel, Luke Barkel, Claire Barkel, Ted Barkel, Joshua (Kaylin) Isenga, Dirk (Claire) Isenga, Christina Isenga, Tim Isenga, Anna Isenga; and 19 great-grandchildren. Norm is preceded in death by his first wife, Thelma; brother, Elmer Barkel; sister, Elgene Vanden Brink; and Myra's grandson, Andrew Isenga. Burial to take place in Overisel Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ *Norman Barkel*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Myra, Im so sorry for your loss. I will always remember Norm's infectious enthusiasm about all things. Always positive and it made my day better every time we visited to clean windows."*

Kevin Quillan - December 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Holly and I leave our heart felt condolences. I have many wonderful memories of uncle Norm, especially our camping experiences. He is a great guy that I am sure will be greatly missed."*

Scott VanDenBrink - December 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"To the Barkel family, I am sorry for your loss! I always enjoyed talking with your dad if they came into Yntema's. He was a great man, lived a full life and has received his reward and heard his Savior say, "well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord"! Sympathy to you all."*

Wayne Van Der Zwaag - December 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"My heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the whole family. Norm is a wonderful, kind man."*

Barbara Schut - December 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

YN

“Our sincere condolences to the Barkel family in the loss of your dear love one. Our prayers are as yours, that God provide his care and comfort you each day. - Psalms 145:18,19”

Your neighbor - December 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TO

“Dear Myk, Isenga & Barkel families, Our thoughts, prayers and hugs are with you today and tomorrow as you honor and celebrate Norm's life. His smile, fun stories and wonderful attitude towards life exuded Christ love. We are honored to have been able to enjoy dinners and special occasions with you both. Will be praying for you all in the days ahead. Our Love, Tom, Stephanie, Morgan & Natalie”

Tom - December 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SV

“My Uncle Norm was the best; kind, funny, full of Barkel lore, and a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. I'm so sad for the loss of this precious husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Yet I know that he is now fully in the presence of his Lord. Sadly I won't be able to be with you at the visitation or funeral. I'm still with my sister in Florida. But I will be with you in prayer as you say your goodbyes and honor Uncle Norm.”

Sandra VandenBrink - December 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DD

“sorry to hear of your loss but now he is with his Lord and Savior ,we had a lot of fun with him on the senior trips myk and family you are in our thoughts and prayers hugs Jerry and Donna driesenga”

donna driesenga - December 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CC

“*Sorry to hear of your loss Dan and Ann, our prayers are with. Safe travels back home.*”

Charles Canaan - December 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

NT

“*Jim and I are sadden at Norm's passing. Keeping you and family in our prayers. Blessings*”

Norma Tenckinck - December 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM