



Rita Darleen Vander Vliet

September 24, 1949 - August 26, 2025

Rita Darleen Vander Vliet, age 75, of Holland, went to be with her Lord and Savior on August 26, 2025, after a courageous battle with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA).

Live Stream of Memorial Service: https://www.youtube.com/live/bi8wS4O_d60

Rita was born on September 24, 1949, the firstborn to Ken and Mick Northouse, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Growing up in Jenison, Rita graduated from Unity Christian High School. It was there that she met her future husband, Bill Vander Vliet. After getting married and graduating from Calvin College, Bill and Rita moved to the Detroit area where Rita taught elementary school at Southfield Christian while Bill was in medical school. After moving to Grand Rapids for Bill to complete his residency, they started their family, giving birth to Joel and then Bethany. Their next move took them to Big Rapids where Rebecca was born. In 1986, they moved to Holland. Rita worked hard raising her young family and also worked as the manager for the Holland Chorale.

Rita returned to teaching after the kids were all in school. She taught many years at Holland Christian Schools, primarily as an eighth-grade teacher. After retirement, Rita volunteered at numerous organizations including The Bridge, Community Action House, Kids Hope USA, Holland Public Schools, Christ

Memorial Church and Young Lives.

Bill and Rita were married over 50 years before Rita was preceded in death by Bill in May of 2024. Rita was also predeceased by her parents, in-laws William and Shirley Vander Vliet, sister Lori Harrington and three nephews. Rita is survived by a family that loves and misses her: children Joel (Kelly) Vander Vliet, Bethany (Colin) Mulder, Rebecca (Brad) Kuipers, and grandchildren Mila and Willow Vander Vliet, Abby (fiancé Charlie Morton), Henry and Johanna Mulder, Josh, Luke, Gabe and Sam Kuipers. She will also be missed by her sister Terri (Harlan) Byker, brother Ken (Cheryl) Northouse, brother-in-law Tom Harrington, in-laws Vonna (Dave) VanWyk, Brad (Darleen) Vander Vliet and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Visitation with the family is from 6:00-8:00 pm on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at Langeland Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland, MI 49423.

Memorial services are at 1:00 pm on Friday, August 29, 2025, at Christ Memorial Church, 595 Graafschap Rd. Holland, MI 49423, in the chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Camp Shout Out, PO Box 5336, Muskegon, MI 49445, or Hospice of Holland, Inc., 270 Hoover Blvd., Holland, MI 49423.

The family also wishes to extend a special thank you to the wonderful caregivers at Anchor Home Health Care, her overnight care team and her nurses and aides at Hospice of Holland for the wonderful care they provided for our mom over the past year and a half.

Burial to take place in Pilgrim Home Cemetery.

www.langelandsterenberg.com

Cemetery Details

Pilgrim Home Cemetery

370 E. 16th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Service

AUG 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Watch Memorial Service in memory of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - August 29, 2025 at 10:45 AM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - August 28, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ *Jacalyn M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.*

Jacalyn M. - September 05, 2025 at 09:13 AM



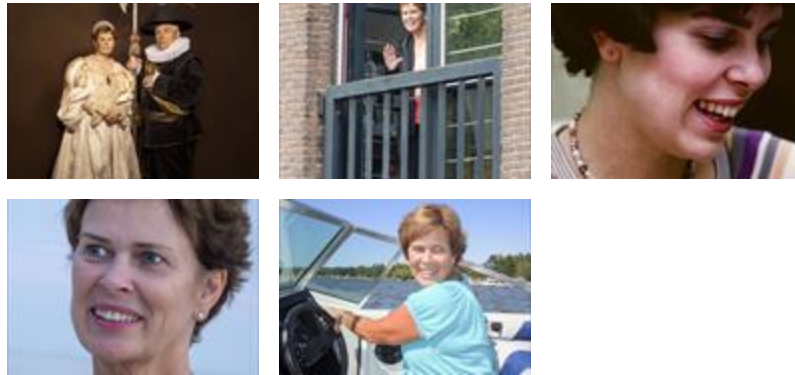
“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.*



August 28, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ *7 files added to the album Rita*



Edward R Post - August 28, 2025 at 08:19 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.*



August 27, 2025 at 02:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.



August 26, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.



August 26, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.

August 26, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ Lee & Karen (Kuipers) Backey purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.



Lee & Karen (Kuipers) Backey - August 26, 2025 at 07:11 PM

LB

“ Lee & Karen (Kuipers) Backey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.

Lee & Karen (Kuipers) Backey - August 26, 2025 at 07:11 PM

JP

“ Where to even begin.... I can't believe I'm writing on your tribute wall to be honest. I think I need to write to you on this tribute because I like to think you can hear these words. But..... I want to share so many thoughts about you and the fun memories I will always cherish. Rita, you were like a second mom to me growing up, and I'll always be grateful for the love and laughter you brought into my life. I loved hearing you sing in church with Bill and loved all those years in Holland Chorale together. You being our Choir director for years, and teaching me to love music. I remember being in awe of your beautiful voice. I loved all the time I spent at your house and eating family dinners with your family. The love was always evident, you always provided us with great food, but I will never forget all the desserts I ate because dessert was always a guarantee at your house. Summers in Silver Lake were always a highlight of my summers, you would always make me feel like part of the family. I loved that you and my mom were close friends and I remember you guys arguing who's house we would sleep at. (I didn't realize until I was a mother that I think you both needed a night off from us kids.) Not too long ago we had a mother's daughter lunch that I hold very dear to my heart. I remember how we could pick up like no time had passed and start laughing at so many fun memories. Your laugh and that little silent giggle whenever something slightly naughty was said is unforgettable and will always bring a smile to my face. You are loved by so many and will be dearly missed. You are singing with Jesus, Bill, and the biggest choir now. You are home and we will miss you. I will take care of Rebecca and the family if they need anything. You and all the memories I hold will always be cherished. Until we meet again Rita!!

Julie Potter - August 26, 2025 at 04:45 PM

TC

“ *Terri & Harlan, Ken & Cheryl purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rita Darleen Vander Vliet.*



Terri & Harlan, Ken & Cheryl - August 26, 2025 at 04:10 PM