



## Robert Constantine Botsis

September 22, 1923 - February 4, 2022

Robert Constantine (Bob) Botsis passed away peacefully at his home on February 4, 2022 at the age of 98.

Bob was born in Holland, MI to Greek immigrants, Constantine Robert (Gus) and Vasiliki (Bessie) Botsis. His mother passed away when he was 14 years old. They were a tight-knit family. Bob's sister Anna helped their father raise her three brothers after their mother's death.

Bob loved his family's adopted country and proudly served as a Sargeant in the Army Air Force in WWII in China, Burma, and India. Bob's brothers Peter and Nick also served during the war: Peter in the Army Air Force in England, and Nick in the Army Infantry in Germany. At the young age of 18, Nick went Missing in Action in Sandau, Germany on April 26, 1945 just a few days before the war ended. Bob and his siblings never forgot their brother's sacrifice and bravery and honored his memory throughout their lifetimes.

After the war, Bob owned and ran the Colonial Sweet Shop in downtown Holland. His father Gus was the original proprietor of the candy store and soda bar where they made the candy by hand in large copper kettles. Later Bob owned the Office Tavern on River Avenue. Many of his customers became valued lifelong friends.

Bob was a much beloved man of faith and devotion who loved the Lord and adored his family. He was preceded in death by his cherished wife Joan (Van Dyke) Botsis in 2005, after 52 years of marriage.

He is survived by his children: Constantine Robert (Debra) Botsis, Nicholas (Kathleen Joy) Botsis, and Beth Ann Botsis; grandchildren: Robert Constantine Botsis, Aline Elizabeth Botsis, Brian Lewis Botsis, and Jenna Marie (Bryan Stuba) Kraft; in-laws: Amelia Botsis, Roger Van Dyke, and Marge Van Dyke; as well as many nieces and nephews and great-nieces/nephews who all treasured him.

He was preceded in death by his sister, brothers and several in-laws: Anna (George) Varveris, Peter Botsis, Nick Botsis, Alvin Van Dyke, Alice (Bernard) DeWys, Lorraine (Frank) Wicks, Marian Kortman, Kenneth Van Dyke, Lois Plaggemars, and Pauline (Paul) Jousma.

Bob was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, MI for most of his lifetime. He will be remembered as a humble man with a gentle spirit, keen sense of humor, and generous heart. He taught his children by example about what it means to love God and be unconditionally loving, charitable, and faithful. Throughout his life he took care of many in their times of need, including his father, in-laws, many extended family members, neighbors, friends, and through other charitable acts.

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" Matthew 25:23

Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 330 Lakeside Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall. Departure for the

graveside ceremony at Graafschaap Cemetery at the SW corner of West 32nd Street and Graafschaap Road in Holland, MI after the luncheon. Visitation with the family will be from 3-7 PM on Friday, February 11, at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th St. Holland, MI 49423. Additionally, there will be a viewing at church on Saturday from 9:00-9:45 AM.

Memorial contributions may be given to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Constantine Botsis*



**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - February 04, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JF

*Such a beautiful tribute!*

**Julia Finch** - February 16, 2022 at 02:39 PM



“ *Robert Constantine Botsis*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM

DL

“ *"Sincere sympathy to Connie, Nick, and Beth on the passing of your father. May happy memories comfort you."*

**Doris and Emily Lievense** - February 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *"I am glad to have known Mr. Botsis and even to have heard his voice over the phone recently. He was very kind to my buddy Ken and me when were visiting/staying with him and Beth a couple of times at her house in VA. He felt like everybody's grandpa. What a pleasant memory."*

**Jim Baker** - February 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LB

“Bob was a fine and honorable gentleman. I had the privilege of calling him my friend for over 50 years.”

Larry Bensink - February 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DT

“Rest in peace Mr. Botsis. You were one cool man and a pillar in the Holland Community. You could do the coolest fishtails, going around the corners in the snow, taking me home too! You were really someone to look up to.”

Daniel Taylor - February 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

EL

“Beth, bless you and your family in these difficult days. It is obvious that your dad was someone whose life was a blessing to all who knew him. You will be a living to witness to that.”

Ed Larrimore - February 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DA

“When a parent passes so does a piece of your heart but the memories of them and their laughter makes you whole. You had a great Dad Con”

Dan - February 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PK

“Nick and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't know your dad, only met him a couple times. What i do know is he was a very good dad and your going to miss him. Just know that you will see him in the Lords Kingdom some day. I will continue to pray for you.”

PERKY Knoll - February 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CC

“Uncle Bob was a very dear kind soul loved by so many! You will be forever loved and sadly missed. Memory Eternal. - James & Christine Cassis & Family.”

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**Christine Cassis** - February 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

GC

“On behalf of the entire Conrad family, we send our heartfelt condolences and prayers. Bob was a sweet, loving man and he will be dearly missed.”

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**Greg Conrad** - February 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM