



Robert L De Jonge

August 28, 1934 - January 27, 2018

Robert Lee De Jonge, age 83, of Drenthe, went to his eternal home Saturday, January 27th, 2018. Robert was one of eight siblings born in Zeeland, Michigan to John and Anna De Jonge in 1934. He attended the Free Methodist Church of Zeeland for most of his life and served as a worship leader and Sunday school teacher. Robert was a natural born educator and used his talents at County Normal School and then Hamilton Community Schools for 35 years. He also was a Driver's Education teacher and was a founding member of the Teachers Credit Union for many years as well. His teaching style was unique and influenced many students' lives. From an early age, he loved animals and had an entrepreneurial spirit. He started Tiny Mite Chihuahuas in 1952 and developed a reputation for his Chihuahuas, sold them all over the country and world, and built his business on honesty and integrity. He was a member of the Holland Kennel Club and the Chihuahua Club of Michigan. In 1955, Robert married his beloved wife, Helen Hecoeks. Together they created a loving family and built their business together for 48 years. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Helen; siblings, Marinus De Jonge, Anna Mae Vander Kooi, Frances Postmus, Gladys Schrottenboer, Dorothy Kraak, and Lois Marema. Robert is survived by his daughter, Sharon L. De Jonge, and son, Craig R. De Jonge, both of St. Augustine, Florida; two granddaughters, Andrea (Tyler) Hop, of Zeeland, and Megan De Jonge of St. Augustine, Florida; sister, Eunice Schrottenboer, of Byron Center; sisters-in-law, Milly (Gene) Mogg of Caledonia, Karen (Phil) Lewan of Jackson; and

several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his loving companion of 13 years, Ruth Bouwman, of Holland. Funeral services will be held at 1:00pm Thursday, February 1, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1015 E 32nd St., Holland, with Rev. Thomas Vanden Heuvel and Rev. Lew Vander Meer officiating. Burial will be in Zeeland Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-7pm on Wednesday, January 31 at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S State St., Zeeland. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Oakdale Christian School, Gideons International, and Hospice of Holland.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bob was a wonderful man and devoted Chihuahua fancier. His dogs are still remembered.* ”

Bill Miller - November 14, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ *Robert L De Jonge* ”

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Robert L De Jonge* ”

Carol Huyser - May 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I recently became aware of Bob's passing. I am so saddened-- he supplied me with 4 of the Love's of My Life--- Holly, China, and Simone-- now deceased-- and Spice who is still here with us. He will forever remain in my Heart as will his dogs that I have loved SO very much. Thank you Bob--- I can only imagine what the reunion in Heaven must've been for you~!!!!!! You will be missed."* ”

Carol Huyser - May 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Mr. DeJonge was an exemplary human being in every way and he will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. His passing casts sadness over many people."* ”

John Powell - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DK

"We were so saddened to hear of Bob's passing. We met him at Tiny Mite's kennels many years ago when we welcomed Izzy to our family. Such a sweet man and so proud of his dogs. We met up years later to bring home Earl, a tiny champagne long coat looking for his furever home. Earl is now 3 and such a joy! Bob will surely be missed by us. Love - Dirk, Donna, Izzy and Earl Kooiker"

Dirk and Donna Kooiker - January 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MA

"I met Robert over 27 years ago. He helped start me in my chihuahua business. After many years we learned from each other. It was my honor to know him for all these years and we had many talks over the years on how things were hard sometimes. We also talked about the good times. We had a great friendship for many years. I will miss you Robert, and will always remember you with love of a great friend."

Marylou Aiello - January 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ER

"Condolences to Bob's family and close friends on your loss. We have truly enjoyed sharing Bob's love of dogs during our activities with the kennel club of which he was a long time member. May you find comfort in knowing that he will be missed and fondly remembered."

Eric and Roxanne Repaal - January 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

NE

“So incredibly saddened that Bob has passed. Sending our deepest condolences from the Everitts in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. We met Bob at the CCA Fall Specialty in Chicago area back in 1996 or 1997. He spent time with us and made sure that we were able to obtain a beautiful white and fawn Tiny Mite girl, who was the light of our lives. She helped heal us from the loss of our first chihuahua. Two years ago he introduced us to our current Tiny Mites Bob's Little Buddy, a treasured chocolate long coat. We love Tiny Mites and Bob, and all that he has done to advance the chihuahua breed and CCA. The world is dimmer today, without Bob's light shining bright. Hoping he is greeted by all of his past loves at Rainbow Bridge. You are forever in our hearts, Bob!”

Nancy and Sally Everitt - January 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CT

“Another legend that has brought this breed for Chocolate Chihuahua to what it is today. Bob has been in my life along time, I have so many wonderful memories of him may you rest in peace. I love you my friend, Prayers go out to Ruth and Bob family as this time go by I see you soon my friends RIP Love You Your Friends Phillip and Connie Tissue”

Connie Tissue - January 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM