



## Robert Jay Ter Haar

January 24, 1952 - May 21, 2024

R. Jay Ter Haar, age 72, of Holland, passed away on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at his home.

Jay will be remembered for his deep faith in the saving blood of Jesus Christ and for his love of people. Every day would find Jay searching the scripture and listening to teachings to draw closer to his friend Jesus. There was nothing more important in his life.

Jay loved people. He had so many special people in his life. He loved his wife, Merri Anne, selflessly for 37 years. Theirs was a marriage so close that a single night away from each other was a rare and tearful event. And Jay loved his family. He grieved deeply the loss of his parents and sister, Cathy, and his mother-in-law and father-in-law in recent years. Jay loved his children, Jill and Joe, and his twelve amazing grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. His family extended beyond blood relations, including several others so dear that they called him dad.

Jay loved his friends. He connected regularly with friends from his youth that were now scattered across the country. And he thrived on his relationship with his Saturday morning coffee/Bible study group.

And Jay loved his little dog, Zeeda. He had many dogs in his life but none

compared to Zeeda. As she approached her 19th birthday, he considered the inevitable and could not imagine the day he would lose her.

Jay just loved people. As he got older that love turned into a mission to try to fill heaven. He talked to grocery checkout workers and nursing home aids. He spoke for hours to special friends on the phone and texted endlessly with friends, neighbors, and acquaintances.

Everyone was Jay's friend. He was a man who drew people to him with his deep radio voice and his irresistible sense of humor. He just knew how to make people feel valued and important. Jay will be missed more than he could have ever imagined. He was humble and never took credit for how God used his life.

Jay retired from Johnson Controls, Inc. in 2004 after 18 years of employment. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Bernice Ter Haar; and his sister, Cathy Brigham; and in-laws, Ken and Marcia Mokma.

Jay is survived by his wife of 37 years, Merri Anne Ter Haar; his children: Candace Jill (Ted) Reeves of Hamilton, and Joseph Ter Haar of West Olive; Grandchildren: Madison, Paige, Carson, Luke, Zuri, Eli, Levi, Jeremiah, Josie, Lainey, Nolan, and Gavyn; Great Grandchildren: Lennon, Bowie, Jasper, Alby, and Wilder; Siblings: Cheryl Ter Haar of Holland and Chuck (Noie) Ter Haar of Florida; In-laws: Sally (Bob) Boeve of Traverse City, Caralyn (Gary) Van Spronsen of Jamestown, and Lisa (Lee) Beld of Lynden, WA

"... Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."

(Philippians 1:20, 21, 23)

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Condolences may be left online at [www.langelandsterenberg.com](http://www.langelandsterenberg.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Jay Ter Haar*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 24, 2024 at 04:23 PM

R-

*Such a beautiful memorial for Jay! I always enjoyed his robust laughter!*

Rich Van Sol -cousin - May 26, 2024 at 04:33 PM

PV

“ *Jay was a dear friend, who I have known for over 50 years, we were teenagers when we first met. Jay was always a kind and gentle man, a big man with a deep voice and laughs just like his father did. We keep in touch over the years even though he moved around a bit. We were very close and I will miss him as will so many others. The good news is Jay and I both are believers in Christ , he is currently with the Lord and one day I will see him again when the Lord calls me home. Jay knew the Bible well and shared the good news about Christ to everyone around him. A family man who cared deeply for all of them  
An example for all of us to follow. Praying for his very special wife Merrienne, my heart goes out to her and one day she will be reunited with him. Paul V*

Paul Vellenga - June 11, 2024 at 10:54 AM

MK

“ If anyone could make me feel more loved and happy it was my dear cousin Jay ! We laughed so much when we got lost over by the “prison “ in saugatuck. We were cross country skiing and Jay never did before in the dark no less! He fell so many times because those are some pretty steep hills!! He was always so optimistic saying this is where the parking lot is. I think it’s right around the corner, but we were lost for about three hours in the dark, It was Quite a memory, but he made it very fun 😊

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**Marilou Kamphuis** - May 30, 2024 at 08:34 AM

KG

“ Faith filled Christian Brother; Husband; Father; Grandfather and Friend. Our family was blessed to have so many rich and fun experiences with Jay and Merrienne --- wilderness canoeing in Canada; weeks at Windermere; backpacking on North Manitou; weekends at the big lake and on the river; numberless times sharing meals and cards. What a blessing this Man has been to so many including our Sons Joseph and Daniel --- RJ was an excellent example to them as they grew up and our families joined in so much fun and experience in God's beautiful creation. We can only be humbly thankful and will miss him greatly until we join again. Ken, Shari, Jay and Danny Gibbs

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**Ken Gibbs** - May 29, 2024 at 07:53 AM

JW

“ A friend to all

*When we first met Jay in the Validation Lab at Prince, he had an aura about him. After learning his first name was Robert but went by Jay, I immediately started to call him Jay Bob. He laughed and called me Joe Bobby. It didn't take long before his infectious laugh and outgoing personality made all of us his friends.*

*Jay was part of our original “Breakfast Club” group where nearly every Friday, Jay, myself and others from the Lab would meet for breakfast before work at the Wooden Shoe restaurant in Holland.*

*Back then, they would have jars of jam on the table, one of which was marmalade which Jay immediately said, I do not like marmalade! Well, that's all I needed to hear. Jay had yet another nickname.*

*In 2001, there was a western team building event. We were told there was going to be a photographer there taking vintage photos. Jay mentioned he had ropes and chaps we could use. That's all I needed to hear. Again.*

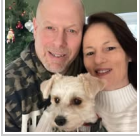
*My deepest condolences to the family. We were all fortunate to have Jay's presence in our life. He was truly a special human being and our friend. A friend to all.*

*Joe Weise*



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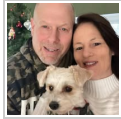
Joe Weise - May 27, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Wiseman - May 25, 2024 at 07:04 PM



What a great friend. Miss you brother.

David Wiseman - May 25, 2024 at 07:05 PM

DB

“ Duane McCollum / Derek Brondige planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Jay Ter Haar.

Duane McCollum / Derek Brondige - May 24, 2024 at 03:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Jay Ter Haar.



May 24, 2024 at 03:35 PM

SB

“ *When my dad died he called me and said he was going to adopt me and I had a dad again. I called him my bonus dad. He was a Godly wise and kind father when I mine was gone. I’m going to miss him immensely looking forward to seeing him again in heaven and getting one of his bear hugs. - Shiree*

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**Shiree Boerema** - May 22, 2024 at 10:48 PM