



## Ronald D. Bekins

April 22, 1939 - August 30, 2023

Ron Bekins, 84, of Zeeland, passed away on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

Ron was born on the family farm in Beaverdam on April 22, 1939, to Les and Effie (Sprick) Bekins. He attended a one room schoolhouse and graduated from Zeeland High School in 1957. Ron met Lynn Van Eden in Zeeland High School and they eventually married on June 22, 1962. Ron earned a master's degree from Western Michigan University and became a teacher in West Ottawa Schools teaching middle school. Ron was inducted into the West Ottawa Athletics Hall of Fame. Ron was a good bowler and enjoyed league bowling. He threw a perfect 300 game and had several league trophies throughout his bowling league career.

Ron and Lynn are longtime members of Second Reformed Church in Zeeland. They raised their children in Zeeland on North Colonial Street. Ron was preceded in death by his daughter and son-in-law: Michelle and Steve Hiltunen, and his sister Lorraine Klamt.

Ron is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lynn, son and daughter in-law Brian and Darcey Bekins, grandchildren: Carson Bekins and fiancé Ashlyn Luke, Max Bekins, Zack Hiltunen and Audrey Rojo, Ben Hiltunen and Allison Root; in-laws: Ron Klamt, Jack & Marcia Van Eden, Bill Van Eden and Tina Davis, and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am, Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at Second Reformed Church, 225 E. Central Avenue, Zeeland MI 49464. Visiting hours will be 4-7 pm, Tuesday, September 5, at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland MI 49464. Memorial contributions may be made to Second Reformed Church or the Zeeland Historical Society.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home  
251 S State St  
Zeeland , MI 49464  
(616) 772-2173  
info@yntemafh.com  
<http://langelandsterenberg.com/>

## Memorial Service

SEP 6. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Second Reformed Church  
225 East Central Avenue  
Zeeland, MI 49464

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Ronald D. Bekins*



**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - September 05, 2023 at 12:34 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss! I am sorry I just now saw this as I would have paid my respects. Mr Bekins was one of my favorite teachers. I had him for both 6 and 8 grade math. He instilled a love of learning in his students. He was an amazing teacher!*

**Heather Thompson Hostetler** - December 29, 2023 at 09:55 AM

SG

“ *I am so sad I didn't see this before the visitation. Mr. Bekins was one of my most favorite teachers ever, and I enjoyed visiting for a bit every Halloween taking my kids trick-or-treating at his house. Mr. B, thank you for being an amazing teacher. I can only hope my students will have the same fond memories of me as I do of you.*

**Sarah Garcia** - September 06, 2023 at 10:43 PM

GH

“ *I was one of his first students at Sherbourne school. He was great to have and a wonderful teacher.*

**Gerald Hungerink** - September 06, 2023 at 09:21 AM

CV

“ Ron will always be remembered for being quick with a smile, a hello, a word of encouragement or a compliment. An outstanding member of the SRC "Green Team"! He will certainly be missed by many. My sincere sympathy to Lynn and her family.

*Char VanBeek*

---

**Char VanBeek** - September 06, 2023 at 08:58 AM

ED

“ Ron and I taught together at West Ottawa Middle School. He was an awesome educator with a variety of skills and techniques to motivate teenagers to enjoy learning math. We carpooled together and had several great stories in the car.

*After we retired, I would run in to him and our friendship continued on . I will miss him.*

---

**EdWirth** - September 04, 2023 at 10:31 AM

MH

“ I had Mr Bekins as a teacher at West Ottawa in the early '90s, he was a favorite. A full-sized candy bar if you scored 100% on a test! Come to think of it, that was the last time I enjoyed a math class. :)

---

**Megan Hanneken** - September 02, 2023 at 04:17 PM

NK

“ As a classmate of Ron's at Zeeland High, I remember his strength on the football field, his friendship and goodwill with others. He gained education, loved his family. He was a blessing to have been among us. Norma Killilea

---

**Norma Killilea** - September 01, 2023 at 07:46 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald D. Bekins.*



---

September 01, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ *I have many fond memories of this wonderful man. We first met in 2000 because both of our wives were and still are artists. Several card games, picnics, art exhibits, and dinner parties later, Ron became a great volunteer supporter of the Holland Chorale. As a volunteer he did everything from painting sets to providing "flying birds" for a Holland Chorale Tulip Time Show. Ron will be truly missed by all. Rest in Peace Ron Bekins. Gary Bogle*

---

**Gary Bogle** - August 31, 2023 at 05:05 PM