

Rudolph B. Pruden

March 8, 1930 - April 26, 2025

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am (Eastern Time), Saturday, May 3, 2025, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 171 W. 13th Street, Holland MI 49423.

Visitation will be 5:00-8:00 PM (Eastern Time), Friday, May 2, at the Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th Street, Holland MI 49423. Interment will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery.

Rudolph Bennie Pruden, 95, of Holland, formerly of Washington D.C., passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Rudy was born March 8th, 1930, in Portsmouth, Virginia, to Bennie and Christine (Walker) Pruden. After graduating from Our Lady of Victory High School, Rudy spent two years at Norfolk State University, before leaving to join the De Paur Infantry Chorus. Rudy completed his military service in the Air Force before finishing his BA degree in sociology at Notre Dame where he was also the baritone soloist in the Glee Club. He then joined the Saint Paul Seminary, one of the many ways in which he pursued his lifelong dedication to service.

Recognizing that God had very different plans for him, Rudy left the seminary

to work for a time at Boystown, before returning to Notre Dame for a master's degree in Sociology with a concentration in penology. During his time at Notre Dame, he and Fernande Martineau met and fell in love.

After completing his masters, he became a Parole Officer in New York City where he and Fernande began a family. He also continued doing graduate level work at NYU while teaching first at Fordham and then at Rutgers where he had a joint appointment working with the Extension Service. (Rutgers was the land grant university for New Jersey.)

As a result of his work, the US Department of Agriculture asked him to join the Extension Service fulltime at the national level. He and his family thus moved to Washington D.C. in order for Rudy to head the Extension Service unit which worked with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, with the American Territories and on American Reservations.

After more than a decade at Agriculture, Rudy moved to the Department of Commerce where he worked in the Office of Inspector General at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) until he and Fernande both retired in 1995. They enjoyed spending summers in Michigan and winters in DC. In addition, Rudy served in various boards over the course of his career and retirement: Donnelly Corporation, the Gospel Rescue Mission of Washington, Chariscenter USA and Recovery International.

Rudy and Fernande, over the years, were members of both St. Francis de Sales and Our Lady of the Lake in Holland, Michigan. Rudy attended HASP classes and meetings at Hope College and enjoyed not just learning, but also the wonderful friends he met there. Rudy was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Walter Clarence Pruden.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Fernande, their children: Christine

Marie Pruden & Stéphane Bédère, Vincent Benjamin Pruden; sister-in-law Marie Josephte Martineau, niece Marie Chantal Martineau, cousin Clarice W. Scott & Paul Scott and Clarice's son Tremaine Shamlee.

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Cemetery Details

Pilgrim Home Cemetery

370 E. 16th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church
171 W. 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



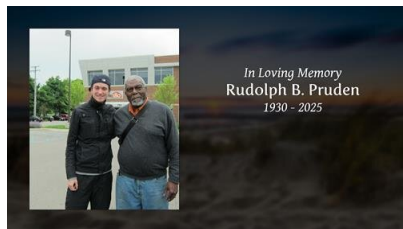
“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Rudolph B. Pruden Funeral Service in memory of Rudolph B. Pruden*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 03, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Rudolph B. Pruden*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 02, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ *Deepest Sympathies to the family of Rudolph. I remember him to have a very kind and gentle spirit, always sharing a generous smile! I didn't know of all of his and Fernandé's accomplishments but always knew they were special people and customers. Praying Gods peace and comfort for all of you.*

- Linda Rycenga, former employee of Dykstra Drug Store, Holland, MI

Linda Rycenga - May 02, 2025 at 01:43 PM

PO

“ Rudy and Fernande have been dear friends for about sixty years, models of faith, family life, professional commitment and vigorous friendship. May he rest in peace. OPhil O'Mara

Philip O'Mara - May 02, 2025 at 11:50 AM

BD

“ Banba D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rudolph B. Pruden.

Banba D. - May 02, 2025 at 10:05 AM

FI

“ Rudy was and is a blessed brother. He exuded peace and calm in some of our situations with the NSC. I value my time with him and am grateful for our time together.

In Jesus the Lord,

Father Patsy Iaquina

Fr. Patsy Iaquina - May 02, 2025 at 08:31 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rudolph B. Pruden.



May 02, 2025 at 08:18 AM

FT

“ RIP Rudy.



frank titus - May 01, 2025 at 01:01 PM

ND

“ Neighbors and friends in Southwest DC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rudolph B. Pruden.

Neighbors and friends in Southwest DC - May 01, 2025 at 11:04 AM

ND

“ Neighbors and friends in Southwest DC purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rudolph B. Pruden.



Neighbors and friends in Southwest DC - May 01, 2025 at 11:04 AM

PF

“ There are people we meet here on earth who touch our lives and bring us love and light. Rudy was one of those kind souls, indeed. Each time Rudy visited us at our family's store downtown Holland, we cherished our time with him. We talked about Notre Dame, travels, family, etc.

We are grateful for our friendship with him.
Rudy will be missed deeply.

Our sincere condolences to Rudy's loving family.

The Fabiano Family
Holland Peanut Store
Downtown Holland, Michigan

Paula Fabiano - April 30, 2025 at 07:54 PM

TF

“ The Leonard Families purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Rudolph B. Pruden.



The Leonard Families - April 30, 2025 at 11:44 AM

SF

“ Sagardoy and Fauconnier families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rudolph B. Pruden.



Sagardoy and Fauconnier families - April 29, 2025 at 10:26 AM