



Ruth Dirkse

August 16, 1928 - December 17, 2025

On December 17, 2025, Ruth Dirkse passed away at the age of 97. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Lamont Dirkse.

Born in Holland, Michigan to Clarence and Marie DeGraaf, Ruth graduated from Holland Christian High School and Hope College. She served many years as an Elementary Librarian for the West Ottawa Public Schools and later as an Advisor for the Focus Program at Hope College.

Ruth had a life-long connection to Hope College: growing up around the campus as a Professor's Kid, matriculating and meeting her husband there, supporting the College on the Hope College Faculty Dames, and serving along with Lamont as Dorm Parents for Voorhees Hall. Ruth and Lamont were faithful attendees at Hope College athletic events (including many featuring children and grandchildren), concerts and theatre performances.

Ruth was an avid volunteer. After retirement, Ruth and Lamont served for a year in full-time academic support roles at Jackson County Ministries in Annville, Kentucky. She continued volunteering throughout retirement serving Tulip Time lunches at Evergreen Commons, mentoring elementary-age students with Kids Hope USA, and maintaining the bookshelves at Resthaven's Warm Friend Library. She also served Christ Memorial Reformed Church and the Holland Reformed Church Classis in various official and

unofficial capacities. Her love of art developed over several summers operating Tadlow Macatawa Art Gallery for her brother (Dan DeGraaf).

Ruth is survived by her son David (Anne, deceased) and daughters Susan Carlson (Bob) and Nancy DeWitt (Scott), 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Ruth's family will be celebrating her life at a private service.

Memorial donations can be made to Resthaven Care Community – Boersma Cottage or to Hospice of Holland. www.langelandsterenberg.com

Tribute Wall

SH

“ My thoughts are with the Dirkse family. I had the pleasure of supporting Ruth at Resthaven WF several years ago. She was a pleasure to interact with and very kind. Thank you for sharing her with us.

Sheryce - December 22, 2025 at 09:01 AM

TF

“ Ruth Dirkse was one of the most lovely people I have ever met. A wonderful person whose love knew no boundaries. I have been so blessed to have known her. When I was the Director of Music at Christ Memorial Church, Lamont was on the committee that hired me and he sang in the choir. Ruth was always supportive and loving. She had some things about me figured out, even though I hadn't figured them out myself. What a wonderful long life! I am sorry to hear of her passing. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thomas Folkert - December 21, 2025 at 03:11 PM

JS

“ Our condolences to the Dirkse family.
Jim Schipper & Jane Frey

Jim Schipper - December 21, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dave, Andrew, Emilie, and Liz,
We well remember seeing your parents/ grandparents at many sporting and school events while Andrew and Emilie (same ages as two of ours) were growing up. I always felt you were lucky to have these loving and active grandparents living in the same area and making their grandchildren a priority. Our loving support people all lived far away from us. Lamont and Ruth were quite the busy pair. They blessed your lives and will live on in the many memories they created for their family. We send our condolences to you and to all who loved your parents. Life looks a lot different after the matriarch passes away.

Mary and John Skoglund - December 20, 2025 at 05:21 PM

PI

“ My sincere sympathy to all her family. Mrs. Dirkse was the librarian at Woodside Elementary School when I attended in the early 70's. I have fond memories of her reading books to us during library visits.

Paul E. Ter Beek II

Paul E. Ter Beek II - December 20, 2025 at 10:16 AM

DE

“ Sue and Bob, amid the sadness of loss there will be smiles and calm relief.
You and your wonderful family are in our thoughts and prayers.
John and Deb Thomas

DebThomas - December 20, 2025 at 07:33 AM

KK

“ After Clarence DeGraaf married our mom, Ruth and Lamont took her in like she was truly part of the family. Great people with loving hearts and she always had our greatest respect.
Ken Kuipers and the Kuipers family

Ken Kuipers - December 20, 2025 at 06:55 AM

PF

“ Our sincere condolences to Ruth's entire family.
~The Fabiano Family of Holland Peanut Store

Paula Fabiano - December 19, 2025 at 09:45 PM

MZ

“ I am so sad to see that your mother has passed. You gave my sincere condolences.
Margo

Margo Hakken Zeddyk - December 19, 2025 at 08:01 PM

KC

“ Hi Dave. Very sorry to hear about your mother. I will be praying for her and your whole family. You are great neighbor.
Kelley

kelley cusack - December 19, 2025 at 06:44 PM