



## Sherwin W. Kamps

November 23, 1933 - November 11, 2023

Sherwin Wayne Kamps, age 89, of Zeeland, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at his home.

He was born on November 23, 1933, to George and Arendena (Cramer) Kamps. He married his beautiful bride, Ruth Laninga, on January 27, 1955. Sherwin served in the US Army from 1956-1958 teaching about missiles at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL. He was a business owner with Gordon Laninga and technician of Laninga Appliance in Byron Center for 40 years. Sherwin was a member of Central Wesleyan Church of Holland. Because of his commitment to Jesus, Sherwin incorporated his love of travel and passion for helping others by using his wide skill set on many mission trips near and far. This included time spent with children and grandchildren's projects such as painting, electrical work, roofing, tree trimming, landscaping, and gardening, etc. Sherwin's greatest investment in life was FAMILY and that shaped his life and decisions daily.

Sherwin was preceded in death by his siblings, Anna and Mel Huyser, Irene Kamps, John H. and Mary Ruth Kamps, Thelma and Henry Hoekman, Harvey and Lorraine Kamps, George and Joyce Kamps, Lois and Don Terpstra, Marcella and John Bosch; in-laws, Michael Yankiv, Carol and Gerald Rietberg, and Gordon Laninga.

Sherwin is survived by his:

Wife

Ruth (Laninga) Kamps

Daughters

Glenda (Bruce) Peters

Sandie (Pastor Joe) Coffman

Kathy (Steve) VanderLaan

Grandchildren

Sarah (Corey) DeGouffau

Jamie (Amy) Peters

Meg (Shaun) Page

Laura (Troy) Avery

Elijah (Natalie) Coffman

Zachary (Ashley) Coffman

JohnPaul (Sara) Coffman

Lindy DeBoer

Michael (Katie) VanDerLaan

33 Great Grandchildren

Sister

Eunice Yankiv

Sister-in-Law

Marilyn Laninga

Visitation is scheduled for 4:00-7:00pm Tuesday, November 14 at Yntema

Funeral Home, 251 S State St., Zeeland. Celebration of Life Service is planned for 3:00pm Saturday, November 18, in the Youth Building at Vriesland Reformed Church, 6839 Byron Rd, Zeeland. Rev. Joe Coffman will officiate. Sherwin enjoyed giving to many organizations and we encourage you to give to the charity of your choice. Condolences may be left online at [www.yntemafh.com](http://www.yntemafh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Winchester Cemetery

Byron Center, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **14**. 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/>

## Celebration of Life

NOV **18**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Vriesland Reformed Church  
6839 Byron Rd  
Zeeland, MI 49464

*Youth Building*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Sherwin W. Kamps* ”



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**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - November 14, 2023 at 11:33 AM

MK

“ Uncle Sherwin was just a wonderful uncle -- always joyous, playful, helpful, and kind. He was so special to my dad too -- George had so many good stories of their trips, antics, adventures and childhoods. George had hid a 22 rifle in the basement rafters. Sherwin found it and shot w/o George knowing. Such a stinker. Wayne now has the gun on his wall. As kids, we loved visiting Uncle Sherwin and family. Uncle Sherwin took me snowmobiling when I was, perhaps, 12. That power, that snowsuit, mmmmmmm, memories. And the motorcycle he took up to the cottage. I rode it a few times with my dad. First time ever riding a motorcycle. Inspired me to build one. And the blue ski boat with a 40 horse Evinrude engine that took us and all the cousins skiing around Big Star Lake for years. And canoeing with our cousins -- I remember him singing "canoe 52, where are you?" to the tune of Scooby-Doo when we got separated from Glenda and Laurie on the river. And cherry picking with the gang -- riding in the trunks of the cars across dirt roads. Was that legal? Probably not, but fun, yes! And fishing with Sandie and me. It was with Uncle Sherwin and Sandy that I caught the biggest fish of my life up to that point. After dragging that monster into the boat, Uncle Sherwin said "Hey, Sandy, keep one of your medium fish. I'll put a minnow on my hook. Then let's go back to the cottage and each of us will go in and say 'Look what I caught!' and hold up our fish. I'll go first, then Sandy, and then Mark can show off his bass." So that's what we did! The picture is attached. I'll never forget it. He and his family brought us so much joy as we traveled from New Jersey to Michigan through those years. We're thanking the Lord for his new and better home.

With love to Ruth and all my cousins,  
Mark Kamps



Mark Kamps - November 23, 2023 at 01:13 PM

JK

“ Uncle Sherwin has been very good to and for me and my family. Early on, he taught us to ride his horses and ponies. He gave us a section of land for a garden next to the road on Byron Center Avenue. It allowed me to get some spending money by selling pickles and cucumbers to the neighbors, which got me the nickname “pickles” by people who lived two streets over from me. Later he made an acre of his property available for my mom and dad to build a new house by his house. Mostly, to me he was a good Christian role model as were all the Kamps uncles, whom I miss dearly. He always met me with an uplifting “Hi Johnny” and a welcoming smile. I like to think I will hear and see that again when it is time for me to leave this world behind.

*John Russell Kamps*

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**John Russell Kamps** - November 16, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Sherwin W. Kamps.



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November 16, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sherwin W. Kamps.



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November 16, 2023 at 10:24 AM

“ In the early to mid 60s Reuben and I would be invited to Uncle Sherwin and Aunt Ruth’s old farm house on Byron Center Avenue in the summer time. There, we’d load pig manure on a wheel-barrel with pitch forks, wheel it out to the pickle garden, and place it around the pickle plants. When the work was done, we’d saddle the ponies, Shadrack and Fireball, and ride them through the woods behind the house. Other days, we’d explore the swamps located some distance away from the Farm House behind their property and through the woods, located where the Wyoming City Water Tanks are now. The poem *Explorers* is an expression of our experiences there and then. At harvest time, we were allowed to pick all the pickles we desired and sell them around the neighborhood. Times were tough for us financially. We didn’t have any of our own money unless we found a way to earn it, and Uncle Sherwin gladly provided us useful work and a way to earn money. *bruce harvey: kamps*

### EXPLORERS

*In shallow swamps midst willow trees  
And sun with simmering heat  
Bare backs and afloat  
On a makeshift boat  
Drift my brother and me.*

*No place for a sail,  
One hand for the pail,  
The other cupped and wet  
As leaves glide by on reflected sky,  
No land in sight as yet.*

*A bird perched near with indignant sneer  
Its presence a welcome clue  
Just a little bit more  
We'd beach on some shore  
And rest a moment or two.*

*Explorers were we, in an uncharted sea  
New lands and islands to reach.  
Now yonder in view  
In a light brown hue  
Peeks a formerly unknown beach.*

*With excitement as high as the sun in the sky  
Our provisions dangerously low  
Ages since we set  
And our feet were wet  
And we really should patch that hole.*

*We hauled EXPLher ashore with shoulders sore.  
Provisions were the first thing at hand  
And so we agreed  
To accomplish the deed  
Then we'd survey the land.*

*Tired no longer, curiosity stronger,  
We cautiously scouted about  
Making quite sure  
When we ended our tour  
We'd find it backtracking our route.*

*Over stumps and humps and valleys creased deep,  
Stagnant with turtles and frogs  
On our hands and our knees  
We ducked under the trees  
And stumbled under half hidden logs.*

*Now thicket on the left and marsh on the right  
And ahead the forest unknown  
The sun hovered low  
Causing shadows to grow  
And somewhere a sinister moan!*

*High leaves bristled in arthritic oak trees  
As shivers came whisking in.  
I heard them complain  
Of the soon coming rain  
With creeks from their crippled limbs.*

*Blue sky faded as clouds settled in.  
The sun shown hazes of red.  
"There was yet quite a trail  
And some water to bail  
Before we'd get home," we said.*

*As seasoned explorers it took little time  
To the place where we left our boat.  
Then, a push and a pull,  
It was stubborn as a bull,  
But soon we had it afloat.*

*We pushed on new poles as ripples fanned by  
In reflections vague with dim light.  
Amazing the way  
The colors turn gray  
When day retires to night.*

*As water leaked slowly in only the seams,  
We knew that we had done well  
In patching the hole  
With a chunk of charcoal  
And some pitch from a pine tree that fell.*

*At last we arrived at a familiar place  
Where the water was dark and deep.  
And pushing the poles  
Into bottomless holes  
Slowed us to barely a creep.*

*We hand paddled across the murky lagoon*

*The wind blew briskly now.  
Though ages it took  
Like reading a book,  
We finally got there somehow.*

*We then gathered up the bullheads we caught  
In schools we dipped with a screen.  
Like black polliwogs  
That turn into frogs  
Only these would never be green.*

*With flashlights in hand, we made our way back  
To the farmhouse through woods and fields  
And dropped our fish off  
In the old horse trough  
As rain spattered on the windshields.*

*Our turtles were glad to see what we had  
But there was no time to play,  
Soon we'd be fed  
Then tucked into bed  
But tomorrow was another day.  
B.H. Kamps 1982*

*Reuben and I had many adventures at, and back in the swamps  
behind, Uncle Sherwin and Aunt Ruth's house.*

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**Bruce Kamps** - November 15, 2023 at 09:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Sherwin W. Kamps.*



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November 14, 2023 at 01:34 PM

MD

“ *Madison Church Staff and Worship Dept planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sherwin W. Kamps.*

Madison Church Staff and Worship Dept - November 14, 2023 at 01:34 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sherwin W. Kamps.*



November 14, 2023 at 05:37 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Sherwin W. Kamps.*



November 13, 2023 at 09:42 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Sherwin W. Kamps.*



November 12, 2023 at 07:54 PM