



Steve Kraai

August 13, 1953 - March 31, 2026

Steve Kraai, age 72 of Zeeland passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years Elaine, his children Aaron Kraai, and Amber Ter Haar, his grandchildren and great grandchildren, Savannah and Brian Klokkert (Kinsley, Kollyns, and Caroline), Selena and Brandon Blauwkamp (Baker, and Brodie), Sage and Rylee Kraai, Trevor and Anna Ter Haar, Elyse and Kainan Bayn, and AJ Ter Haar, his siblings, Mike and Linda Kraai, and Lynn Kraai, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Erwin and Linda South, Delwyn and Jan South, and Bette and Robert Schrottenboer.

Steve lived a life of service to his community and country. He proudly served his country in the Army National Guard where he was a MP. Steve served as a chaplain at the Willard G. Leenhouts American Legion, and he served on the honor guard at Henry Walters VFW post 2144. Steve also had his own ministry of visiting shut-ins and veterans. Steve was a volunteer fire fighter at the Blendon/Olive Township fire department and served as the assistant fire chief. He was on the state board of the International Association of Arson Investigators. Steve was a member of Foundry Church. He was a former choir director at his church and the choir director of the Heritage Singing Men. He went on a mission trip to China to distribute bibles, a mission trip to Mississippi to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina and he went three times on a mission trip to Guatemala.

Steve retired from SEMCO Energy where he worked for 45 years, and 37 of those years as a supervisor.

A time of visitation will be from 9-11 am Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Foundry Church, 425 100th Ave., Zeeland with his memorial service to follow at 11:30 am. Memorial contributions may be given to the Wounded Warrior Project. www.yntemafh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Foundry Church
425 100th Street
Zeeland, MI 49464

Memorial Service

APR **25**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

The Foundry Church
425 100th Street
Zeeland, MI 49464

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Steve Kraai*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - April 20 at 12:18 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Steve Kraai.*



April 24 at 02:26 PM



“ *Steve and Rene'e McCarthy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Kraai.*

Steve and Rene'e McCarthy - April 22 at 10:15 AM



“ *Steve and Rene'e McCarthy purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Steve Kraai.*



Steve and Rene'e McCarthy - April 22 at 10:15 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Steve Kraai.*



April 21 at 05:05 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Steve Kraai.*



April 20 at 09:12 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steve Kraai.*

April 20 at 09:12 AM



“ *Steve will be missed for the person he was and for what he did in life to help others. But for me he will be missed because he was my brother. A bond that cannot be broken. All the times we spent together sharing personal things between brothers will be sorely missed. Steve stopped over to tell me he had been diagnosed with the start of Dementia. A total shock to me. We embraced and both shed a tear and I told him I loved him and would pray for him. Now he is not dealing with that awful disease anymore but enjoying eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for that we are happy for him. Mike and Linda Kraai*

Mike Kraai - April 08 at 10:18 AM

EK

Thank you for your heart felt words and your love for your brother and for sharing with us.

Elaine Kraai - April 08 at 07:36 PM

DW

“ *My time in the city engineering office overlapped many of Steve’s with the gas company. Whenever he showed up, you knew you were in for a pleasant encounter. One of the most upbeat people in town. Glad to have known him.*

Dale Wyngarden

Dale Wyngarden - April 07 at 08:25 PM

EK

Thank you Dale.

Elaine Kraai - April 08 at 06:49 AM

LB

“ Steve knew Todd before I did - that's how long their friendship has been. He recruited Todd to join the Blendon/Olive Fire Dept nearly 40 years ago - that's how they met. I learned early on that he had an amazing singing voice and we asked him to sing at our wedding in 1990. In the years that followed, memories of them playing ping pong in our basement, so many years of Todd going to "therapy" night at the Shanty, being there for us with encouragement (and food from Elaine) as our family grew, and so much more. Steve stopping in at Todd's shop every Monday was therapeutic for Todd. I think Steve knew that Todd needed to just sit and talk once in a while. Only they will know everything that was discussed and that's the way it should be. I'm so grateful to Steve for taking the time each week to check in on Todd. But then the tables turned and Todd was the one checking in on Steve. Things had changed and it wasn't easy to watch his health decline. But their friendship was strong and went both ways. Todd lost a dear, faithful friend in Steve. We are so thankful however that this is not the end. Until we meet again...

Todd and Lisa Bultman

Lisa Bultman - April 04 at 07:31 PM

EK

Thank you for the great memories and very kind words Lisa! They were great friends and I appreciate all the times Todd came to visit Steve at Quincy Place. Steve appreciated those visits so much and would tell me all about their time together for a few days. You will both have a special place in the hearts of our family.

Elaine Kraai - April 06 at 08:28 AM

CH

“ *My life has been made richer in having known Steve Kraai. He has been a great friend, mentor, colleague and initiator of much laughter over the decades I have known him. He is the guy that walked his talk and you knew his faith and heart were larger than him. I will miss meeting up for coffee and catching up, reminiscing and listening to him talk with great pride about Elaine, Amber, Aaron and every one of his grandkids. It has been a blessing and an honor my friend. The light seems a little dimmer but I know we will meet up again one day!*

-Celia Hulst

Cel Hulst - April 03 at 07:32 PM

EK

You made me cry with your words but I am so grateful for them. You will always have a special place in our hearts!

Elaine Kraai - April 03 at 07:53 PM

DH

“ *Amazing co-worker. Too many memories to list! He we be missed. Thanks for the memories. Prayers and thoughts for your family!*

Doug Hulst - April 03 at 06:26 PM

EK

Thank you Doug.

Elaine Kraai - April 03 at 07:54 PM

BH

“ *always made me laugh*

Barb Hoezee - April 03 at 03:17 PM

EK

He was good at that!

Elaine Kraai - April 03 at 07:55 PM



“ *Two pictures many years apart.
I'm grateful I got to know this man over the course of my life, he was like a second father to me.
I have so many fond memories of him, he will be missed.
I'll be playing some Seger while sipping on some Kessler in your memory old man! Love you, may you rest in peace.
Sending my thoughts and prayers to Elaine and his family.*



Daniel Geerts - April 03 at 08:08 AM

EK

Thank you Dan for these great rememberances!

Elaine Kraai - April 03 at 07:49 PM

KH

“ *Kyle H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Kraai.*

Kyle H. - April 02 at 08:30 AM

KH

“ Steve was full of love and it impacted anyone he came in contact with. He loved the Lord, his family, and his country with everything he had. He taught me so much just by working with him and seeing his passion for those around him.

I had the pleasure of spending some time with him in the Upper Peninsula hunting and we had so much fun just relaxing in the woods. I will forever be grateful for that opportunity. That trip will always be a favorite of mine.



Kyle Hostetler - April 02 at 08:27 AM

EK

Thank you so much Kyle. He had a great time on that hunting trip with you! He always cared about your success and he loved you.

Elaine Kraai - April 02 at 11:43 AM

DD

“ Aaron and family my deepest sympathies to you all. I fondly recall your father volunteering to bring his wisdom to my classroom to aid our understanding of electricity during our science units. Rest in peace. Doug Dekker

Douglas B. Dekker - April 02 at 08:16 AM

SK

Thank you Mr. Dekker and my dad wanted to say "Thank you Coach". He doesn't have Facebook so cannot comment himself.

Savannah Klokkert - April 02 at 04:39 PM

MH

“ Mike Kosht and Dick Haagsma purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Steve Kraai.



Mike Kosht and Dick Haagsma - April 01 at 04:25 PM

MH

“ Mike Kosht and Dick Haagsma planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steve Kraai.

Mike Kosht and Dick Haagsma - April 01 at 04:25 PM

SL

“ Such an amazing man. Always had a smile on his face. You will be missed, Steve! Love tge Ledford's family!

Sam Ledford - March 31 at 10:02 PM

EK

Thank you Sam.

Elaine Kraai - April 01 at 06:44 PM

SO

I meet Steve at The Foundry walking down the aisle. He would tease me as I walk with a cane and he did also. We started to talk and enjoyed each other company. Every Sunday.

I will truly miss you Steve. You are with the Lord now and at Peace

Stephanie Oldebekking-Abubo - April 01 at 08:18 PM

EK

Thank you for your great memory and your friendship!

Elaine Kraai - April 02 at 11:41 AM



“ *This man that I call my dad father.... I learned so much from. The love of outdoor how to skin a deer and the difference in guns and how amazing he was with one to the point he was even perfect 100 out of 100. love of Bob Seger and music, family, God and a relationship with the Lord and the example he showed me. Faith based living... found out first hand from him that I was his gear head, the love for his own family. And the struggles in life and a way to handle them. How to get away from the business of life and to head north to the woods how to care for the elderly. Respect for the county and all service man and women. The talks about his GTO car because I had a Chevle. He always made me felt need with thing he knew I could do for him just wish I was better at that for him....i could go on and on about him if you knew him you would understand if you didn't it was your loss.... I will always have are last good bye dad and a memory that will last forever. But it's not good bye it's see you real soon. I Love you dad!!!!*

Trent T-haar - March 31 at 04:50 PM

EK

Thank you for these generous and heart felt words Trent! <3

Elaine Kraai - April 01 at 06:43 PM

SK

“ So many memories. My favorite would be all the times we’ve gone shooting clays. Hunting or when you taught me how to shoot a bow. We were at SK gun range and it had been so long since I touched a gun. Gramps was so confused why I couldn’t hit anything until he realized I had the wrong eye shut. Haha. Miss you gramps.



Savannah Klokkert - March 31 at 04:06 PM

EK

Love this so much Savannah! <3

Elaine Kraai - April 01 at 06:44 PM

ED

We had a lot of fun when we hung out years ago! Alf and Steve enjoyed sharing hunting stories and playing poker! I remember Steve singing at Alf's funeral which we so appreciated! Prayers for you and your family ! 🙏❤️

evonne driesenga - April 12 at 08:41 PM