



## Tom A. Buursma

November 28, 1943 - October 9, 2025

Tom Buursma, Sr. age 81, of Holland, died Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Holland Hospital.

Tom lived a life that spoke volumes—through words, stories, laughter, and love. A gifted communicator, creative thinker, and passionate follower of Jesus, Tom inspired countless students, friends, and family to live with purpose and joy.

A proud graduate of Holland Christian High School, Tom later returned to his alma mater to teach and coach for over 30 years. He poured his heart into the classroom teaching history, Reformed doctrine as well as Latin, even creating excitement about a dead language with toga days (extra credit!).

Tom started and coached the Holland Christian boys swim team and a few years later he started and coached the girls tennis program (his home was teepee-d by his players more times than can be recalled). His leadership and excellence led to a girls tennis State Championship in 1993 and the honor of being inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

Tom's passions extended beyond the classroom and court. He found joy in God's creation through camping, biking, hiking, and spending time at his cottage on Gun Lake boating and eating "health food" (aka ice cream).

He was the loving husband of Vanna. He first set eyes on her while at Calvin College, tracked her down and asked her out. She said yes and continued to say yes to his adventures ever after. He loved his children and grandchildren unconditionally, even the one that chose to attend MSU.

Tom and Vanna were part of a group that started Lighthouse Church which later merged to become Victory Point Church. Tom served the church in many ways and his love for Christ and passion for prayer inspired many people to grow in their faith and influenced the direction and ministry of the church.

Those who knew Tom will remember his quick wit, thoughtful insights, and heart for mentoring others. He had a gift for seeing the best in people and he showed grace to those who had made mistakes and needed to get their life back on track. Volunteering at Holland Rescue Mission was an important part of his retirement years, building relationships and pointing men to Jesus Christ.

Tom's voice and example will continue to echo in the lives of all who were blessed to know him.

Tom is survived by his wife of 57 years, Vanna; sons, Bob Buursma, Jeff and Kristin Buursma, Tom and Kristin Buursma; grandchildren, Mady, Nicole, David, Jacob, Erin, Tyler, Ryan, Rachel (Peach), Flora, Kate, and Tessa; brother, Ron and Joyce Buursma; in-laws, Allen and Ethel Leep, Joyce Petrichek, Betty (Bobe) Pynakker, Ruth and John Hamstra, Donna and Paul Michaels; many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Friday, October 17, from 5-7 p.m. Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland. Funeral services will be 2 pm Sunday, Oct 19, 2025 at Victory Point Church. 11530 Ransom St, Holland with Rev.

Matt Yount officiating. Burial will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to Holland Christian Schools.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenberg Funeral Home  
315 E 16th St  
Holland, MI 49423-4213

## Funeral Service

OCT 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Victory Point Ministries  
11530 Ransom Street  
Holland, MI 49424

# Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tom A. Buursma.



October 15, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ From David Vanderveen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tom A. Buursma.

From David Vanderveen - October 15, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ Ted&Jan, Mike&Kristyn, Stacy&Michael purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Tom A. Buursma.



Ted&Jan, Mike&Kristyn, Stacy&Michael - October 13, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ Ruth Hamstra purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Tom A. Buursma.



Ruth Hamstra - October 13, 2025 at 05:17 PM