



Dr. William L. Vander Vliet

January 2, 1950 - May 3, 2024

Dr. William L. Vander Vliet, M.D., age 74, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, caring physician, and follower of Christ, died peacefully on May 3, 2024. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Rita (Northouse) Vander Vliet. He was preceded in death by his parents, William H. and Shirley Vander Vliet, his in-laws Ken and Mick Northouse, his sister-in-law Lori Harrington, and nephews Thomas VanWyk, Jeff VanWyk, and Nathan Northouse.

Born on January 2, 1950, in South Holland, Illinois, Bill moved to Hudsonville, Michigan in 1963. He graduated from Calvin College (University) and Wayne State University School of Medicine and subsequently completed a residency in Family Medicine in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Following residency, Bill joined Rapids Medical Group in Big Rapids, Michigan. In 1986, Bill and Rita moved their young family to Holland where Bill joined Lakewood Family Medicine. Bill was dedicated to his patients and committed to his profession.

During his long career in Holland, Bill served as President of the Ottawa County Medical Society. At Holland Hospital, he served as Chief of Staff and on the Board of Directors. He also served on other boards including Hope for Kids – Mexico, Hospice of Holland, Reach for Recovery and the American Mission Hospital (Bahrain). Bill served 10 years as vice president of medical affairs at Holland Hospital. He was a volunteer for Community Action House, a past member of the Holland Chorale, a member of the Holland Professional Club, and an active member of Christ Memorial Church.

While Bill's professional accomplishments spanned over four decades, being

a Christ-follower and a loving husband, father and grandfather will be his legacy. In his professional and personal life, Bill was a man of integrity acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God (Micah 6:8). In the late 1990s and early 2000s Bill travelled with the Luke Society on multiple medical mission trips to Honduras as well as others to Guatemala. These trips provided medical care, dental care, home building, and evangelism to some of the poorer villages in these countries.

During their retirement, Bill and Rita enjoyed traveling throughout the world, volunteering, and gathering with family and friends at Silver Lake. Bill loved music, photography, and gardening. For over forty years he pursued the genealogies of his family's families. He was an avid, life-long Chicago Cubs' fan.

In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by his children Joel and Kelly (Hunt) Vander Vliet (Mila, Willow); Bethany and Colin Mulder (Abigail, Henry, Johanna); Rebecca and Brad Kuipers (Josh, Luke, Gabe, Sam); sister Vonna (David) Van Wyk; brother Brad (Darlene) Vander Vliet; sister-in-law Terri (Harlan) Byker; brother-in-law Ken (Cheryl) Northouse and brother-in-law Tom Harrington; and several nieces and nephews.

Our family is grateful for Bill's Hospice of Holland team for the wonderful care they provided during Bill's final weeks. To all of our friends, our family gives thanks for all your prayers, visits, cards, and expressions of care and love. You were a big part of Bill's life. Bill was a better person because of all of you. To God be the glory!

Visitation will be at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, Holland, MI on May 8 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00pm. A private committal service at Pilgrim Home Cemetery will be followed by a memorial service on May 9 at 11:00 am at Christ Memorial Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Holland, Christ Memorial Church, or Friends of American Mission Hospital (Bahrain).

The service will be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os02z>

NOTbX0

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Due to physical limitations, Rita will only be present at the first visitation (2:00-4:00)

Visitation

MAY 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Due to physical limitations, Rita will only be present at the first visitation (2:00-4:00)

Funeral Service

MAY 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Live Streaming of Service

MAY 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os02zNOTbX0>

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - January 28 at 01:14 PM

MV

“ *Our sincere sympathy to this precious family on the loss of a dear man , Dr William VanderVliet. He was an amazing physician and so very kind to all. I had the honor to work with him at Holland Hospital, his care and kindness also for my late husband and myself as our physician. Our children were blessed to have his precious wife as a school teacher. May God hold you close with love and peace. Sincerely Michele (Baron)VanWoerkom and family.*

Michele VanWoerkom - May 10, 2024 at 08:26 AM

CM

“ *I had the honor to work alongside Dr. VanderVliet for years when he delivered babies at Holland Hospital. He was also our family doctor and gave the best care to my husband, myself and our children. I trusted his judgement, both as a colleague at work, and as a physician when we were his patient. I am deeply saddened to hear of his death, yet rejoice knowing that he is spending eternal life with God, whom he loved so dearly. I extend prayers for comfort to his family. Claudia Milburn*

Claudia Milburn - May 09, 2024 at 07:55 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.*



May 08, 2024 at 08:28 AM



“ *Scott, Nikki, Abby and Landon Van Ingen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.*

Scott, Nikki, Abby and Landon Van Ingen - May 08, 2024 at 08:28 AM



“ *Cristina B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.*

Cristina B. - May 08, 2024 at 07:07 AM



“ *Lynn & Tony Pedela purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.*



Lynn & Tony Pedela - May 07, 2024 at 04:56 PM

LP

“ Lynn & Tony Pedela planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.

Lynn & Tony Pedela - May 07, 2024 at 04:56 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.



May 07, 2024 at 01:56 PM

JT

“ Jason, Martha, Jacob, Deacon Tenley purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.



Jason, Martha, Jacob, Deacon Tenley - May 07, 2024 at 10:08 AM

KH

“ I am deeply saddened at Bill's passing. He was an amazing, caring, and committed physician to both my late husband, Michael, and myself. He shepherded my husband through many health issues. He could transition from doctor to trusted friend so easily. I was privileged to also experience working with him at Holland Hospital. He was an exceptional contributor to the medical community. My husband and I admired and appreciated knowing him and his lovely wife, Rita. I wish Rita and the family peace and joy as they remember his wonderful legacy.

Kathy Henry

Kathy Henry - May 07, 2024 at 09:50 AM

JP

“ Dr. VanderVliet was my and my children's physician for quite a few years. He was an amazing doctor who had so much caring and compassion for his patients. I will never forget him! My condolences to his family and friends.

Jennifer Panicci - May 07, 2024 at 08:34 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.



May 06, 2024 at 09:57 AM



“ Bill was an example of many things for me. Physician, leader, mentor, and friend. Such a kind and compassionate man. He was a servant leader in so many ways, and he made many contributions to our community and to Holland Hospital. He will be missed, and I will remember him fondly. Peace and love to Rita and all of Bill's family.

Mark Pawlak - May 06, 2024 at 09:57 AM




“ Holland Hospital Board of Directors planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.

Holland Hospital Board of Directors - May 06, 2024 at 09:48 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.



May 06, 2024 at 09:48 AM

SB

“ Dr VanderVliet was a remarkable man ! He was a friend and our Physician for over 20 years. I could say so many wonderful things about this Man, He delivered our sickly baby boy and maintained the highest level of support and care for us all . When he left LFM we were devastated, yet happy for him in his new adventure. We stayed in touch through the years and always shared past memories when we saw each other. He always asked how Mitchell and Jerry were doing and was sincere in sending good wishes for them . We will miss you dearly Dr VanderVliet and will keep Praying for your Family as they continue their journey in life without you . Hugs , Prayers for the Family
Jerry, Sue & Mitchell Ballinger

Sue Ballinger - May 06, 2024 at 12:27 AM

SL

Dr. VanderVliet was such a caring doctor. He took such good care of my mom and my family. He delivered my first born. He was our family doctor for many, many years. After he left LFM, whenever we would see him, he always had a smile and would ask by name, how the family was. Towards the end of my mom's life, even though he no longer was her doctor, he visited her at the hospital, almost daily. He truly cared. He would also check her charts..wanting to make sure, they were taking good care of her 😊 The world lost a wonderful man, but God gained a beautiful angel. He will be greatly missed by many.
❤️👼

Shawn Larsen - May 10, 2024 at 12:36 AM

BR

“ I'm so sad to hear of Bill's illness and passing. Bill was a great physician and friend. I've known him for a couple of decades. I learned to appreciate his gentle kindness when we roomed together in Honduras. He was just the sort of person you enjoyed being around and I felt privileged to call him a friend. I will miss his easy smile and calming presence. Brian Cote'

Brian - May 05, 2024 at 02:33 PM

BW

“ Buddy, Zach and Tonya Wadsworth purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.



Buddy, Zach and Tonya Wadsworth - May 05, 2024 at 09:19 AM

DF

“ Dave and Vonna and family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Dr. William Lain Vander Vliet.



Dave and Vonna and family - May 04, 2024 at 09:28 PM

LM

“ What a nice man and so easy to work with..I learned a lot from him over the years...I'm so sorry for your loss... Lu

Lu McCormick - May 04, 2024 at 07:44 PM

QE

Dr. Bill was a kind and knowledgeable physician who took excellent care of my family for many years. I will never forget how he took one look at my newborn son and told me he would be a basketball player (he's 6ft5 now). He was always interested in our kids' accomplishments and even last fall, when I saw him at a concert, he was asking for updates. He was a wonderful man, our family sends our deepest sympathies for your great loss.

Que-Lan Engels - May 13, 2024 at 04:45 AM