



William Vogelzang, Sr

August 1, 1921 - September 20, 2013

August 01, 1921 - September 20, 2013 William Vogelzang Sr., a lifelong Holland, Michigan resident and recently of Freedom Village, died on September 20, 2013 after a brief illness having reached the age of 92 on August 1 of this year. Bill was the youngest of eight children of Dutch immigrant parents, Jan and Klaasje Vogelzang who immigrated to Holland Michigan in 1907, 106 years ago. He attended Holland Christian schools and Michigan State University. While a student at MSU he enlisted in the U.S. Army at the start of WW II. Because of his aptitude for math, Bill was sent by the Army for further engineering studies to the army specialized training program at Road Island State University. He trained at the various artillery's school there before being assigned to A Battery 308th Battalion of the 78th infantry division during World War II as an artillery forward observer and radio team member. While in active combat service in France and Germany he was wounded at Simmerath, Germany on December 14, 1944, two days before the commencement of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1944. Bill believed his injury may have been the method by which God saved his life given the high number of casualties in his unit resulting from of that enemy offensive. He was hospitalized for many months and was awarded the Purple Heart medal and other location and achievement awards. His WWII service shaped him in many ways as it did for many of his generation. Bill married 19 year old Betty Jane Bergsma of Grand Rapids on September 8, 1945 (deceased 1996) during the war while on furlough. The marriage lasted 52

years and was blessed with five married children. William Jr. (Laura Ver Merris); James (Mary Beth Hoffmeyer); Steven (Janice Tucker); Shirley Hoogstra (Jeff); and, Elizabeth Maring (Clarence). He has 18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Bill also leaves a special friend, Marion Nelson. His seven siblings, Leonard, Geraldine, Henrietta, John, Abraham, Wilma, and Nickolas preceded him to glory. Bill loved his family and friends. After his service career, Bill entered the family Vogelzang Hardware business in Holland and enjoyed being a downtown merchant for nearly 40 years. Later, his business career led him to establish Vogelzang International, an import company dealing in energy-related products from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. He was in China one week after the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989 and over the years watched China grow into the super power that it is today. Together with his son Steve, they expanded the business by selling to customers in the UK and all over the USA. Later in life, he and his wife Betty enjoyed developing the land that is now Song Bird Lane on 40th Street. Bill loved to travel, first with Betty, then with his friends, visiting over 50 countries. He was interested in all things related to business. He never really considered himself retired. As a retail merchant for much of his life he learned to remember names and rarely forgot a person's face. No one in his family could replicate the skill with such accuracy or delight. While living at Freedom Village, he met a first grade classmate from Central Ave. Christian Elementary School and immediately recalled her name to the delight of the hearer. Bill had many wonderful characteristics; chief among them was as an encourager. Bill was a long-term member and elder at Bethany Christian Reformed Church, Evergreen Commons and is a 40 year member of the Holland Rotary club. Bill enjoyed being involved in many volunteer, civic engagements and service. They included being president of the Bethany Christian Services organization, President of Holland City Board of Public Works, Chair of Holland Christian School Board, member of the Kuyper College Board, Chair of the mayor's city officers' compensation committee, Chair of the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals and Member of the City Planning Commission. Bill's vision, civility,

optimism and clear thinking made him a natural leader everywhere he went. The family is especially grateful to Freedom Village and Holland Hospice House for providing a wonderful home and hospice care to Bill. Special appreciation also belongs to Dr. David Young, M.D. Bill's primary physician and Rev. Jacob Heerema, Bill's pastor, for the professional and spiritual advice Bill highly valued. Bill credits his life achievements to the blessing of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bill demonstrated determination, optimism and hard work mixed with a lot of prayer. His motto, "You Can" is an illustration of the Bible verse, "He took me from the miry clay and set my feet upon the rock." Solo deo Gloria. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, September 28, 2013 at Bethany Christian Reformed Church, 11 East 32nd Street, Holland, MI 49423. The Reverend Jacob Heerema will officiate. Visitation will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday, September 27, 2013 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th Street, Holland. Interment will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to Holland Christian Schools, Calvin College or Hospice of Holland.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Vogelzang, Sr*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"We were a part of the Tuesday Night Dinner Group for many years. As retirements and job responsibilities caused some to move out of the area, we remained and continued the tradition of having dinner with Bill and Marion each week. It was a wonderful experience enjoying Bill's company each Tuesday evening, and we will have those memories forever. Bill had a wonderful outlook coupled with a great sense of humor and could talk to anyone on any subject. His philosophy on life was a model for all to follow. I recall one of his stories about an employee he found stealing from the cash register. When asked why, the employee said he needed more money to put food on the table for his family. Instead of firing the employee, Bill gave him a raise. We are happy that Bill allowed us to share a part of his life, and we will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Vogelzang family that he loved so much. Michael and Ramona Mucciolo"*

Michael and Ramona Mucciolo - September 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LG

“Dear Betty and Bill Vogelzang children,
We mourn with you in the loss now of both of your parents with Bill's passing. They are reunited in the legacy of the heroes of faith. Their lives and those of your family have had lasting impact on ours. We are immeasurably enriched for having been blessed by the encounter. Our thoughts, prayers, and blessings remain with you as you gather to grieve as well as to celebrate a life magnanimously and magnificently lived.”

Larry and Barbara Van Genderen - September 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“Your loss - his gain. May the lord of life restore you all in this season of loss as you contemplate his gain.”

Andy De Jong - September 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JO

“We cherish our memories of time well spent with your father and family, and we extend our heartfelt sympathies for your loss.”

Joel - September 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TV

“*To my dear cousins,
We grieve with you in the passing of your father as we say goodbye to a "good and faithful" servant. Your fathers passing ends our parents generation. The torch now passes to us to continue their legacy of living God filled lives through our daily actions. Your dad and his brothers and sisters held their faith very close. We all have big shoes to fill! I have warm and fond memories of your dad: Always upbeat, always approachable, always encouraging. I know you will miss him terribly. I will pray that God gives each of you a full measure of his grace while you say goodbye and carry on his memory for years to come.*”

Tim Vogelzang - September 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SB

“*Wonderful man, encouraging legacy, and fantastic smile. We look forward to celebrating his life with you on Saturday and are praying for your comfort and peace. Ed and Shar”*

Shar Boerema - September 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“*May the Lord draw you all especially close during this time of mourning, and may He flood you with His comfort, strength and peace. You remain in my prayers. Nancy Van Noord”*

A friend - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“Hi Shirley, Jeff, David and Mary I remember your dad as tall, handsome and friendly! It was obvious how much you all loved him. I'm so glad you were able to enjoy his company for so long. My dad turned 90 this year and I love hearing his stories and wise perspective on life. You are all in our prayers, we love and miss you. Katy”

Katy Bloss - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“Steve and Family. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.”

Ken Wright and Family - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PT

“Susan, so sorry to hear about you Grandpa. You will be in my prayers.”

Pat Tamminga - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“shirley, jeff, david and mary, i remember bill vogelzang very well from his visits to new haven and particularly when he would visit court to see shirley in action. i especially remember his big smile and upbeat attitude. i am sure he left you all with many, many memories. peace willie dow”

A friend - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“I only knew Bill a short time but I loved to hear his stories. He will be missed. Both Mike and myself praying for all of you”

Denise Westra - September 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM