



Gerrit VanKeppel

November 13, 1925 - February 27, 2012

GERRIT VAN KEPPEL

Gerrit Van Keppel age 86, of DeMotte, IN passed away on February 27, 2012 at Porter Hospital, Valparaiso, IN. He was born November 13, 1925 in Harvey, IL to Cornelius and Jane (van de Graf) Van Keppel, both deceased. Gerrit was a 1946 graduate of DeMotte High School. He was owner of Van Keppel Construction for over 25 years. On September 22, 1956, he married Gretchen Eileen Sprague who passed away December 11, 2002. He was a member of The First Christian Reformed Church, DeMotte, IN. Gerrit served in the US Navy in the Underwater Demolition Unit in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He was a Charter member of DeMotte American Legion Post 440, past District Commander and member of Voiture 40 & 8. He was also past board member of Bank of Indiana. Gerrit is survived by his loving children; Cindy A. Van Keppel, Anne L. Van Keppel and G. David (Michelle) Van Keppel all of DeMotte, IN, and Jean M. (Timothy Vick) Van Keppel, of Munster, IN. Grandchildren, Allie, Cindy, Paige, Renee, Sophia, Leah, Elizabeth, Calvin & Natalie. Sisters, Betty Kingma, Wheatfield, IN and Helen Schultz, DeMotte, IN. Brothers, John (Barbara) Van Keppel, DeMotte, IN and Junior (Marilyn) Van Keppel, Valparaiso, IN & his faithful dog, Jack. Preceded in death by his parents, wife, granddaughter Lauren, one brother and three sisters.

Friends may call on Thursday March 1, 2012 from 4:00 - 8:00 PM at Jackson

Funeral Service of DeMotte, IN. Funeral Services will be held on Friday March 2, 2012 at 10:15 AM at The First Christian Reformed Church, DeMotte, IN with Pastor Laryn Zoerhof officiating. Interment will precede the funeral service at Holland Cemetery with full military rites at 9:15 AM. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Joyful Heart Fund, In Memory of Lauren Van Keppel at DMC or Covenant Christian High School, DeMotte, IN

Cemetery Details

Holland Cemetery

Holland Cemetery
DeMotte, IN 46310

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte
200 3rd Street, SW
P.O. Box 681
DeMotte, IN 46310
(219) 987-5300
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Service

MAR 2. 10:15 AM (CT)

First Christian Reformed Church
1633 South Halleck Street
DeMotte, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Gerrit VanKeppel*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ *Dear Jean,*

So sorry to hear about your father's passing. Our prayers, and sympathy go out to you and all the Van Keppel family. May your father find peace, joy and rest up above with our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Sincerely,
Doug and Sylvia Vick*

Doug & Sylvia Vick, Mission Texas - March 08, 2012 at 02:54 PM

GV

“ To all the VanKeppel Family Members,

So very sorry to hear of Gerrit's passing and that we were out-of-state during his services! Thank you for sharing the beautiful video tribute to help us appreciate what this wonderful man was all about. He left his imprint in many areas of life and for so many to follow. He had a deep understanding of how life works and especially what his missions/purposes were, while he was with us. Without a doubt, it was truly "mission accomplished" for this dedicated soldier. May all the very fond memories of him be with all of you forever! And may his kind, loving, and adventurous spirit be a part of all of us!

We will not forget being able to stay at his house a couple years ago during our time of need. Gerrit, we salute you, for all that you have given to so many!

*Peace, Love, and Blessings to All,
Greg and Cathy Vick*

Gregory N. Vick - March 06, 2012 at 12:55 PM

HS

“ Dear Gerrit Van Keppel Family,

Sorry to hear of Gerrit's passing. He was a very SPECIAL man. Our friendship began when Gerrit and his American buddies made their annual goose hunting trip to Abbey, Saskatchewan. It was during these hunting trips that my late husband Jim and Gerrit became the best of friends. We also enjoyed our visits with Gerrit and Gretchen in De Motte. Their hospitality will not be forgotten. I still fondly remember the "Petwater Good Bye". So much fun and many happy memories. Gerrit will be missed.

Our deepest sympathy and love.

Helen Simpson and family

Helen Simpson - March 05, 2012 at 10:11 AM

JK

“ To Cindy, Jean, David and Anne, spouses, and all those beautiful granddaughters: I just want you to know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your Dad was one of a kind and his legacy will last. It overwhelms me to think of what he is now experiencing in Heaven reunited with Aunt Gretchen, Lauren, brother, sisters, in-laws and Grandma and Grandpa and many others. Praise God that we can look forward to the time when we see them again. Love you all.

Joan Kingma Keown - March 02, 2012 at 10:29 AM

KK

“ Gonna miss you Uncle Gerrit! Hope you and Dad are having a "blast" dynamiting fish!
Nephew Karl VK

Karl Van Keppel - March 01, 2012 at 08:08 AM



“ Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of Gerrit VanKeppel.



March 01, 2012 at 08:03 AM



“ Garrit will be truly missed. thanks for taking me under your wing when I returned home. I will treasure the memories we made with the American Legion Post 440. it was an honor
Amy Stultz

amy stultz - February 29, 2012 at 02:36 PM

DR

“ I hold so many fond memories of Gerrit! From the time Jean and I met as first graders and became fast friends, I spent many days and nights throughout the following years at the Van Keppel's, always feeling a part of the family. Gerrit was such a powerful, strong, larger-than-life figure to me. He filled the house with his humor and charismatic demeanor. He was always interested in what Jean and I were up to, and loved to pass on his wisdom regarding current events and the importance of working hard (i.e., selling daffodils, blueberry picking, working at the 'Jean Scene'). He was a good friend to my Grandpa Savich, too, and I loved to hear them in conversation! He leaves us with heavy hearts, but great memories of his lust for life! Our condolences to the family. Love, Darcy & Kevin

Darcy & Kevin Rogers - February 29, 2012 at 10:16 AM

CR

“ I have been thinking of all of the memories we have of Gerrit since we heard the news of his passing. He was an unforgettable man. The hunting trips were always a highlight of the year for us. They turned out to be more visiting than hunting. We met alot of people that he brought with him. He is still famous in our litle town for crib games and of course Boat Races. We still have Boat Races whenever we can and they always work out well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all . Curly, Glen, Scott, Ralph and Emma

Colleen Reynolds - February 29, 2012 at 08:50 AM

Jl

“ My sympathy goes out to the entire Van Keppel family especially Jean, Cindy, Dave, and Ann. Gerrit was a "man's man", and I enjoyed the time I got to know him and the time I worked for him as well as Dave. He seemed to stand 10 ft. tall, and, he had such a strong presence about him. Definitely a fixture and a mainstay of DeMotte and quite part of the nucleus that made DeMotte a successful town. Also; another great WWII Vet is lost, and, there will never be another like him. He was a great businessman, and could turn straw into gold with his "Midas touch". He and my Dad did a lot of business together, and, he did it right or not at all and stood by his name.

Jim McCann

James E. McCann III - February 28, 2012 at 11:50 PM

TB

“ Gerrit & Gretchen were very good friends of my parents and I have many happy memories of days gone by. Gerrit IS a big part of the DeMotte American Legion, every parade, every Memorial Day, he was there. He will be greatly missed by his fellow veterans and our community. May you rest in the loving arms of our Lord & Savior

Terri (Todd) Boezeman

Terri Boezeman - February 28, 2012 at 09:44 PM

MS

“ Gerrit you will be missed. A special person in the history of DeMotte. Our sympathy to Jean, Cindy, Dave and Ann from the Van Soest family.

Mary Ann VAN Soest - February 28, 2012 at 08:40 PM

DK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Jean. Your father was a special man, I loved his smile. All of your memories will warm your heart.
Kevin & Debbi Kiefer



Debbi Kiefer - February 28, 2012 at 08:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Irene Conley - February 28, 2012 at 08:22 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Gerrit's 85th Birthday 11-13-10



Irene Conley - February 28, 2012 at 08:17 PM

R(

“*Roxanne Timmerman (VanOort) lit a candle in memory of Gerrit VanKeppel*



Roxanne Timmerman (VanOort) - February 28, 2012 at 07:45 PM



“*“Every man dies - Not every man really lives.” ~ Wm. Ross Wallace
Gerrit definitely lived! And he always said he wanted to die with his boots on. I believe this qualifies. He is reunited with his beloved wife, his darling granddaughter and hanging out with his buddy, Andy, once again :) The office will feel the loss of his presence & I will miss him. God bless his family! XOXOXOXOXOXOXO*

Irene Conley - February 28, 2012 at 06:54 PM

VH

“*Vicki (Todd) & Ronald Huff lit a candle in memory of Gerrit VanKeppel*



Vicki (Todd) & Ronald Huff - February 28, 2012 at 03:56 PM



Our sympathies go to his family..Gerrit was my Dad's best friend..They were together in the American Legion..He always came to our school and gave talks about his experiences with the Navy in WW II..He will always be remembered in our hearts..

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family..
Vicki (Todd) & Ronald Huff*

Vicki & Ronald Huff - February 28, 2012 at 04:10 PM

DG

“ I will never forget Mr. Van Keppel-- his commanding presence, his huge heart for the family, and how he and his wife Gretchen always made me feel so welcome in their home (through the growing up years to current day) as guests of their daughter, Jean. How glad I am that I was able to visit with him and Jean right after the holidays this year. The calendar he gave me hangs in my classroom today. Special prayers go out to Jean, Cindy, Dave, and Anne, as well as all the grandchildren and other relatives.



Diane Georgakis - February 28, 2012 at 02:17 PM

TL

My sympathy to Mr. Van Keppel's family. I remember when I was a little girl, visiting with Cindy. He and Mrs. Van Keppel always made me feel welcome in their home. I will never forget the year he went to the Rose Bowl, IU was in it, (1968?) and he had gifts for the family and gave me a pin from there. Such a generous man. I was lucky to know him.

Terri Swart Lee - February 28, 2012 at 07:49 PM