

Nancy L. Pickett
1947 - 2024



Fruitport - Ms. Nancy Lee Pickett, age 76, passed away on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 in Muskegon, Michigan. She was born in Muskegon on March 5, 1947 to Merlin and Betty (Myers) Pickett. Nancy graduated from Muskegon Heights High School and had owned and operated U.B. Tool prior to her

retirement. She was an accomplished woodcarver, hummingbirds being her signature, and she would also paint her carvings. Nancy did some auto body repair, enjoyed line dancing, kayaking, and was a member of the Fruitport Eagles. She would often say, "I really loved life, and I really lived life!" She is survived by her children, Shannon (Mary) Wiersma and Tracy Wiersma; grandchildren, Jakob (Autumn) Wiersma, Gabriel Wiersma, and Jordan Wiersma; brothers, Daniel (Sandi) Pickett and Tim Pickett; and sister, Patricia (Terry) Disney. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandson, Ethan Wiersma; grandmothers, Minnie Pickett and Sena Myers; and sister, Sally Wright. A MEMORIAL SERVICE was held Saturday, February 17, 2024 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services. VISITATION was one hour prior to her service. Burial was in Mona View Cemetery. MEMORIALS in memory of Nancy may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Pound Buddies. You may sign her online guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com

Published by Muskegon Chronicle from Feb. 14 to Feb. 15, 2024.

Gloria Steuerwald
1943 - 2024



Gloria Darlene Steuerwald, age 80, passed away after a brief illness on February 6, 2024, at the Poppen Residence surrounded by her family. She was born on July 3, 1943, to Thomas and Alberta (Bolthouse) DeLong in Muskegon. Gloria gave selflessly to her children,

grandchildren, husband, friends, shut-ins and the Fruitport Community. Most importantly, she had an unwavering love for Jesus. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church and was a choir member, Sunday school teacher, and children ministries director. Gloria worked 33 years for Fruitport Schools as a bus driver and served as president of the bus drivers' union. She also assisted as coordinator for kindergarten round-up, led multiple grief share groups and helped senior citizens. Gloria always had a heart doing something for someone and loved spending time with a wonderful group of female friends that called themselves the Silver Chicks at Chick-fil-A, was a brownie leader, volunteered at the Frauenthal Center and Muskegon Pregnancy Services, and enjoyed keeping up on current events. On May 18, 1963, she married Charles H. Steuerwald and he preceded her in death May 13, 2013. SURVIVORS include their four children, Wendy (Chris) Pothoff, Tammy (John, Jr.) Arbogast, Heidi (Don) Shone and Heather (Kirk) Sweet; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Audrey (John) Boraas. She was also preceded in death by brother, Wallace DeLong; sister, Caroline Yerkie; and baby brother, Gilbert DeLong. FUNERAL SERVICES were held for Gloria Monday, February 12, 2024, at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, with Pastor Doug VanderMolen officiating. VISITATION with the family was held Sunday, February 11, 2024, also at The Lee Chapel. BURIAL took place at Oakwood Cemetery. MEMORIALS can be directed to Bethel Baptist Church in Norton Shores. Share memories with the family at www.sytsemafh.com.

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William H. Thompson
1944 - 2024



Fruitport - William Harry Thompson, age 79, passed away on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, in Fruitport, MI. William was born on December 5, 1944, in Muskegon, MI, to the late Harry and Sayra Thompson. He married the former Judith Lynn Pickle on July 16, 1988, and the two of them shared 35 wonderful

years together. Bill graduated from Michigan State University with a master's degree in 1966, then went on to work for Mona Shores Public Schools for 27 years as a teacher of math, chemistry, and physics, and also as a driver education instructor. Following that he worked as an adjunct mathematics instructor for both Muskegon Community College and Baker College for over 25 years. He enjoyed serving his community and was on the Norton Shores City Council from 1970-1974. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Judy Thompson; his two stepdaughters, Tish (Alan) Hoffman and Belinda (Frank) Perez; and multiple grandchildren and other family members. A CELEBRATION OF LIFE was held for William on Monday, April 22, at the Darley Village Cafe. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made out to The Noah Project. Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services.

Published by Muskegon Chronicle from Mar. 20 to Mar. 24, 2024.

Valarie Fortenbacher
1938 - 2024



Roosevelt Park - Valarie "Val" Fortenbacher, age 85, passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 19, 2024, in her Roosevelt Park home. She was born July 9, 1938, in Muskegon, MI, to David and Elizabeth (Campbell) Robarge. She attended Muskegon Heights High School and graduated in 1956. Val married William

"Bill" Fortenbacher, Sr. on January 19, 1957, and he preceded her in death on October 24, 2020.

Val owned the Ye Olde Tavern with Bill for 21 years, where they created many friendships and relationships. She enjoyed playing and watching golf and cross stitching in her free time. She and Bill traveled to Las Vegas quite often and enjoyed visiting various casinos and trying her luck at scratch off Bingo cards. Val loved camping with her granddaughter Kerra up at Silver Creek RV Resort in Mears, MI for 12 years and created many fond memories with family and friends. During the winter months, Val and Bill could be found enjoying the warmer weather on Anna Maria Island. She also held a special place for her granddogs Wilson and Oberon and going to see her grandkittens Oreo and Pumpkin. Most importantly, Val's pride and joy were her two special grandchildren, Derek and Kerra, and the many memories they created together will forever live on. One of Val's greatest joys was born July 19, 2023, Max William Anderson, her first great grandchild.

Val will be dearly missed by her children, Bill Fortenbacher Jr. and Carol (David) Anderson; grandchildren, Derek (Jenna) Anderson and Kerra (Derek) Bush; great grandson, Max William; sister, Nancy Franczek; brother, David (Susan) Robarge; and very special friend, Carolyn Minott. Along with her husband Bill, she was preceded in death by her parents.

A private GRAVESIDE SERVICE will be held. MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS in honor of Val may be directed to The Muscular Dystrophy Association. Arrangements entrusted to The Lee Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services. To share special memories with the family, please visit www.sytsemafh.com.

Published by Muskegon Chronicle from Feb. 21 to Feb. 25, 2024.

Catherine Elizabeth Hoogewind
1924 - 2024



Muskegon - Catherine Elizabeth Hoogewind, 99, of Muskegon, passed away Monday, November 13, 2023.

Catherine was born March 22, 1924, the daughter of Peter and Dena Bultema. Catherine married Harvey Hoogewind on June 14, 1948. Harvey passed away in 1977 after 29 years of marriage. She worked in food service at Fruitport Schools retiring from there in 2001. She attended the former Olivet Reformed Church. Catherine enjoyed sports but the most important to her was always her family. She was an active loving, caring woman who will be deeply missed.

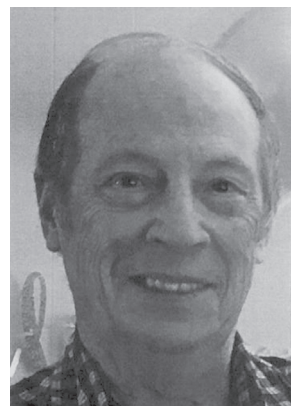
Catherine is survived by: her children, Gary (Lonna) Hoogewind, and Ron (Brenda) Hoogewind; grandchildren, Jonathan (Emily), Adam, Samantha (Mike Forest), Elizabeth (Drew), and Ronald (Ellie); and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her husband, daughter, Barbara Hoogewind; brother, John; and sister, Ruth.

Cremation will take place and no public services are being planned at this time.

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Robert D. "Bob" Stefanich
1945 - 2024



Fruitport - Robert D. "Bob" Stefanich, age 78, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away Tuesday, February 13, 2024. He was born April 30, 1945, in Muskegon to Frank and Dorothy (Lewis) Stefanich. Bob was a graduate of Grand Haven High School and earned

his associate degree from Muskegon Business College. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and served his country during Vietnam from 1962-1966. On February 5, 1966, he married the love of his life the former Marian B. Kotecki at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Muskegon. Bob worked for several companies over the years as a Systems Analyst (Computer Programmer) including GTE, Shaw Walker/Knoll and Howmet prior to his retirement. He was a long-term member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church prior to its closing. He was an avid golfer and also enjoyed bowling, hunting and watching sports on TV. Most of all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren. Bob was a loving, good, kind man, with a great sense of humor. He was loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed. SURVIVORS include his loving wife of 58 years, Marian; four children: Shawn (Stephanie) Stefanich of Fruitport, Kim (Jeff) Zimmerman of West Olive, Dawn (Chris) Lieffers of Fruitport, and Matt Stefanich of Fruitport; seven grandchildren: Derick, Jacob, Connor, Tyson, Jada, Mariska, and Calder; one great-granddaughter, Autumn; two brothers: John (Jean) Stefanich of South Dakota and LeRoy (Jane) Stefanich of Gould City, MI; sister, Linda (Rod) Luce of Reed City, MI; in-laws: Roberta Lewis, Shirley (Stan) Bray, Don (Teresa) Kotecki, Carol (Tony) Frucci, and Paul Kotecki; and many nieces and nephews. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers: Raymond "Bud" Stefanich and Lee Lewis; and sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Craig. THE FUNERAL MASS was held Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Steven W. Geerling presiding. VISITATION with the family was on Monday, February 19, 2024 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, with the Rosary prayed beforehand. There was also visitation at the church prior to the mass. Burial took place in St. Mary's Cemetery. MEMORIALS to the Alzheimer's Association or the Corewell Health Hospice will be appreciated. Share memories with the family at their online Guest Book at www.sytsemafh.com

Published by Muskegon Chronicle from Feb. 15 to Feb. 18, 2024.