



Donald "Don" Constant

NOV 8, 1926 - OCT 4, 2013



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Donald "Don" Constant

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Donald "Don" Raymond Constant, age 86, of Grand Haven, Michigan, passed away at Heartwood Lodge on Friday, October 4, 2013. He was born in Grand Haven on November 8, 1926 to Cornelius "Casey" and Anna (Korf) Constant. He married the former Barbara Steeby on October 15, 1947 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Don served his country in the United States Army during the World War II Era. He earned his Master's Degree in History and Administration from Western Michigan University. While in college, he played on the tennis team and was co-captain his senior year. He was an avid tennis player from 4 years of age until he was 80, playing with the same group every week during his retirement years. Don was a teacher and coach for Grand Haven Area Public Schools for many years.

Don was a member of Second Reformed Church where he served as deacon, elder, and Sunday School teacher. He also sang in the church choir. He was also a member of the Grand Haven Historical Society. Don had many interests, including all sports, puzzles, music, birds, yard work, collecting antiques, tennis rackets and model air planes, candy, and spending time at the lake cottage. Most of all, he really loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Don is survived by his wife of 65 years, Barbara; daughters: Donna (Denny) Van Hall of Grand Haven, and Jane (Mark) Hospers of Winter Park, Florida; sons: Jon (Mary) Constant of Traverse City, Gary (Gail) Constant of Spring Lake, and Bob (Traci) Constant of Largo, Florida; grandchildren: Jody, Kacie, Chad, Staci, Brad, Corey, Amy, Jenny, Matt, Carli, Casey, Camryn, Caydee and Colton; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jack Constant. His family would like to thank Heartwood Lodge for their loving care.

A Funeral Service will be held at Second Reformed Church on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 11:00 AM with Rev. Mike Van Kampen officiating. Visitation will be held at VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home in Grand Haven on Friday, October 11, from 4-7 PM. Interment will be in Lake Forest Cemetery. Memorial contributions in memory of Don to Second Reformed



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Church or the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation are appreciated. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.vbkfuneralhome.com.

The family is being served by VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home of Grand Haven.



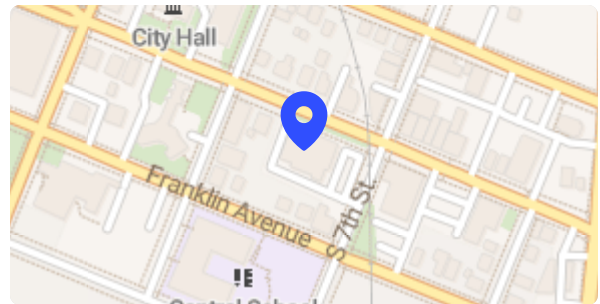
Events

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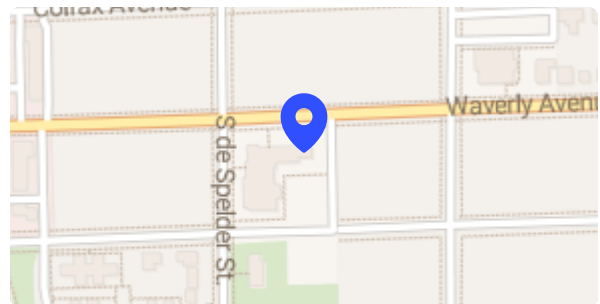
Visitation

- Friday**, October 11, 2013
- 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET
- VBK Grand Haven Chapel**
620 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven MI



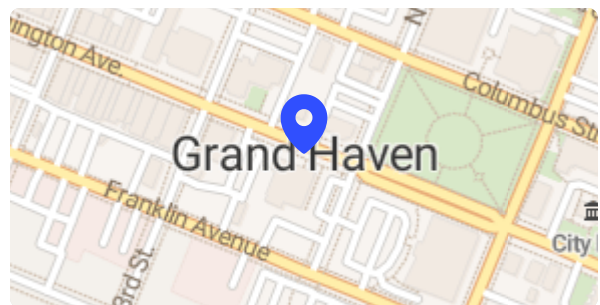
Service

- Saturday**, October 12, 2013
- 11:00 AM ET
- Second Reformed Church**
1000 Waverly Avenue, Grand Haven MI



Cemetery Details

- Lake Forest Cemetery**
Grand Haven MI 49417





Tribute Wall

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MS

Mike Secory lit a candle in honor of Donald.

My deepest sympathies to the Constant family.I love you Coach.

December 14 at 11:14 AM



BB

Bruce Boonstra posted:

Don, Hal and Boonie are now all ice-fishing in heaven. Three great educators that gave a lot to the students of Grand Haven and help make Grand Haven High School a great place to learn.

October 14 at 8:05 AM

GW

Grace Ann Weiler posted:

From the fall of 1953 to the spring of 1957 I was in Mr. Constant's homeroom every morning for a half hour. Other teachers let their groups talk and tell jokes. Mr. Constant made us study. Imagine that! He was a fine teacher, great coach, and shall be remembered well by many people. I shall always remember his great smile! My sympathy and best wishes to his family.Sincerely,Grace Ann (nee Smith) Weiler

October 13 at 11:20 AM

MP

Mike Prefontaine posted:

My sympathies to Jane and Mark, Bob and all of the Constant family. I too had your Dad in History as well as cheering the football team on when he was Coach. I have fond memories of his dry humor. Thinking of you all.Mike PreFontaine

October 11 at 12:42 PM

DS

Donn Ban Schelven posted:

Donn Van Schelven. Coach Constant was my football coach,basketball coach and timer at my track meets meets when I was in high school. I was very impressed with his will to win his will to win. His sense of humor was tremendous as well. I always tease him about his smoking, he said if you can beat me in the 50 yd dash I'll quit smoking. 15 tries over the years and he never had to give up on my account .

October 11 at 9:53 AM



Tribute Wall

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AS

Al Schaffer posted:

Donna, family, and friends of Don, please know that I send my sympathies to you with love and prayers. Lillian and I appreciated the unfailing support and friendship of Don and his family during the 18 years I taught and coached with Don at GHHS. Coach Don made teaching "in the basement" A.O.K. because of the interaction with him on an hourly basis. I looked forward to my annual visits to Grand Haven to reminisce with Don, Hal, and other special friends. The words "well done, my good and faithful servant" are truly fitting for Coach Don. Coach Al Schaffer

October 10 at 11:39 AM

SS

Steve Schember posted:

Coach Constant was my coach my Jr year at GHHS with Gene Rothi and then my Sr year with Hal Henrickson. (I wonder if it is just coincidence both coaches Constant and Henrickson passed away so close to each other) We sometimes clashed when I played for him and it took a few years for me to realize that he was totally right and I was totally wrong. Nonetheless the fundamentals I learned from him were instrumental in my later football successes at the Coast Guard Academy. Jon if you read this I hope you'll remember to two us throwing and catching down on the GHHS practice field when you were the QB at Hope and I was graduated and at UM law. I remember sending Coach Constant a couple pass plays designed by my Coach Otto Graham at the Coast Guard Academy. Coach asked me to demonstrate them to the team at practice one day. He told me he had incorporated the plays into his playbook and that he used them often. I wrote Coach a note when he was very deservedly inducted into the Michigan Coaches Hall of Fame. But he did me one better and called me when I was elected to the Coast Guard Academy Hall of Fame. We talked for at least an hour. I was again reminded of how many lives he had touched both as coach and teacher. He fondly told me about the recent reunion he had attended of the unbeaten 53? GHHS team and how proud he was of the successes of so many members of that team. He spoke of the many great players he had coached, but always about their later successes in life as opposed to on the football field. I could go on and on,,,goodbye and thanks Coach.

October 9 at 7:15 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Constant family.



October 9 at 7:08 AM



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JH

Jon Hall And Linda Hall posted:

So sorry to hear of Don's passing. Always enjoyed Don's sense of humor and dedication to teaching and coaching. We had lots of chats over sports and current events when we taught together. We enjoyed knowing Barb and all of the family. Seems impossible to lose Don, Hal, and Ted in a week. Our prayers for peace and love to the family. God Bless! Jon and Linda Hall

October 9 at 7:01 AM

TC

Tammy L. Kanouse Cuoghi posted:

So sorry to hear of Mr. Constants passing. I had him for Michigan History my Sophmore year at GHHS and he was my Dad's Football coach years before that. I really learned a great deal from him about my home state that I still use to this date because I live in Virginia and my 12 year loves learning new things each year. My favorite memory of Mr. Constant was the year the marching band was doing pictures during his class period and he told me that I had to come back during my study hall period to take a test he was giving us that day. It was the only test I ever past the first time I took a test in his class and he always teased me after that that maybe I should come during study hall to take my tests so there were no distractions for me. I looked up to him because even though he was a teacher he let me have a voice in his classroom and I really appreciated that very much. Your Entire family are in my family during this sad time. May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you as you say your good-byes this week. Tammy L. Kanouse Cuoghi Class of 1982

October 8 at 5:51 PM

JF

Jeffrey L. Frazier posted:

My football coach in '72 and '73 and my Michigan History teacher in '73, coach Constant taught far more than football & history. He taught valuable life lessons that I use to this day. His honesty, integrity, work ethic, wisdom and pithy humor combined to make him a one of a kind mentor, and yes, a friend. You will be greatly missed coach, not only by your friends and family, but by the thousands of young boys that you helped turn into men. Thank you for being who you were. Even a place like heaven will be improved by your presence. Rest in peace coach, you will never be forgotten. Jeff Frazier, GHHS, Class of '74.

October 8 at 3:43 PM



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TK

Tom Kieft posted:

Webster defines coach as, a person that instructs and trains (a person) for an examination...COACH Constant was by all mean a "COACH". He prepared me and trained me in class as well on the football field. I would not be who and what I am today except for his "teaching and coaching" My sympathy to those he left behind. He truly was a GREAT COACH and TEACHER. Tom Kieft

October 8 at 3:13 PM

MZ

Mari Aker (Zuverink) posted:

Love and prayers for everyone in the family during this time of loss! My fun memories from Mr. Constant teaching me to drive were him teasing me and telling me I don't have to lean into the corners like I do when riding my bike and then him telling me to step on it Zuvey! I was scared to go the speed limit! Mari Aker (Zuverink)

October 8 at 11:48 AM



Anonymous sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Constant family.



October 8 at 8:51 AM

DB

David & Ruth Bush posted:

'Dave and I send our sympathy, thoughts and love to the family. We have many great memories including going out to the Triple C to see the Sons of the Pioneer. Dave & Ruth Bush Tucson, Arizona

October 8 at 8:05 AM

ML

Mary Lubbers posted:

Many fond memories come to mind when I think of Mr. Constant, including him being my driver's education instructor! My heart goes out to the entire family. Mary (Coveart) Lubbers

October 8 at 7:36 AM



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JA

Jan Woonacott Akey posted:

I am so very sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Constant, he truly was one of my favorite teachers in high school. I love history to this day and thank him for that. He was a remarkable teacher, and it makes me sad to see him go. My thoughts and prayers are with his family right now. I would like to think he is at that big chalk board in the sky teaching history again. God Bless!!!

October 8 at 6:21 AM

JT

James Timberlake posted:

Jon, Gary and families - Great memories of your dad, the teams, and his time at GHHS. A legend. Best wishes to all of you, James Timberlake Philadelphia

October 8 at 6:14 AM

WE

Wanda Essebaggers posted:

Mr. Constant I had in high school teacher ! A very nice guy !! My thoughts and prayers out to the whole family !! I know how hard it is to lose a loving Father, I'm so sorry for your loss !! :)

October 8 at 6:10 AM

SD

Steven Dornbos posted:

To Jon & Family My condolences to you and Family. What great memories of the Coach & Teacher. The Driver Ed stories: Learning the stick, we waited through 4 traffic light changes at 3rd & Washington as an irritated driver behind keep honking his horn, the more he honked, the harder Coach pressed down on his dual brake and cracking just that small smile. Go Bucs & GHHS Steven Dornbos Traverse City & Palmetto Florida

October 8 at 3:36 AM

LW

Larry Winslow posted:

Coach Constant was my 10th grade Michigan History Teacher. He had observed my playing line on Little Buc football team and said he was looking forward to coaching me as the varsity line coach next fall. Coach also stated at the beginning of our Michigan History Class "No matter if you played or did not play football, no one in his classroom was going to just take up space, or soak up heat & light." Coach Constant was tough but always fair to all students. Larry Winslow Grayling, MI

October 7 at 4:50 PM



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MS

Mike And Peg Secory posted:

Mr. Constant was my varsity football coach and one of my teachers while I was a student at Grand Haven High School in the late 1950's. He was one of my very favorites. Coach was a good/tough coach but at the same time he was a lot of fun. I will always remember one of his favorite quotes to his linemen during practice: "Run hard, quit walking around like you're tip-toeing through the tulips." Not only would he say that, but he would also demonstrate the tip-toeing. Very funny at the time. Coach Constant is tip-toeing through the heavenly tulips now. My deepest sympathies to the whole Constant family at this most difficult time. Coach, thanks for all you did for me and so many others. I will never forget you.

October 7 at 3:26 PM

MG

Marcia Glueck posted:

Dear Constant family: You have my deepest sympathy in the passing of Don, and I really enjoyed his U.S. history class. Marcia Glueck

October 7 at 1:03 PM

BB

Bruce Bishop posted:

Jane, Mark & Constant Family; My sympathies on the passing of your father Don. He led a full and complete life... may wonderful memories of his life and how it contributed to your lives comfort you all now and in the future. Bruce Bishop Endicott, NY

October 7 at 1:02 PM

RB

Rose Beery posted:

Mr. Constant was my driver's ed teacher. The man had patience like a saint! He was a great teacher also. I truly enjoyed his Michigan History class. He will be missed. Prayers to his family for such a great loss.

October 7 at 10:06 AM

LS

Leon Stille posted:

Coach Constant was one of the best guys I knew. Always supportive, always friendly, a man of his word. A tremendous role model for athletes, students, educators and the community. We'll miss him. He was part of that old guard so many of us grew up knowing in Grand Haven High School.

October 7 at 10:01 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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