



Mr. Elmer J. Walcott

AUG 29, 1925 - FEB 19, 2014



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 4
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Mr. Elmer J. Walcott

AUG 29, 1925 - FEB 19, 2014

Mr. Elmer J. Walcott, age 88, went home to be with Jesus early Wednesday morning, February 19, 2014. He was born August 29, 1925 in Zeeland to Richard and Johanna (Buter) Walcott, and moved to the Muskegon area in 1950. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, June E Heerdt; 4 children, Barbara (Ken) Schemper of Grandville, Dan (Kathy) Walcott of Holland, Tom (Jaci) Walcott of Miami, FL, John (Katch) Walcott of Grand Rapids; 1 daughter-in-law, Deb (Steve) Howe of Spring Lake; 18 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Rick 29 years ago; 4 brothers and 5 sisters. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during WWII. Elmer was very active in the Muskegon community. He was a teacher, coach, and administrator at Western Michigan Christian High School for over 35 years. He was a member of the Muskegon Sport's Hall of Fame, and the Michigan Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. He also served the city of Muskegon as a commissioner and as mayor. Elmer was a faithful member of Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church. The Celebration of Mr. Walcott's life will be held at 12 noon Saturday, February 22, 2014, at the Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church, 695 Allen Ave., VISITATION at The Sytsema Chapel of Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc., 737 Apple Ave., Muskegon, 49442, (231) 726-5210, will be from 2-4 & 6-8 PM Friday, and 1 hour prior to the service at church. Burial will take place at Zeeland Cemetery. You may visit the family's online guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com Contributions in memory of Mr. Walcott may be made to Western Michigan Christian High School or Christian Reformed World Missions.



Events

Mr. Elmer J. Walcott

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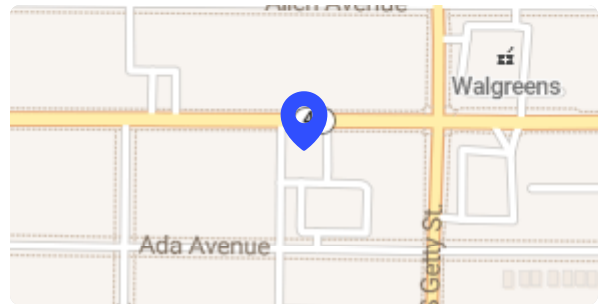
Visitation

Friday, February 21, 2014

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Sytsema Chapel

737 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon MI 49442



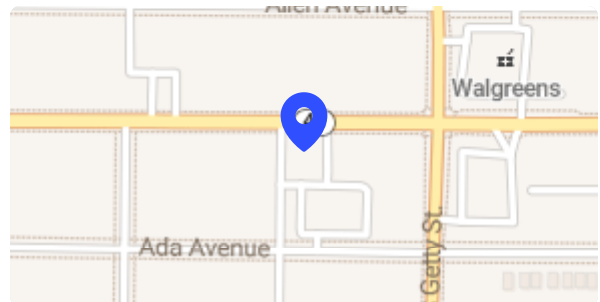
Visitation

Friday, February 21, 2014

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Sytsema Chapel

737 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon MI 49442



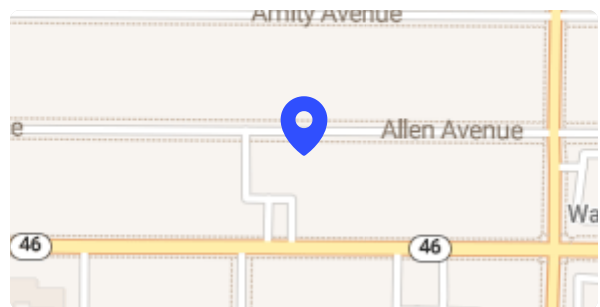
Visitation

Saturday, February 22, 2014

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church

695 Allen Ave., Muskegon MI 49442



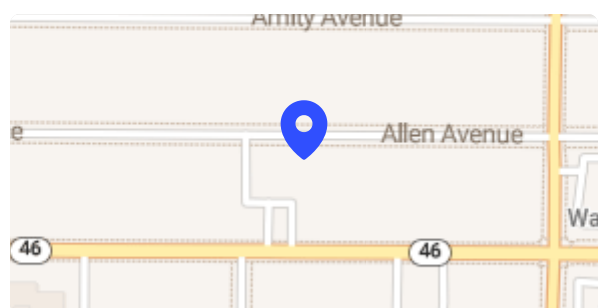
Celebration of Life

Saturday, February 22, 2014

12:00 PM ET

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church

695 Allen Ave., Muskegon MI 49442





Tribute Wall

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CW

Chuck Witteveen posted:

Dear June and family; 2/27/14 So sorry to hear just today of Elmer's passing on the 19th. We had not heard and missed the obit in the Press. We remember lovingly the years he "principled" our son & daughter at good ol' WMCHS! Also, the great associations with you, June, and some of the family in later years at school and church functions. Even today, our daughter Carla told us that John is our grandson's "best" prof at Calvin! And I will never forget those hard fought soccer wins with Dan's HC teams! Our prayers go with you as you adjust to life without him, but I'm positive the many memories you have of Elmer as husband, father and grandfather will lighten the days and years ahead! May all God's Blessings be with you all! Chuck & Carol Witteveen Fremont, MI (and Grand Rapids since 5/8/10)

February 27 at 9:05 AM

JM

John And Deb Meppelink lit a candle in honor of Elmer.

All our sympathies to Tom and Jaci and the Walcott family in their loss. Just heard the news today of Elmer's passing. I just heard his name yesterday (Feb. 21) at the courthouse when talking to an attorney whose sister graduated from Muskegon Christian High years ago. When I was a high school student I was scared to death of him catching me cutting class to play golf at Chase Hammond. After graduation I found him to be a great guy. Thoughts and prayers. - John and Deb Meppelink, Wyoming Michigan.



February 22 at 10:44 AM

DB

Debi Vanderlaan Berg posted:

Dear Walcott family, I will always remember Mr. Walcott as the tough guy with the tender heart, the gruff guy with the great laugh. I respected and admired him as an educator who loved his students and his school, and truly loved his Lord and his family. I am lifting you all up in my prayers that God wraps you in His loving arms and fills you with peace. My heart aches for you all while I rejoice that now Mr. Walcott is basking in the glory of the God he dearly loves, reunited with his precious son Rick. Sending you love from Montana and praying for you. Debi Vanderlaan Berg Class of '73

February 21 at 6:44 PM



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RS

Russ Sterenberg posted:

Mr. Walcott was a great educator and coach. In 1958 our school won the state championship in both basketball and tennis, which was quite exceptional. Mr. Walcott coached both teams. We want to extend our sympathies to Mrs. Walcott and the rest of the family. Sincerely - Russ and Sue Sterenberg

February 21 at 10:46 AM

MG

Marilyn Glover posted:

To the Walcott family I am so sorry for the loss of your husband and father, I used to babysit for the kids during basketball season I have lots of memories about those times. I met one of boys last summer when he was at your cottage on Crystal Lake , You will be in my prayers, may the Lord wrap his arms around each one of you and give you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Marilyn Glover

February 21 at 9:05 AM

MH

Mary Hulst posted:

So grateful for the legacy of faith that has been passed down from generation to generation. Praying for the truth of our Lord's triumph over death to bring all of us comfort and hope. With prayers from your Calvin College family, Dr. Mary Hulst

February 21 at 4:46 AM

HD

Henry W. Deleeuw posted:

Will always think of him as Mr. Walcott. Heard of him long before I met him. Loved playing basketball for him although we never won quite enough. He was a legend and had a great positive influence on me. My highschool days passed way too fast and now I miss him. He was a rock solid believer in Jesus Christ and I loved that. Maybe I can play for him again . . . ?Henry W. DeLeeuw, M.D. class of 1975

February 21 at 4:27 AM



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RB

Rev. Dan Brink posted:

Dear Walcott Family, We are remembering you in our prayers today, with love. We're so very thankful to God for our years at WMCHS and for the Walcott family. I could write a Readers Digest article about Mr. Walcott as one of "My Most Unforgettable Characters." A remarkable man who made a big impact on my life. We give thanks with you today for his life, and we pray that God by his Spirit will give you comfort, gratitude, and the assurance of life everlasting. We appreciate your family - a God-first dedicated to serving Christ, his church, and the kingdom of God. May you be blessed in Him today! Rev. Dan & Cheri (Paxton) Brink WMCHS 1970 & 1971 Sr. Pastor at Rosewood CRC in Bellflower CA since 1986

February 20 at 9:24 PM

RS

Rog Sikkenga posted:

Dear June and Walcott family, Please accept the sympathies of my wife, Joan, and me on "Mr Walcott's" passing. He was more than a coach, principal, and teacher. He was a mold of young men's character, one who always demanded more than (at least that's what I thought at the time) I could deliver, teaching me that nothing difficult in life comes easy and yet was sensitive enough to understand the needs of his students and athletes and provide encouragement. I know he was also a man of strong faith and convictions. That was evident in his teaching, his testimony, the way he ran the school, and the way he coached. I had the blessing a few years ago, with a few of his other basketball team members, ("WMCHS class of 61"), of personally thanking him for the tremendous influence that he had on my life. He was a mentor, a coach, and later in life a colleague and friend. I was blessed to serve alongside him as a Christian high school principal of a former rival high school (Kalamazoo Christian) for a few years before he retired. It was quite awkward for me to address him as a colleague, but he made that transition easy and joyful. I treasure his life, and the influence he had on me, and so many others. May God bless you all as you mourn his loss, yet take comfort in the joy of his salvation. Joan and I are sorry that we will miss the visitation and funeral as we are currently in Florida. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Roger and Joan Sikkenga

February 20 at 5:30 AM

TH

Ted Hewitt posted:

My deepest sympathy to the Walcott family. I knew Elmer as the principle when I was in high school. He was stern but always kind.

February 20 at 2:29 AM



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Joyce A. Workman posted:

Dear Walcott Family, My sympathies and prayers to your family during this difficult time. I first met you Elmer when I was working for WMCHS. He was always so kind to me, always had a hug and a smile for me. And I remember he loved real cream in his coffee (not that powdered stuff!). I counted him among my friends, and I was blessed to work with him when we had the groundbreaking ceremony for the new gyms. Please know I am unable to be with you for the visitation or service (I am currently working in MN - and won't be back in time.).....but I will be holding each of you closely in my thoughts, hearts and prayers. See you in Heaven my friend! Joyce A. Workman

February 19 at 9:10 PM



James A. De Jong February 21 at 3:53 AM

Dear Members of the Walcott Family, My genuine condolences to all of you in the loss of this "giant in the house of Israel." May our heavenly Father console and strengthen in these days of mourning infused with the joy of knowing that Elmer has passed from the glory of an exemplary Christian life among us to the greater glory in the presence of our Lord. I came to know and deeply appreciate him when he served with distinction on the Calvin College and Seminary board and its executive committee. When he spoke, we all listened with thanks. James A. De Jong



Memories only last if you share them

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



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