



Gerald Bottema

JAN 17, 1928 - AUG 27, 2019



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Gerald Bottema, age 91, of Spring Lake passed away Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at Prestige Manor in Florida. He was born January 17, 1928, in Grand Haven to Gerritt and Johanna (Balgooyen) Bottema, and married June Connor on June 30, 1950, in Spring Lake. She preceded him in death on August 24, 2014.

Gerald graduated from Grand Haven High School in 1945. He attended Hope College and received his master's degree in education and administration from Western Michigan University.

Gerald started his educational career as a teacher principal at the Harrisburg School in Ottawa County, the Jeffers School in Spring Lake, and the Nunica School in Nunica. He later taught biology and general science in the Spring Lake High School. Gerald then went on to the Kenowa Hills School system in Grand Rapids as principal of Fairview Elementary School and after a few years there, he was transferred to Kenowa Hills Junior High as principal, until his retirement in 1985.

During his time as an educator he served as president of the Crockery Teachers' Club, the United Rural Teachers' Club, and the Ottawa District MEA.

He was a former member of Christ Community Church in Spring Lake, where he served as a Sunday School teacher, a mid week teacher, deacon, and elder.

Gerald enjoyed camping and fishing with his wife, June. Together they visited 49 out of the 50 states. His hobbies were working on cars and doing home maintenance projects involving building, wiring, plumbing, and heating. He also enjoyed deer and bear hunting along with shooting skeet, trap, and sporting clays with his son, Gary. Gerald bought his first car, a model T Ford, when he was ten years old. From there on he bought many cars that didn't run, fixed them up and resold them. He made a couple of them into farm tractors called "doodlebugs" at that time. Gerald held a valid Charter Captain's license, for over 12 years thinking he would do charter fishing. Even though his boat was certified by the DNR and Coast Guard, he ended



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up fishing with friends for enjoyment instead. He remodeled and winterized their cottage at Stickney Ridge by Lake Michigan, where the family spent five months of the year. Gerald held the position of president of the Central Highland Park Association for many years, during which many large projects were carried out. He held a high interest in going to garage sales and flea markets, until he didn't need anything more.

He is lovingly remembered by his son, Gary (Nimah) Bottema; three grandchildren: Matthew (Amy) Bottema, Angela (Mike) Bommersheim, and Allan Fuelling; six great-grandchildren: James Bottema, Olivia Bottema, Jonathan Bommersheim, Joshua Bommersheim, Emily Fuelling, and Ian Fuelling. He was preceded in death by his brother, Marvin Bottema.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, September 5, 2019, at Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services The VanZantwick Chapel in Grand Haven with Rev. Dan Turner officiating. Friends may meet the family one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Services entrusted to The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, Mi 49417. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.sytsemafh.com.



Events

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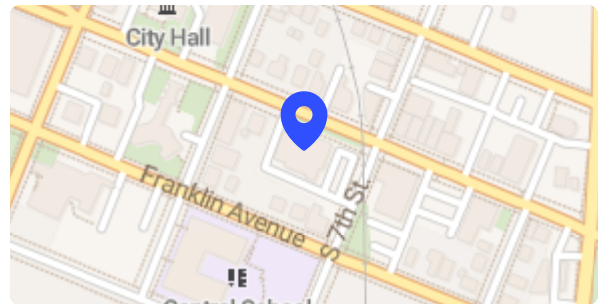
Visitation

Thursday, September 5, 2019

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



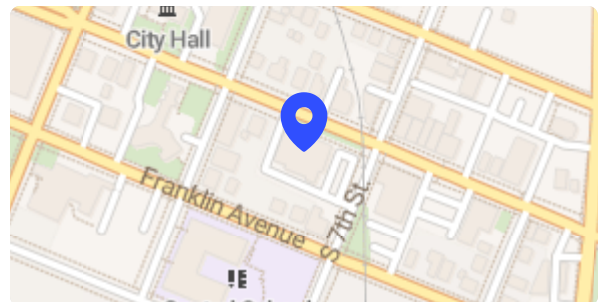
Memorial Service

Thursday, September 5, 2019

11:00 AM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel

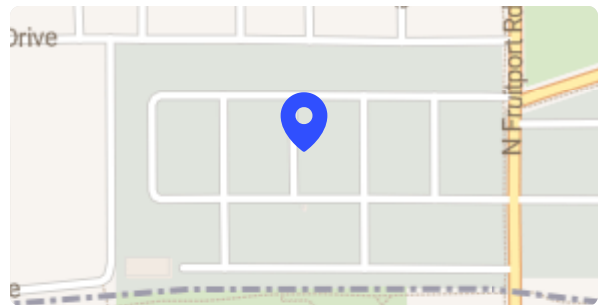
620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



Cemetery Details

Spring Lake Cemetery

17181 North Fruitport Road, Spring Lake MI 49456





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Emma Hinchman posted:

Gerald and June Bottema were rays of sunshine every day one met them. Many memories of happy times between our families. My mother Eleanor, her sisters Betty and Carolyn - all had fond memories of Stickney Ridge summer days, growing up there and the kind and handsome Gerald Bottema.

September 6 at 9:49 AM



Love, Gene & Mary Connor sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Bottema family.



August 31 at 3:35 PM



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



August 31 at 8:31 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Bottema family.



August 31 at 6:59 AM



Judy Abbott posted:

What wonderful memories I have of my time at Fairview as one of Mr. Bottema's teachers. He was such a kind, fun loving gentleman. His support, suggestions and genuine love of people made it a pleasure to go to work every day. Blessings to his soul.

August 30 at 5:01 PM



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Vivian Post posted:

I was in 7th grade at the new Nunica School when we moved into that building and Mr. Bottema was our principal. The next year he was my teacher as I was in 8th grade. He was a great teacher and a fine person. I'm sorry his family has lost such a great father, grandfather, and great grandfather. But I'm sure God will give you comfort as you look to Him, knowing your loved one is with Jesus.

August 30 at 3:27 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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