



# **Dr. William Howard Ball DVM**

AUG 1, 1934 - FEB 29, 2020



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## **Dr. William Howard Ball DVM**

AUG 1, 1934 - FEB 29, 2020

**D**r. William Howard Ball, DVM passed away peacefully on Feb.29, 2020 at Robbinswood Assisted Living Community in Grand Haven.

He was born Aug. 1, 1934 to William and Marie (Howard) Ball of Coopersville. He graduated from Michigan State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1958. That same year he married Jane Carolyn Simms.

With his father, Dr. William Ball Sr, he operated a family veterinary practice in Marne for 40 years. They were also veterinarians for John Ball Zoo for 20 years.

Bill had a lifelong passion for music and playing tuba. He loved entertaining people with several area bands, including the River Rogues and Docs of Dixieland.

He was a volunteer firefighter and paramedic with the Wright Tallmadge Fire Department. He was a Master Mason and a member of the Spring Lake Presbyterian Church.

Bill enjoyed travel throughout the US, card games, fishing, hunting and writing short stories. But his greatest joys were spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by his daughters: Marie Anderson, Brenda (Daniel) Rose, Nancy (Charlie) Nienhouse; his sister in law, Susan Simms; three grandsons; six great grandchildren; nephews, a niece and many cousins. He is also survived by his very special friend, Dorothy Wales of Grand Haven. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 53 years, Jane; his sister and brother in law, Effie Lou and Eldon Barclay; son in law, Philip Anderson and niece, Sally Barclay.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM Friday, March 6, 2020 at The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417 with Rev. Daniel Anderson officiating. Visitation will be 5-7 PM Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the funeral home. Interment will take place in Coopersville Cemetery. Memorial contributions in memory of



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Bill maybe given to Johns Hopkins Myositis Center ([www.hopkinsmyositis.org](http://www.hopkinsmyositis.org)). Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.sytsemaf.com](http://www.sytsemaf.com).



## Events

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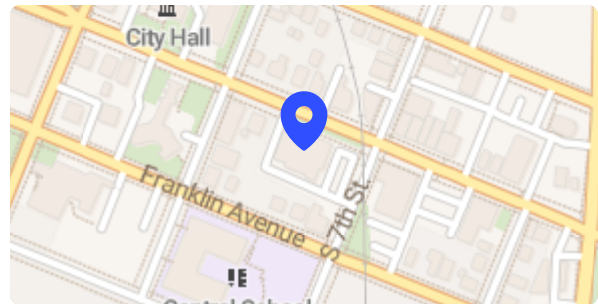
### Visitation

 **Thursday**, March 5, 2020


 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel**

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



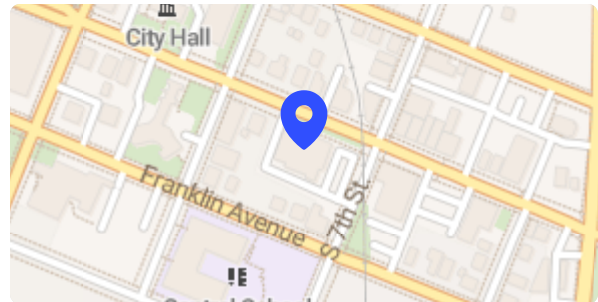
### Memorial Service

 **Friday**, March 6, 2020

 11:00 AM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel**

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417





## Tribute Wall

**Dr. William Howard Ball DVM**

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**Judy Swanson** posted:

To the family of Bill Ball;I have so many very fond memories of Bill. When my Mom moved in to what was then Oak Crest several years ago, Bill was the first resident to welcome her and to encourage her to "just get involved and love the place." They became very good friends and shared many a bowl of ice cream from Mom's well stocked freezer. Bill was just a delight to know - he made everyone feel welcome and special, and always took time to chat and share his stories. Mom has been gone for about 4 years now, but Bill remained in touch after her passing and after his own move to Robbinswood. I still on occasion open one of his books to read his memories. He left a wonderful legacy. My heart is with you, his family, at this time of passage and transition. I am grateful to have known hime. Judy Longcore Swanson

March 5 at 3:22 PM



**Judy Burnside** posted:

Sweet memories that make me smile when I think of how Bill would recite poetry at some of our Bible Study meetings! And teaching me how to play dominoes. On one occasion several years ago, he gave me some wise veterinarian advice when I brought over a little woodpecker that had gotten injured in my backyard. He had such a huge heart for animals, nature and people most of all. Hugs to all of you, and prayers for the coming months.

March 5 at 11:11 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Ball family.



March 4 at 10:54 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Written in the Stars to the Ball family.



March 3 at 2:52 PM



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**Ted Anderson** lit a candle in honor of William.

Bill and I were friends and Masonic Brothers. We gave the Masonic lectures many times together. He was my mentor when it came to learning the Masonic work. I haven't seen him in many years, but will never forget him and the friendship that we shared over the years. Ted Anderson Past Master Lisbon/Crescent Lodge #229



March 3 at 10:56 AM



**Mike Franz** posted:

Doc Ball started us on a journey of owning 4 German shorthairs as they were thesecond best bird dogs, but friendly to children. He was right, of course.Great memories of he and Jane at the clinic/home in Marne.He played a great tuba as well as my father had him in the band at Coopersville HS.Mike and Mari Franz

March 2 at 5:39 AM



**Love, Susan** sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Ball family.



March 1 at 1:09 PM



**Lois Jeanne Larabee** posted:

Nancy and family,So sorry about your Dad. We shared the same Bible Study Group for many years at SLPC with your Mom and Dad. Loved his sense of humor--up to about a few years ago, he was sending me funny stories or jokes he came across from wherever. He was a good man and will be missed.Lois Larabee

March 1 at 11:27 AM



**Susie** posted:

he was our veterinarian for many years and his dad before him both great men. Down to earth no nonsense.

March 1 at 11:01 AM



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SV

**Susan Vance** lit a candle in honor of William.

Larry and I are so very sorry to hear about Bill. We haven't been in contact the last few years, but he was always in my heart. We have so many precious memories of Bill and Jane. We are in Florida and will be unable to attend his funeral. I will keep you all in my prayers.



March 1 at 5:56 AM

JH

**Julie Handlogten** posted:

So many great memories of Bill, Jane, and the family. Sorry we are so far away we can't share hugs but sending extra with Joel. I know you will miss him dearly but he is at rest with Jane. We will all be together again. God Bless you All. Ron & Julie

February 29 at 7:07 PM

AJ

**Arlene Jordan** posted:

So many visits with our various animals and so much compassion from both he and his wife Jane. Sympathies to his family.

February 29 at 2:42 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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