



# Rex G. Vanderlinde

DEC 22, 1961 - AUG 26, 2021



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## **Rex G. Vanderlinde**

DEC 22, 1961 - AUG 26, 2021

**R**ex G. Vanderlinde, age 59, passed away very suddenly on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at Mercy Hospital. He was born December 22, 1961 in Muskegon to William W. and Dolly J. (Fielstra) Vanderlinde and lived most of his life in the area. On August 11, 1989, he married Michele A. “Sheli” Kops in Muskegon. Rex earned his Bachelor of Business degree from Northern Michigan University. He began working at Executive Air Transport right out of high school. In 2000, he bought the company and continued as owner/operator until 2015 when he relaxed, but didn’t retire. Just three years ago, his dream came true and he bought a cabin up north – “The Pere Marquette River House” where he loved spending time with his family and friends. Rex was an enormous supporter of the Muskegon Community. He had a passion for aviation, which led to his love and involvement in Wings of Mercy. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Survivors include his beloved wife of 32 years, Sheli Vanderlinde; his daughter, Jennifer (Ryan Susterich) Vanderlinde; his sister, Carol (Bijoy) Mahanti & family; 3 brothers, Scott Vanderlinde, Jeff (Sheryl) Vanderlinde, Bill (Lanette) Vanderlinde & family; his brother-in-law, Bill (Shelley) Kops; and his close and special nieces and nephews, Holly (Trevor) Mertens, Katie (Jared) Taylor, Evan Kops, and Ashley Kops. He is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews. Rex was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Muriel (Tom) Wisner and Bill Kops. A Memorial Service will be held 3:00 PM Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St, Norton Shores, MI 49444. A Celebration of Life will follow 5-7 PM Wednesday at the Muskegon Country Club, 2801 Lakeshore Drive, Muskegon, MI 49441. Memorial Contributions may be made to Wings of Mercy or The American Heart Association. Sign the online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com)




# Events

**Rex G. Vanderlinde**  
DEC 22, 1961 - AUG 26, 2021

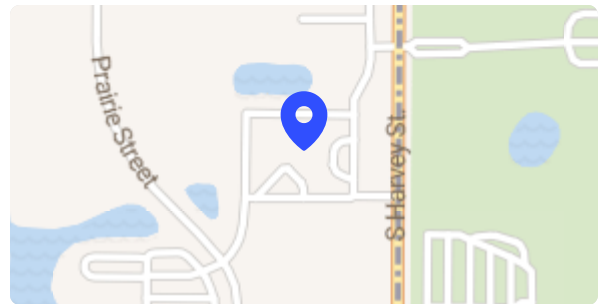
## Memorial Service

 **Wednesday**, September 1, 2021

 3:00 PM ET

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

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



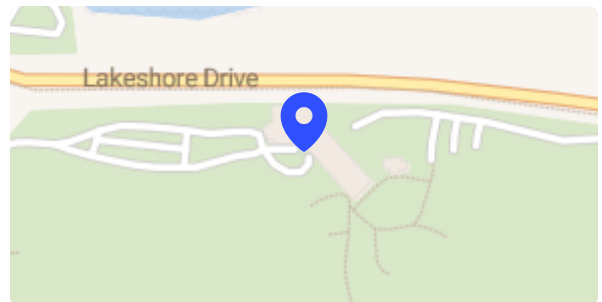
## Celebration of Life

 **Wednesday**, September 1, 2021

 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

 **Muskegon Country Club**

2801 Lakeshore Drive, Muskegon MI





## Tribute Wall

**Rex G. Vanderlinde**

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**Danielle Benson-Fennell** posted:

I am so very sorry to hear of Rex's passing. I enjoyed working with him as part of the Wings of Mercy event every spring and how generous he was to the Mona Shores High School Art Department. I will miss his yearly phone call and passion for the work he did.

September 2 at 10:47 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Vanderlinde family.



September 1 at 7:58 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Vanderlinde family.



August 31 at 5:37 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tenderness to the Vanderlinde family.



August 31 at 11:23 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Vanderlinde family.



August 31 at 10:55 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Vanderlinde family.



August 31 at 9:08 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Rex G. Vanderlinde**

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**Larry And Terri Williamson** posted:

We are so very sorry for your loss.You are in our thoughts and prayers.

August 30 at 6:24 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Vanderlinde family.



August 30 at 1:40 PM



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



August 30 at 12:31 PM



**Laura@Phase2electricinc.Com** posted:

Our hearts go out to you and your family Sheli. We are so shocked to hear of Rex's sudden passing, and pray for your heavy hearts, loss, and grieving in the days ahead. Our accept our deepest condolences..... Laura & Jim Fox

August 30 at 9:40 AM



**Laura@Phase2electricinc.Com** August 30 at 9:41 AM  
Please accept our deepest condolences.... Laura & Jim Fox



**Anonymous** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Vanderlinde family.



August 29 at 7:37 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Rex G. Vanderlinde**  
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**Victor Grahn** posted:

I've known Rex since the late 1980's. He was always a dedicated business man who looked after Executive Air, his employees and customers non-stop. I'll always remember the extensive conversations we had over many years and his passion for snowmobiling and the Muskegon Airport. I wish the Best for Sheli and Jenn through these very difficult times. Victor Grahn, Former Director of Aircraft Maintenance for Executive Air Transport and long time Muskegon Resident.

August 29 at 5:41 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Vanderlinde family.



August 29 at 5:24 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Vanderlinde family.



August 29 at 2:17 PM



**Kristine Holland** posted:

I was a student at the flight school and always arrived early to my lesson in the morning. Rex always took time out of his day to sit and drink a cup of coffee with me, regardless of how busy he was. Even after I stopped flying, he always greeted me with a smile, a hey how's it going, and whose turn was it to buy coffee. Something so simple meant the world to me. I will miss him! He was a great man!

August 29 at 2:10 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Vanderlinde family.



August 29 at 2:04 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Rex G. Vanderlinde**

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**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Vanderlinde family.



August 29 at 12:30 PM



**Bill And Kathie Richel** posted:

So very sorry to hear of Rex's passing. We will surely miss his smiling face at the Sussex. He was always so considerate and kind. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sheli and the entire family.

August 29 at 11:34 AM



**The Wierda Family** lit a candle in honor of Rex.

He will be sadly missed in this community! Our heart and prayers go out to Sheli and Jenn! ❤️👤 The Wierda Family



August 29 at 11:12 AM



**Jim Aardema** posted:

Rex was my next door neighbor and close childhood friend. I am so very sorry to hear of his passing and send all of his family and friends my deepest sympathies. Rest In Peace.

August 29 at 11:11 AM



**Roxanne Eacker** posted:

Sheli and Jenn, Sending much prayerful love to you for comfort and peace through your grief. Rex gave a young, inexperienced pilot a chance and has supported my efforts ever since. The years at Executive Air shaped my future and I treasure them. I'm so sorry he was called from you so soon. ❤️ Roxanne (Sifuentes) Eacker Silver Creek, NY

August 29 at 9:08 AM



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

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



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