



## Gordon Howard Boelens

August 2, 1926 - May 21, 2020

When someone passes away, memories start flooding your soul. Grandkids started talking of jelly beans, cookies, ice cream and fun. On May 21, 2020 Gordon Boelens passed peacefully away while his dear Susan read words from his best buddy, Susan's dad, Dick Rhem.

Gordon was born on August 2, 1926 to Garry and Florence Boelens. He and his brother, Herb had a wonderful childhood in Spring Lake where the Christman family were neighbors on one side and the Kruizenga's on the other. He graduated from Grand Haven High School in 1944. He played football and basketball for the Bucs.

The day after graduation Gord and his friend, Harold Garter drove to Lansing to enlist. Gord chose the Army Air Corp. He was only 17. He was sent to Michigan State University until he was 18. After boot camp, Gord was stationed in Douglas, AZ.

After the war ended, Gord came back to Spring Lake. He enrolled at Coin Electrical School in Chicago. He took the train home every weekend to woo the girl next door. On the first day of spring in 1949 he proposed to Dorothy Kruizenga. They were married on September 3, 1949. They were married 63 years at the time of Dort's death on Jan 1, 2013.

Gord took over Boelens Electric from his father. He owned Boelens Electric until his retirement. He was a Master Electrician and Electrical Contractor. Being a friendly guy, he met people all over town and they would become friends. He was member of the Shoreline Builders Association and Spring Lake Rotary.

A long time ago I found a little quote in the paper "You know you live in a small town when your electrician says 'Don't touch anything, I have to leave for a fire call.'" That was Gord. He proudly served on the Spring Lake Fire Department for over 25 years; many of those years as Captain. If the fire siren went off during church, we were at the mercy of friends to get us home.

With 4 small children in a 2 bedroom house, Dort and Gord built a house in a new subdivision called Ranch Acres. All the lots were an acre, there was lots of room for kids to run and play. Later he put in a swimming pool, so there were many pool parties, Sunday dinners and always room for more at the table.

He coached the boys Little League teams with Gil Van Wieren. Endured the girls piano and ballet recitals. He traveled around the country to attend to grandchildren's big events. He loved us all so much. Being a member of Christ Community Church, he served on various committees.

Moving into Cote' La Mer, he had a great time meeting more friends and more parties.

Gord loved having fun whether golfing with his friend, Hank Casemier, the guys at Grand Haven Golf Club or spending Coast Guard Saturday with the Garters. There was the 3rd Saturday of each month bridge club, lunches with Dick and Jack, happy hours on the Bryson patio. He loved cheering for the Spartans and the last four year were highlighted with MacKenzie' s Raequan Williams playing for the Spartans.

Retiring to Green Valley Arizona, the Paseo Chico neighbors soon became the friends that enjoyed his company.

Gord's love and belly laughs will be missed by his children:

Mike and his kids: Marta with Greyson and Taylor, Gretchen and Ryan Lane and their sons Griffin and Rowan, and Kyle. Greg (aka Mac) and Mary and their girls: Nicki and son Jack, Elyse and Sally and Jeff Wrona. Cindy Hyde: CR and Johanna with daughters Elsa and Clara, MacKenzie and Andrew Crouch and kids Raequan Williams and Keante Pendelton. Kristie and David Epplert and family: Eric and Chrissy with daughter, Nora; and Trevor. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, his parents, his brother Herb, son-in-law Dick Hyde and sister-in-laws; Georgia Van Weelden and Margaret Kruizenga. In addition to his family, he is survived by Doris Boelens and family, the VanWeelden, Kruizenga, Rhem families, cousins and friends who were impacted by his life.

We want to thank the staff at Lakeshore Assisted Living Sierra House for the wonderful care, love and good food Gord received and North Ottawa Hospice for blessing us in his last month with tender care and support.

Memorials can be given to Lakeshore Assisted Living Scholarship Fund or Hospice of North Ottawa Community.

Arrangements by The Spring Lake Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 213  
E. Savidge St., Spring Lake, MI 49456. Sign the guest book online at  
[www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com).

# Cemetery

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## **Spring Lake Cemetery**

17181 North Fruitport Road

Spring Lake, MI, 49456

# Comments

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“ Dear Mike and siblings,  
My deepest sympathy in the passing of your father.  
Sincerely,  
Cindy Lemke Nagtzaam

Cindy Lemke Nagtzaam - May 28 at 05:19 PM

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“ To Mac and Gordo.....sorry to hear of the passing of Big Gord.....A Good Guy.....

Terry and Marilyn Benkert - May 27 at 08:29 AM

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“ many years ago I worked at Warber's Dairy, Gordon loved pineapple pie we would hang a dish towel on the sign to let him know we had his pie. Gordon and his wife were always last in church so they had to sit up front..We moved to Traverse City, one Sunday Jim was ushering last minute here comes the family and it was the Boelens family so Jim knew exactly where to usher them. We never forgot his family.....great people!!

Sue Sheffield (wife of Jim) - May 23 at 11:32 PM

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“ Big Gord. Wow. I thought he'd be with us always. Great man. Raised a great family. A pillar of the community, and of my young life. Deepest condolences to the family.

Jim McFarlin - May 23 at 05:28 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gordon Howard Boelens.



May 23 at 05:04 PM

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“ Worked with Gordy many years on the Fire Dept. He was just one of the good guys. Great memories roasting hot dogs.... I mean putting out fires. Thanks for his service to our community.

Rick Nuvill - May 23 at 03:12 PM

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“ Dear Kristine & Family:  
My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you in the passing of Gordon. I truly enjoyed getting to know Gordon and help him a little, when he was at Stoneybrook of American House He was a very sweet man with a big heart. He always enjoyed it when you and your family would visit him. I knew he loved his family very much. Gordie will always have a special place in my .  
Take Care & God Bless  
Love & Hugs,  
Sharon Kieft



Sharon Kieft - May 23 at 02:07 PM

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“ What a wonderful American life. I was part of Dort and Gord's Green Valley years, right next door from 1996 onward. In summer, when they deserted our little social street named Chico to return to Spring Lake, I'd be the one with the key to their house. The best parties were always instigated by Dort, and made even more perfect by Gord's amiable bartending and story sharing. And, just think, childhood friend Harold Garter lived just over the draw for some years. Gord still owes me a lunch, but I forgive him.

Judith Whipple

Judith Whipple - May 23 at 01:24 PM

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“ Our sympathy to you in your loss. Gord was such a cheerful man with a kind heart and spirit. May you feel God's presence during this time. Love & Prayers, Tom & Melodee Bergy.

Melodee Bergy - May 22 at 05:53 PM



“ Gord was quite a man! Everyone loved him. Your parents were quite a pair. My sympathy and prayers for all of you and may our Heavenly Father bring you the comfort you all need

**sarahJane Essebaggers** - May 22 at 05:47 PM