

Wilma Van Zanten was born on November 3, 1930, near Rock Valley, Iowa, to Charles and Anna C. (Kooistra) Kooima. The family lived in Lebanon and Hawarden, Iowa for a time, and then moved back to Rock Valley. In 1941 when Wilma was eleven years old, they moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan for work opportunities. In 1946 her father moved the business he founded, Kooima Machine Works (now Total Component Solutions) from Michigan to Rock Valley. Wilma was not happy about the family moving to Iowa. However, one month after the move she met Cornie Van Zanten while “cruising” the block after church on a Sunday night as was the habit back then, and that changed her attitude quickly! Wilma graduated from Western Christian High School in Hull in 1948. During high school and after, she worked at the “shop” doing bookkeeping and payroll.

Cornie and Wilma were united in marriage on June 14, 1950. Nine months later daughter Char (Charlene) was born in 1951; in 1955 Larry Dean was welcomed into the family followed by Randall Lee in 1957. When Larry and Randy were 5 and 3 years old, they were diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and doctors at the University of Iowa recommended that the boys go to a place for children with severe disabilities and as parents they wouldn’t be able to see them for 7 weeks. Cornie and Wilma said, “no way!” and took the boys home. The boys attended school and traveled all over the country with the family, wheelchairs in tow. While there were many challenges, the joys far outweighed them for Cornie and Wilma. Larry and Randy passed away at ages 9 and 12 due to respiratory issues. After the boys had passed, son Chad Evan entered the family via adoption in 1971.

Wilma was often referred to as a “good old sock” by family members. She was a wonderful caregiver to many through the years, including her mother, mother-in-law, aunt, niece, and great niece with trips to the doctor or treatment and other physical needs. She was always ready to help family and friends and never complained.

Cornie was killed in a car accident on December 18, 2017. Throughout their marriage, Cornie and Wilma never missed a night of praying together on their knees before going to bed. They never questioned the Lord and trusted in Him to help them through life’s challenges.

In anticipation of her 90th birthday, Wilma wrote her autobiography, “Be Not Dismayed”, which had been a long-time goal for her. It’s an uplifting depiction of her life and attitude. Wilma embraced technology and computer skills and preferred it over housekeeping.

Wilma entered Whispering Heights in May of 2023 and passed away on February 26, 2024, at the age of 93.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Char (Dixon) Granstra; son, Chad Van Zanten; grandchildren, Allison (Chad) Vander Haar, Troy (Katie) Van Roekel, Darla (Bob) Vander Plaats, Darin (Lori) Granstra, and Dolan (Cherish) Granstra; 17 great grandchildren; and 12 great-great grandchildren. Also surviving Wilma are her siblings, Leona Aardema and John C. (Helen) Kooima; siblings-in-law, John (Mary) Van Zanten, Albert (Harriett) Van Zanten, Albertha (Dick) Moorlag, Vern (Geneva) Van Zanten, and Tony (Donna) Van Zanten. She will also be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Anna C Kooima; husband, Cornie; sons, Larry and Randy; parents-in-law, Tony and Fannie Van Zanten; infant sister, Francis Kooima; sister, Judy Lytle; brother, Jack Kooima; great grandson, Lucas Vander Plaats; as well as dear extended family members.

Remembering the Life of Wilma Delores Van Zanten

November 3, 1930 ~ February 26, 2024

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 AM, Saturday, March 2, 2024
Calvin Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Dave Van Kley
Bethel Reformed Church
Sheldon, Iowa

EULOGY

Char Granstra
Troy Van Roekel

ORGANIST

Linda Vande Kerk

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“Ancient Words”
“By the Sea of Crystal”
“God Will Take Care of You”
“Victory in Jesus”

PALLBEARERS

Connor Vander Haar ~ Levi Vander Haar
Tyler Van Roekel ~ Kellen Van Roekel
Logan Vander Plaats ~ Ben Granstra ~ Dallas Granstra

MEMORIALS

Hegg Health Center
Friends of Rock Valley ~ Park Project

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Wilma’s family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall immediately following the funeral service.

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



In Loving Memory



Wilma D. Van Zanten

November 3, 1930 ~ February 26, 2024