



Henry and Cornelia Commissaris

August 1, 2017

Cornelia (Vande Biezen) Commissaris was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan on January 25, 1923 and died September 23, 2016. She was the eldest daughter of Cornelius and Effie (Kiel) Vande Biezen. Henry Commissaris was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan on April 16, 1921 and died March 31, 2015. He was the son of Peter and Rose (Linsley) Commissaris. Henry attended Vicksburg High School in Vicksburg, Michigan while Corky schooled at a one-room schoolhouse near her home in Scotts, Michigan. Corky and Henry both enjoyed roller skating and met at a roller rink. They married on February 15, 1942 in Valparaiso, Indiana. Henry had worked at Michigan Bell Telephone since 1940 and enlisted in the Navy in December of 1942. He served during World War II and was discharged in 1945. Corky did her part for the war effort by working at various military suppliers in the Kalamazoo area. They both lived the earlier part of their lives in the Kalamazoo area among their relatives and friends. She enjoyed sewing, crafts, camping and generally all things associated with raising a family. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, boating, and generally all things out of doors. She was truly a caring, nurturing, and involved wife and mother while he was truly a warm and loving husband, father, and friend. He always had something funny to quip about. Corky was a Cub Scout den leader while Henry was a Boy Scout troop leader and then scoutmaster. They were active in The Reformed Church. After visiting Corky's sister in California in 1959, they uprooted the family and moved to California in 1961. In post-retirement years, they managed a mobile

home park in Redlands, California. They were enthusiastic bowlers and traveled extensively in their motor home. They moved to Birch Bay, Washington in 2008 and then to Tigard, Oregon in 2012. Corky was preceded in death by her brothers; Cornelius (Casey) and Edwin, and sisters; Dorothy and Margaret. Henry was preceded in death by his brothers; Clarence, George, Harold, and Robert, and sisters; Doris Grainger, Esther Sehy, and Jane Allen. Survivors include: Sons: Michael James (Pamela), Tigard, OR; Harold William (Judy), Blaine, WA; Carlton (Rayleen), Anaheim, CA. Corky's sisters: Maryanna Emmert, Bloomingdale, MI; Ruthann Luce, Portage, MI. Henry's sister-in-law; Erma Commissaris, Michigan. Many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and even ten great, great grandchildren abound. A graveside service will be held Friday, August 25, 2017, 1 PM at Tucker Cemetery, Bloomingdale, MI, Pastor Danny Gardner officiating. Arrangements by the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Tucker Cemetery

39000 CR 388
Bloomingdale, MI

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

Tucker Cemetery
39000 CR 388
Bloomingdale, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *LaDonna McKelvey purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Henry and Cornelia Commissaris.*



LaDonna McKelvey - August 21, 2017 at 01:38 PM

BH

“ *What can I say about my second parents who took care of me since I was a baby. My name is Brenda Hernandez (McKelvey). Henry was a gentle giant to me quite and loving. Corky did everything on the home front from making home made bread to canning her own fruits and veggies. Many happy memories spent in their little kitchen helping out. Corky would do little projects from the local art store we would hand painted plaster figurines and wall plaques. When I had my back surgery I stayed with them and was home schooled for a while and Corky was there when my final cast came off. Jumping for joy in the parking lot. They came to all my parties. I will also never forget 4th of July in their driveway, sparklers and great food and family. They were truly one of a kind and they will be greatly missed. Love you both!*



Brenda Hernandez - August 20, 2017 at 04:34 PM



“ OUR DEAR FRIENDS HANK AND CORNELIA (CORKY) COMMISSARIS FROM RICHARD AND LADONNA MCKELVEY WE MET AND BECAME INSTANT FRIENDS WITH HANK AND CORKY OVER 50 YEARS AGO IN REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA. LADONNA AND HANK BOTH WORKED AT CALIFORNIA WATER AND TELEPHONE COMPANY. WHEN WE NEEDED A PLACE TO RENT, CORKY AND HANK OWNED A GREAT DUPLEX NEXT DOOR TO THEIR OWN HOME. THAT WAS IN 1963 AND WE LIVED THERE FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS GAINING A CLOSER BOND WITH OUR NEIGHBORS. AT 19 YEARS OLD, HANK WAS LIKE A FATHER FIGURE TO DICK. HIS OWN FATHER HAD DIED THAT SAME YEAR. WE EVEN TRAVELED WITH THEM TO MICHIGAN TO MEET THE REST OF THE FAMILY. DURING THIS VISIT, HANK SAYS TO DICK “...LETS GO OUT ON THE LAKE AND HUNT FOR FROGS”. THIS SOUNDED LIKE AN ADVENTURE TO DICK, SO AT MIDNIGHT HANK, DON, CORKY’S BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND DICK GOT INTO A BOAT ALONG WITH A CASE OF BEER AND HEADED OUT INTO THE DARKNESS IN SEARCH OF FROGS. BY 5AM THEY ALL STAGGERED BACK TO THE HOUSE WITH 10 FROGS, WET CLOTHES AND ONE HELL OF A HANGOVER. CORKY WAS SO MAD THAT THEY WERE OUT ALL NIGHT, SHE DIDN’T SPEAK TO HANK ALL DAY! THESE WERE TRULY FUN TIMES.

IN 1969 OUR DAUGHTER, BRENDA WAS BORN AND CORKY AGREED TO BE HER BABY SITTER; AND WAS FOR THE NEXT 15 YEARS. WE ENJOYED MANY MORE ADVENTURES TOGETHER INCLUDING PLAYING CARDS, BOWLING, GOING TO LAS VEGAS AND MANY TRIPS IN OUR RV’S EXPLORING THE DESERT SOUTHWEST.

WHEN CORKY AND HANK MOVED TO MICHIGAN IN THE EARLY 90’S, WE WENT TO VISIT THEIR NEW HOME. THEY WERE SO PROUD OF HOW THEY HAD PURCHASED THE LAND AND ESTABLISHED THERE. AS YEARS ADVANCED THEY DECIDED TO MOVE CLOSER TO THEIR SON, HAROLD, IN WASHINGTON STATE. AGAIN WE VISITED THEIR HOME,

CATCHING UP AND PLAYING CARDS INTO THE NIGHT. ANOTHER MOVE IN 2009 RELOCATED THEM TO PORTLAND, OREGON WHERE WE WOULD VISIT EVERY YEAR AND REMINISCE ABOUT OUR EARLIER ADVENTURES. WHILE AT DINNER ONE NIGHT THE SUBJECT OF THE WILD NIGHT OF FROG CATCHING IN MICHIGAN CAME UP. IT STRUCK A CORD WITH CORKY AS SHE SAID "...JEES-EM-CROW (HER FORM OF SWEARING) ..YOU GUYS COULD HAVE DROWNED THAT NIGHT AND NO ONE WOULD HAVE FOUND YOU UNDER THE LILLY PADS"! IT WAS HILARIOUS..

THEN THERE WAS THE STORY ABOUT THE NIGHT AROUND THE CAMP FIRE IN THE WILDERNESS NEAR YUMA, AZ WHEN A COYOTE BOUND INTO CAMP AND CHASED OUR CAT UP THE RV LADDER. HANK HAD A FLASHLIGHT AND A GUN AND WANDERED OUT INTO THE DARKNESS LOOKING FOR THAT VARMINT, WHILE WE TRIED FOR AN HOUR TO GET THE CAT DOWN. HANK RETURNED SAYING HE COULD HARDLY FIND HIS WAY BACK SINCE THE BATTERIES WENT OUT IN THE FLASHLIGHT. IT IS MEMORIES LIKE THESE THAT ARE PERMANENTLY ETCHED IN OUR MINDS.

NOW THEY ARE BACK IN MICHIGAN, THE CIRCLE IS COMPLETE. WE WISH WE COULD BE THERE TO VISIT THEIR NEW RESTING PLACE, AND TO ALSO PRAISE THEIR SONS, MIKE, HAROLD AND CARL, FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN. WE MISS OUR DEAR FRIENDS AND HOPE THEY ARE ENJOYING THEIR NEW ADVENTURES IN THE GREAT BEYOND.

LADONNA AND RICHARD MCKELVEY- 2017

LaDonna McKelvey - August 20, 2017 at 10:40 AM



There is a typo in our post. Our daughter was born in 1967. Sorry Brenda

LaDonna McKelvey - August 20, 2017 at 09:45 PM