



## Johannes (Joe) VanEk

December 14, 1922 - May 9, 2013

Johannes (Joe) VanEk, age 90, of Gobles, was called home by his Heavenly Father on Thursday, May 9, 2013. He was born December 14, 1922, in the Netherlands. He came to America when he was 2 and settled with his family in the Grand Rapids area. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the United States Army. He married the love of his life and long-time friend, Evelyn Marsman, on July 26, 1946. Joe worked as a residential contractor all his life and built many homes in the Lawton, Paw Paw and Mattawan areas. He was an avid golfer and played on more than one golf league each season. He used to sponsor a softball team, VanEk Builders, and he was the pitcher, even into his 60's. He enjoyed fishing year round in both Michigan and Florida. In his younger years, he had a passion for motorcycles. Together, Joe and Evelyn have traveled to all 50 states and Europe. They also shared a love of birds and nature, especially Hummingbirds and Baltimore Orioles. Joe served as an elder and deacon in a number of churches and is currently a member of Merson Church in Gobles. He loved music and was a talented harmonica player, playing at church and for his grandchildren. Joe is survived by his wife Evelyn of 67 years; his sister, Harriet Stolk; his children: Rick (Debbie) VanEk, Mike VanEk (Judy Raterink), Linda (Jerry) Menck, Lavonne (David) Fox, Carol (Mark) Wright. Joe was also blessed with 8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. The family will receive friends Monday 5-8 PM at the GOBLES CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Tuesday at Merson Church. Interment will take place at Mt. Ever Rest Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Merson Church Project.org or Hospice Care of SW Michigan.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Ever Rest Memorial Park North

1717 N. Drake Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 13. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gobles Chapel  
208 West Main Street  
Gobles, MI

## Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Merson Church  
3313 102nd Ave.  
Gobles, MI

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ *My condolences to the VanEk family for their loss. I remember Joe when I was a boy watching him shoot skeet in the back yard when the family lived on Savannah.*

*May his spirit soar high.*

*Stephen McNutt*

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**sfmcnutt** - May 20, 2013 at 08:13 AM

VI

“ *To Linda and Lavonne and your Family,  
So sorry for your loss. It sounds like your Father lived a long and happy life. Its hard to loose a loved one, I lost my Father in 2008 and my Father-in-law 2011. Living up here in Kingsley, I always check the K.Gazette online. Sending my prayers to you and your Family.*

*Vicki (Pfau) Weber*

*vlweber1@hotmail.com*

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**Vicki(Pfau)Weber** - May 13, 2013 at 09:26 AM

TB

“ *3 files added to the album New Album Name*



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**Trevor Badour** - May 12, 2013 at 08:11 PM

Profile icon

“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Johannes (Joe) VanEk.*



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May 12, 2013 at 09:20 AM

AN

“ We're sorry to hear of Mr. VanEk's passing. He was one of the few contractors who would take a chance on a young couple trying to get a decent house built. He was a good man.

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Ann Nelson - May 12, 2013 at 07:56 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sherri Kong - May 12, 2013 at 07:24 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Sherri Kong - May 12, 2013 at 07:03 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Sherri Kong - May 12, 2013 at 07:03 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Sherri Kong - May 12, 2013 at 06:56 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Sherri Kong** - May 12, 2013 at 06:55 AM

BJ

“ *Eve, Joe will be missed in Englewood Fl. Meg and I send our prayers and thoughts to you and the family.*

*BILL JOHNSON*

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**bill johnson** - May 11, 2013 at 01:39 PM

TN

“ *Aunt Eve, My prayers are with you and understand the loss of your dear husband. I pray you find peace in the beautiful memories of your life. Keeping God the center will give you help always. My love for you and uncle Joe will always be in my heart. We had several wonderful times. I love you and praying for you and family, that in time your grief will lessen and God will take care of you always. Love you Trudy Nagel*

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**Trudy Nagel** - May 11, 2013 at 09:29 AM