



## John H. Verdonk

November 24, 1912 - April 21, 2007

VERDONK, JOHN H., Age 94,  
Bangor

Passed away on April 21, 2007. He was born on November 24, 1912 in Berlicum, Netherlands. He came to America through Ellis Island as a babe in arms in 1913. He was the oldest son of William Peter Verdonk and Martina Verdonk who predeceased him. His younger sister, Rita Verdonk predeceased him in 2004. His younger brother, William Verdonk predeceased him at age four. His youngest brother, William Joseph Verdonk (Dorothy) of South Haven, Michigan survives him. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth S. Verdonk and four children John W. Verdonk (Lois); Mary Elizabeth Thompson; Margaret Ann Moran (Bruce) and William P. Verdonk. He is survived by nine grandchildren, Tara E. Verdonk Rougle (Bill); John L. Verdonk (Jennifer); David A. Verdonk; Marris A. Moyna; Stephanie M. Gilbert (Josh); Heather M. Bird (John); William D. Verdonk (Meredith); Eric M. Verdonk and Nicklaus J. Verdonk. He is survived by five great grandchildren, Tyler Verdonk; Xavier Gilbert; Ashley R. Verdonk; Alanaha Gilbert and Eliana Rougle. He is Also survived by two nephews Christopher Verdonk (Sylvia) and their children, Matthew, Emily and Edward and Michael Verdonk (Karen) and their children Jenna and Jordan and grandnephew, Conner.

He studied in the Netherlands where he earned a degree in English from the

University of Utrecht. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Philosophy and also earned a degree of Bachelor of Law from Notre Dame in 1942. He married his wife, Elizabeth at the University of Notre Dame on February 2, 1943. He served in the U S Army and rose to the rank of Captain. After his military service, he returned home and settled in Bangor to practice law. He practiced law in Bangor for over 50 years. He was a member of several corporate boards of directors through the years including Adams Electronics, Inc., Citizens Trust and Savings Bank, Allegan Metal Finishing Company, Allegan Tubular Products, Inc., Swing-Lo Suspended Scaffold Co. and The West Michigan Savings Bank. He was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, The American Legion, The Knights of Columbus, the Kiwanis Club and the South Haven Yacht Club. He is a member of the Van Buren County Bar Association and a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Church from 1946 to the present. He served the church as a religion education teacher and other church committee assignments.

In his 50 year tenure with the law profession, he served as prosecuting attorney of Van Buren County for two terms and as city attorney for Hartford and Bangor. He also served as Friend of the Court in Van Buren County for many years.

He loved to play golf and bridge and he took the time to share these past times with his wife and children. He loved reading and writing poetry and wrote poems during most of his life. He was a man of wisdom and vision and his family will miss him.

The family will meet friends Tuesday 2-4 and 6-8 P.M. at the BANGOR CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home [www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com) where a Scripture Service will be held at 4:00 P.M. Mass of Christian Burial will be

celebrated Wednesday, 11:00 A.M. at Sacred Heart Church, Bangor, Fr. Thomas Seidel, CSC celebrant. Interment Grand Junction Cemetery with Military Service by the Wilcox-Eastman-Salinas American Legion Post. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, the Shriners Hospitals for Children or the St. Vincent DePaul Society of Bangor, Michigan.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **24.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bangor Chapel  
258 West Monroe Street  
Bangor, MI

## Visitation

APR **24.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bangor Chapel  
258 West Monroe Street  
Bangor, MI

## Service

APR **25.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church  
201 S. Walnut  
Bangor, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ Tara, John, Lois and the entire Verdonk family,

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterflow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways.  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun.  
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.  
--Author Unknown*

*With sympathy from Scotland,  
Chris###imported-begin##Christine Birner###imported-end##*

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April 24, 2007 at 05:44 PM



“ John & Lois please know that you will be in thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Margaret and I will miss John's Dad, he was always such a gentleman and loved to golf. I may not have taken the opportunity to talk with him about his Netherlands background and I wonder whether he knew that my deceased mother (Jean Nyboer McNeil) was also from the Netherlands about 3 or 4 years behind him. I'm sure John and my father talked of their connections at the yacht club or over a drink or when the attorneys got together at the Abstract Office and sat around with Mac to solve the world's problems. Margaret and I and all those that have been touched by his life will miss him. Best Wishes. John & Margaret McNeil###imported-begin##John T. McNeil###imported-end##

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April 24, 2007 at 02:19 PM



“ Grandpa,

*We miss you so much already. Bill and I and Eliana can't be there for your funeral, but we are there in spirit. I'm so happy you got to hold our daughter, Eliana and will tell her all about her wonderful great-grandfather someday. Thanks for all the wonderful poems, for all the pool and ping pong games, all the great times in Florida, for the amazing trips which affected my life direction so much, for the dinner table prayers which you gave us right to the end, for the hugs, and even the "Dutch rubs." We are in pain at your loss, but know you are in a better place - give hugs and kisses to our dear departed Auntie and all the rest of the family you are with now.*

*With so much love, Tara###imported-begin##Tara Roogle###imported-end##*

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April 24, 2007 at 07:31 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to all of you. Grandpa was a wonderful man and I am honored that he was in my life. He was a blessing to my daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Ashley.*

*God Bless all of you. With Love, Carol###imported-begin##Carol Krentz###imported-end##*

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April 24, 2007 at 07:09 AM



“ Dear Family, John was such a dear heart to all of us. He will be missed, especially at the yearly Christmas Eve dinner at my Dad's house. I'm so glad we got to know this man. God Bless your family and may Johns' spirit live on in all of us. Luanne and family##imported-begin##Luanne (bregger) Reeves##imported-end##

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April 23, 2007 at 12:18 PM



“ Liz and family,  
We are sorry for your loss and are thinking of you in our prayers.  
Love,  
Jim and Jean##imported-begin##Jim & Jean McIlvenny##imported-end##

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April 23, 2007 at 06:28 AM