



## Nathan Baylor Jr.

May 23, 1928 - September 1, 2023

Nathan Baylor Jr (95) of Kalamazoo, soared into glory on Sept. 1, 2023. Born in Chicago to Nathan and Alice Baylor in 1928, the family moved to Michigan during the Great Depression. Nate graduated from Bloomindale High School in 1946 and enlisted in the US Navy. While stationed in Guam he served as crane operator on a floating dry dock, piloted the Skipper's launch, and operated the movie projector aboard ship. He was proud to be veteran. He met Janet Visscher while on leave. "She is the most beautiful woman in the world, in my opinion," he wrote. "I will marry her if she will have me." They were wed for 73 years.

A devoted family man, Nate loved people, dogs and nature. With a ready smile, he was a true conversationalist who could speak to anyone about anything, and did, even after serious hearing loss. A dear friend to many, he could be heard breaking into song, or reciting poetry while going about his day.

As a young father, Nate gave his life to God, and deep faith shaped the rest of his life. He left the Upjohn Company to attend Reformed Bible Institute in Grand Rapids, graduating in 1959. He pastored small Christian Reformed (CRC) mission churches: the Back to God Chapel in Gallatin Gateway, MT; Hillcrest Chapel in Grand Rapids; and Horseshoe Chapel in Grand Junction. As a young man he helped found the Calvinist Cadet Corps, a boys' club still

going strong in churches across the world. Nate left full-time ministry in 1971, becoming a realtor with Kalvan Realty while continuing to serve part-time as pastor, teacher and counselor in area churches. In 2007 he authored a book *Overcoming the Fear of Death: Reflections of a Country Pastor*. Nate and Jan were most recently part of the church family at 3rd CRC in Kalamazoo and 1st Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, FL. He has now joined with countless loved ones, friends and parishioners, singing in a heavenly choir.

Nate is survived by his wife, Janet, and sons Nathan (Brenda) of Bangor, Ron (Mary Jane) of Kalamazoo, David (Elizabeth) of Grand Junction, Tim (Joan) of Niles, and daughter Mary (Andy) Potts of Grand Junction; by 13 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren, and by nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his younger brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Jeanette Baylor of Silver Springs, MD.

Visitation will be held 4-6 pm on Friday, Sept. 8 at Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home; and at 10-11 am on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Bloomingdale Christian Church with a celebration service at 11 am.

Memorials may be sent to the Cadet Program at 3rd CRC or to Park Village Pines/Crystal Woods in Kalamazoo, where Nate resided for the past 18 months.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bloomingtondale Chapel  
203 East Spring Street  
Bloomingtondale, MI

## Visitation

SEP 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bloomingtondale Christian Church  
208 E. Pine  
Bloomingtondale, MI

## Memorial Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bloomingtondale Christian Church  
208 E. Pine  
Bloomingtondale, MI

# Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Krista lit a candle in memory of Nathan Baylor Jr.*



---

**Krista** - September 22, 2023 at 01:00 AM

BH

“ *Bonnie Hofstra lit a candle in memory of Nathan Baylor Jr.*



---

**Bonnie Hofstra** - September 14, 2023 at 03:16 PM

ND

“ *I am sorry for the empty feelings you must all be feeling right now. I wish I had the special words to say that makes everything easier. However I know you have all had the joy of experiencing the total love that was inside this man that you have all shared your life with. Nate was such a blessing to so many and I thank you for sharing him with all of us outside your family. Heaven is celebrating now I know and we all have to wait a bit longer to join him again. I pray Gods Loving Spirit to hold you and help you through it.*

*with Love  
Nancy Dickerson*

---

**Nancy Dickerson** - September 09, 2023 at 10:32 AM

SD

“ *What a precious man. Thanks for sharing him with us. Our prayers are with you all.*

Sarah and Ray Dendel - September 09, 2023 at 07:39 AM

RD

“ *Sorry for your loss brother Dave. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.*

*Randy Dylhoff family.*

Randy Dylhoff - September 08, 2023 at 11:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nathan Baylor Jr..*



September 07, 2023 at 03:29 PM

DF

“ *Dylhoff Family planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nathan Baylor Jr..*

Dylhoff Family - September 07, 2023 at 12:46 PM

YV

“ *I am so sorry to hear about your dad Nate*



Yvonne - September 06, 2023 at 09:51 PM

LV

“ I remember all the Bible school songs he taught me at the gateway church. He had such a wonderful, joyful presence

-----  
**Leona Veltkamp** - September 05, 2023 at 12:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Nathan Baylor Jr..



-----  
September 05, 2023 at 12:04 PM

DT

“ *DIANE WILSON TRIPP lit a candle in memory of Nathan Baylor Jr.*



-----  
**DIANE WILSON TRIPP** - September 05, 2023 at 11:52 AM

SC

“ *I always enjoyed working with Nate when i worked at Chicago Title. He was a thoughtful and kind man of God. Gods Speed Nate, heaven was blessed with your arrival.*

-----  
**Sheila Caulder** - September 05, 2023 at 11:13 AM

MD

“ *Sorry to the family hope all goes well prayers for you all .*

-----  
**merle dalrymple** - September 05, 2023 at 09:25 AM

DH

“ *The loss of Nate brought back so many childhood memories. Janet and Nate have been family friends for years (I think before the ark was built). There is no doubt whatsoever that he is in heaven. RIP Sincere sympathy to Janet and the family.*

---

**Dolores (Nelson) (Fragala) Herschleb** - September 05, 2023 at 08:32 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nathan Baylor Jr..*

---

September 05, 2023 at 07:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nathan Baylor Jr..*



---

September 05, 2023 at 07:45 AM

SP

“ Dear Janet and family,  
I am sorry to learn of the passing of your husband and father. He will leave such a large void in your lives; and missed more than you'd ever realized.



What a wonderful man Nate was. It seemed he always made the time to give of himself to anyone who needed him; with an ever ready smile. He loved the Lord and he loved his family. Many are the friends he acquired during his lifetime. He was a devoted man and committed himself to any task at hand. He will be missed. My sympathies and prayers are with you all. May you rest in the comforting promises of our Lord who said He would not leave you comfortless; and He will grant you a "...peace that passes understanding.." even in the midst of your grief. Trust in His timing.  
Love, Sandy Peterson

---

**Sandra Peterson** - September 05, 2023 at 07:40 AM

SK

“ What a pleasure it was to know Nate, Janet and there children, grandchildren. Nate was one person with many stories to tell. As his medical care giver since he resided at crystal woods I was always taking 5hat extract few minutes during that evening med pass to just sit with him and listen only speaking when he ask me a question. God bless him and his family and may he rest in Peace.  
Sherri kniss

---

**sherri kniss** - September 04, 2023 at 04:39 PM

RT

“ So very sorry we will be out of town for the service, but we remember Mr. Baylor was a very dedicated man: dedicated to his wife, dedicated to his family, and dedicated to his churches! He has left a wonderful legacy for his family and all who know him! Roger and Ruth Tuinstra

Roger & Ruth Tuinstra - September 04, 2023 at 03:34 PM

RM

“ Rob And Christy Matthes lit a candle in memory of Nathan Baylor Jr.



Rob and Christy Matthes - September 04, 2023 at 03:16 PM

DB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Nate was such a good and caring man that will be missed and thought of often. Darla and Dana Bryant

Darla Bryant - September 04, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nathan Baylor Jr..

September 04, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nathan Baylor Jr..*



---

September 04, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *Susan Page Smith lit a candle in memory of Nathan Baylor Jr.*



---

**Susan page Smith** - September 04, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Robbie lit a candle in memory of Nathan Baylor Jr.*



---

**Robbie** - September 04, 2023 at 12:20 PM