



William DeGroot

September 2, 1925 - March 9, 2006

William "Bill" DeGroot, 80 year-old resident of Rogers, Arkansas, died Thursday, March 9, 2006, at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Born September 2, 1925, in Orange City, Iowa, he was the son of Leonard DeGroot and Jeanette Vegter DeGroot. Bill grew up in the Orange City area. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946. In 1949 he graduated with a B.S. in Business, English and Education from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan. Bill married Helen Putt in Fulton, Illinois, December 22, 1949. They lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Bill worked as an assistant manager for Occidental Life Insurance Company for 10 years. He also taught English and Business for 2 years in high school. Bill and Helen moved to Upland, California, in 1959 where he co-owned a dairy farm for 30 years. He was president of DeGroot Real Estate, Inc. for 28 years, and president of Clover Insurance Agency for 26 years. Bill and Helen moved from Upland to Rogers, Arkansas in 1998. He was a member of First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. While in California Mr. DeGroot served on the San Bernardino County Planning Commission for seven years and four years on the San Bernardino County Airport Commission. He was the president of the Ontario Christian School Board for nine years, served on the National Board of the Reformed Bible College, and acted as chairperson for the land and building committee of Calvary Christian Reformed Church. He was also a co-founder of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. He was preceded in death by two sons, James William DeGroot and Warren Dale

"Bud" DeGroot; two brothers, John DeGroot and Clarence DeGroot; two sisters, Theresa "Trix" Kuiper and Clarina Van Gelder. Survivors include his wife Helen of the home; two sons, Kenneth DeGroot and wife Jeannette of Tulare, California; Dan DeGroot and wife Carolyn of Sunnyside, Washington; one daughter, Julie Ericson and husband Ed of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; 13 grandchildren; one great granddaughter; three brothers, Rev. Harold DeGroot of Mt. Vernon, Washington, Harvey DeGroot of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Lee DeGroot of Orange City, Iowa; and one sister, Janice Mouw of Ontario, California. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Monday, March 13, 2006, at Grace Church, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, with Rev. Aldon Kuiper and Rev. Dr. J. Russell Snapp officiating. Military graveside rites will follow at 2:00 p.m., at Fayetteville National Cemetery, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Visitation will be 3:00 to 5:00 Sunday, March 12, 2006, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Inland Christian Home, Bill DeGroot Memorial Fund, 1950 South Mountain Avenue, Ontario, California 91762. Arrangements are under the direction of Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ *William DeGroot*

Susan Rahn - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

MW

“ *We always enjoyed visiting Uncle Bill.
He was always the life of the party.
He loved to tease and joke around and was fun to spend time with.
We will miss him a lot.*

Mark and Sandra Walters - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

PL

“ *We will miss Uncle Bill, but are happy for the times we were given
with him, and comforted to know he is now with the Lord!*

Pete and Debbie Land - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

GV

“ *Dear Helen,
We've known each other long before we came to California at your
encouragement. We have so many good memories. We been to the
mountains, to the sea, and to everywhere in between. So many
good times together, yes and some sad times too. Our friendship
with Bill and with you is long and rich. Now our friendship continues
through grief and sadness. We pray for peace through the tears and
that joy will come with the morning.
We love you. We are praying for you. We hope to be together in the
close future to share our friendship.
Forever,*

Gary and Lois

Gary and Lois Voorman - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

LB

“ Dear Helen and Family,
Our sympathy to all of you in the loss of your dear husband, father
and grandfather, Bill. We loved him and have many wonderful
memories of special times with him. We are praying for you as you
walk through this difficult time.

Love,
Larry and Lorae Vanden Berge
and family

Larry and Lorae Vanden Berge - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

LN

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you for comfort and peace in
your loss.

Lee Netherton - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

SK

“ We remember Uncle Bill fondly.

"Blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted" Mt. 5:4

Susan Van Kooten - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

EB

“ I know that you don't remember me but i worked at Brookstone Assisted Living. I know that Bill stayed there a couple of times and i had the priviledge to get to know him. He loved his family and always talked about them. He would always talk to me in a different language and most of the time i would not know what he would say so he would have to tell me. I know that i did not know him that well but i can say that in the short couple of time i got to meet him he definately made a lasting impression in my life. My deepest sympathies go out to the family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely:
Jana

Ed and Fran Van Baak - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

BZ

“ dear helen and family, may God be near you in this time of sorrow and give you strength. betty and case zwart.

betty and case zwart - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

CK

“ We will always remember Uncle Bill for his great stories, ready laughter, and his Faith at work in so many ways. We wish we could be with you in Arkansas, but are sending our love with Randy, Sandy and Mom. May God give you peace through this time of missing Bill, and may you feel the love of many surrounding you.

Carla and Marv Kleinjan - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

NS

“ *Helen,
I am certainly thinking about you tonight. I could not come for visitation tonight because we had invited Hal's step sister to come to celebrate her birthday, but maybe I will get to see you or something tomorrow at the service.*

I know this a hard time for you and I send many thoughts and prayers.

With much love, Nancy

Nancy and Hal Savage - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

RM

“ *My sympathy to Helen and the family. My dad spoke fondly of him. May God comfort you as you miss him.*

Ruth DeGroot Marshall - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

RS

“ *To Helen and all your family:
I am sad to hear of Bill's passing. He was a vital member of our community. I really enjoyed talking with Bill because he always made me laugh. His personality would light up the room. It wasn't until later in life that he admitted to me that he served in Europe during WWII. It is one of my favorite subjects to read and discuss. I know he was very quiet on this part of his life, but he still shared with me his relationship with Gen. Eisenhower who called him "Sgt. Bill."*

I know that Bill loved the Lord and that he is with Him now. May the Lord comfort and strengthen all of you!

*In Christ,
Rich Slegers*

Richard Slegers - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

AJ

“ Helen:

I was so sorry to see Bill's passing in the paper. Whenever Bill, you, and I met, Bill was such a positive influence on my day. He will be missed.

I am sorry that I can not attend the service on Monday. Please call me when things level out so we can adjust his policies etc on the business end.

*Sincerely,
Andy James*

Andy James - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

RM

“ *We remember Uncle Bill as a great storyteller. Whenever he had a story to tell you would want to give him your full attention because you knew it was going to be interesting and told with a great sense of humor. Whenever you were with Uncle Bill he made you feel important, and he will be greatly missed.*

Randy and Rose Mouw - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

EJ

“ *Consider this note to be between Ethan's two grandfathers. I now must do double duty and represent us both in transmitting our glorious Christian heritage to our beloved little one. I cannot replace you as Julie's father, but I'll be to her as good a father-in-law as I can be.*

Ed Ericson, Jr. - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

PL

“ I met Bill and Helen here in Siloam Springs through my very dear friends, Julie and her husband, Ed. Our visits and conversation were always lively and covered a variety of subjects. I wish I could have known Bill in his earlier years but I'm pleased that our paths crossed when they did.

Paul met Bill in very recent years and always enjoyed his visits with him.

How lovely that so many family members and friends will be gathering to honor him.

Though a sad time for those remaining, yet it is a time of rejoicing for the freedom and joy Bill is now experiencing in his new home with his Savior and Friend, Jesus.

Our love and prayers are with all of you, Helen, Julie and Ed and family members, particularly in the coming weeks and months. May you sense His presence, encouragement, strength and fond, warm memories of your loved one, Bill.

Paul and Jan

Paul and Jan Lancaster-Goring - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

GG

“ Bill De Groot had significant influence in my life, as a Christian school administrator. He stopped by the office so often and always took me to lunch for us to discuss church/school business and life in general. He was always a delightful inspirational boost for me with his engaging laughter and upbeat discussion. He and Helen left a profound legacy of encouraging support for the growth of church/school/service-area communities in Ontario/Chino, CA. Helen too was such a strong helpmeet in her loving distribution of service as well. I and that community will always be grateful. We pray for God's strength and comfort now in these days. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." (Proverbs 18:10) - Shalom!

George & Betty Groen - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

JT

“ I have nothing but good memories of Uncle Bill. If I could describe his life in only one word, it would be laughter! Uncle Bill lived out his faith with joy every day. Even though he will be missed, we know that he is with his Lord and Savior, and he is no longer struggling.

Jean Tjarks - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

IH

“ To Helen and her family,
My deepest sympathy to all of you in your loss of this great man. I always knew he must have been a most interesting person, from my limited acquaintance with him. We shall all miss him here at Heritage Bay. May God Bless you.

Irene Hall - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

CB

“ I am truly sorry for your loss but I know from talking to you that Bill is in a better place. Best of luck in the future and God Bless.

Connie Billy - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

JV

“ My sympathy to Bill's family and friends. My memory of Bill is the wonderful dinner theatre he and Helen took us to when we visited them in California. I was only 11 or 12 but have vivid memories of that trip. I also distinctly remember his ready laugh and the twinkle in his eye. He was loved by many.
Blessings and strength to you all.

From his youngest cousin:

*Janna DeGroot VanDriel
Smithers, BC, Canada*

Janna DeGroot VanDriel - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM

DG

“ Have fond memories of uncle bill while a young boy as larry, brother rod, and myself were hauling off stunts. Wish we could have lived closer and been closer over the years. He will be missed by all.

darwin van gelder - September 19, 2012 at 01:10 PM