



## Darrel L. Van Conant

December 8, 1934 - March 1, 2015

Darrel Lee Van Conant, son of the late Ivy and Myrtle Van Conant, was born December 8, 1934 in Detroit, MI. After awhile the family moved to a farm in Berville, Mi. He graduated from Capac high school in 1953. He attended Michigan State University until the end of his Junior year. He was accepted into the Wayne State College of Medicine. After one year at Wayne State, he returned to Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Math and Minors in both Physics and Chemistry. After graduating from Michigan State University, he taught math for 4 years in Marysville, MI and Fremont, MI. In Fremont, MI, he met Linda Oppenhuizen. They were married in 1963. He received his Masters in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University in 1973. During his lifetime he also worked for Consumers Power, Burroughs Corporation and Kmart Corporation. He is survived by 4 children, Susan Gearns (Bill), Pete (Sandy), Ruth Tarrow (Roland) and Matt. As well as 3 Grand-children Wade, Grayson, and Amelia. He passed away on March 1, 2015. Visitation Friday 5-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (Btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Saturday 10 AM until the 11:00 AM Funeral Service at First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Interment United Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to the church or the American Cancer Society.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Funeral Service

MAR 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Northville  
200 E. Main Street  
Northville, MI 48167

# Tribute Wall



“ *Darrel L. Van Conant*

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December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Dear cousins,  
I have many fond memories of your parents, from being a  
bridesmaid at their wedding, to visiting with them at reunions or  
getting an excited call from my widowed mom saying Darrel, Linda,  
Gil and Margaret are coming for coffee - can you come over too.  
They were always so kind to her. Sorry I won't be able to attend the  
funeral, I just had knee replacement, but you will be in our thoughts  
and prayers.*

*Ed & Penny (Stehouwer) Hoezee*

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**Penny Hoezee** - March 06, 2015 at 07:18 PM



“ *Darrel and I met at Single Place, church and activities through the  
church. He was a very kind and thoughtful person. Had many  
friends and he will be missed by all. My prayers to the family.  
Darleen Sweeney*

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**darleen sweeney** - March 06, 2015 at 12:51 PM

GR

“ To the family of Darrel Van Conant,

*My name is Girard Rooks. Darrel and I shared room 128 in East Shaw, at Michigan State. I was in vet school at the time. I remember Darrel fondly. I had several roommates during my 4 years in that room, and Darrel was probably the best.*

*Some years later, I was testing cattle in eastern Mich., and I encountered Darrel unexpectedly. I believe he was working on a farm, otherwise we would not have met. It would have been in the summer, and Darrel was probably on summer break from school. We talked about things, and Darrel told me that he had a microscope that he wanted to sell. I must have told him that I was in the wrong profession, and was working to save enough money to go to medical school. I don't know if I had applied and been accepted by that time, but I suspect that I must have been, because I bought Darrel's microscope. I used it in med. school at Northwestern U. A few years ago, I gave it to my youngest daughter, who used it in home-schooling her four children, while living in Alberta, Canada and in Belgium.*

*I was surprised to see Darrel's obituary notice, especially since I am very irregular in reading the paper. I am very glad that I did see it. Darrel was a good person. I am saddened by his death. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Having his microscope kept Darrel in my memory over all these years, as did the year or two that we shared room 128.*

*Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.*

*J.F. Girard Rooks*

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**Girard Rooks** - March 05, 2015 at 06:44 PM

DS

“ The phrase that comes to mind as I recall Darrel is "quiet competence". Whenever the families got together, he had the latest computers and gadgets and knew how they worked. He was always willing to share his knowledge. The family is in my thoughts and prayers.

*David Stehouwer*

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**David Stehouwer** - March 05, 2015 at 01:19 PM

PC

“ Playing catch with him in the backyard when I was an 8th grader in the late '70's. As we warmed up we started throwing to each other harder and harder. I had reached the top end of my speed, but he kept throwing it faster and faster. He finally threw one so hard I missed. It skipped off the top of my mitt and it hit me square in the left eye. Surprisingly, it didn't cause any permanent damage (I think). He never threw me his fastball again. He was a very modest person. It wasn't until years later I found out he was an accomplished baseball player and had tried out at second base for the Tigers in 1951.

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**Pete Van Conant** - March 04, 2015 at 11:21 AM

PV

*Van Conant*

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**Pete VanConant** - March 04, 2015 at 11:22 AM

CP

“ Only met Darrel in the last few days of his earthly life. He was quite cordial in his final days and seemingly, a man of great resolve. Glad to have met him and his nice family.

*Carol, the caregiver*

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**Carol Podgorny** - March 03, 2015 at 12:19 PM