



Dr. Calvin J. Verbrugge

July 26, 1937 - March 10, 2019

Dr. Calvin J. Verbrugge

RACINE - Calvin James Verbrugge, 81, passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2019 with his wife by his side.

He was born in Sioux Falls, SD on July 26, 1937, the son of the late John and Marie (nee: Sinkey) Verbrugge. He earned his bachelor's degree from Calvin College and received his PhD from Purdue University. On September 21, 1961, Calvin was united in marriage to Pauline Koene in Chatham, Ontario, Canada. He worked as a research chemist for SC Johnson for 35 years, retiring in July of 1998.

Calvin was a member of Racine Christian Reformed Church and was very involved with Racine Christian School. He was also a member of the American Chemistry Society and was a charter member of the Racine Curling Club. He enjoyed traveling with family, especially experiencing the wonders of solar eclipses and the National Parks. Calvin was also an avid fan of the Milwaukee Brewers and the Green Bay Packers.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 57 years, Pauline; children, Helen (Garry) Arkema, and Susan (Chris) Guck; unofficial adopted family, Tim and Carol Bratt; grandchildren, Annemiek (Edgard) Arkema, David Arkema, Laura Guck, Sarah Guck, Karl (Kendra) Bratt, and Nolan Bratt; great granddaughter, Lilliana Bratt; brother, Glenn (Berniece) Verbrugge; sisters, Marlys (Henry) Admiraal, and Ruth (David) Shackelton; sister-in-law, Coby Koene, and brother-in-law, Hank (Donna) Koene. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Calvin was preceded in death by his brother, Verlyn Verbrugge, and brother-in-law, Adrian Koene.

Funeral services will be held at Racine Christian Reformed Church on Friday, March 15, 2019 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Anson Veenstra officiating.

Visitation will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Thursday from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. and on Friday at the church from 10 a.m. until time of service.

Calvin will be laid to rest at West Lawn Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Racine Christian School Endowment Fund and Hospice Alliance. The family is thankful for the compassionate care Calvin received from the Home Instead Senior Care aides and Hospice Alliance staff.

Cemetery

Events

West Lawn Memorial Park
9000 Washington Ave
Racine, WI, 53406

MAR
14

Visitation

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Sturino Funeral Home

3014 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI, US, 53404

MAR
15

Visitation

10:00AM - 11:00AM

Racine Christian Reformed Church

900 Illinois Street, Racine, WI, US, 53405

MAR
15

Funeral Service

11:00AM

Racine Christian Reformed Church

900 Illinois Street, Racine, WI, US, 53405

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Sturino Funeral Home - March 13, 2019 at 12:11 PM



“ Our condolences to you and your family, Pauline,
Louis and Merle Floch

Louis Floch - March 14, 2019 at 06:13 PM



“ I have pleasant memories of staying with Uncle Cal (and Aunt Pauline) when I was very young - it seems like there were some pretty extended visits, but in reality they were probably quite short.

A while back I was looking for something for work and came across an article in Chemical and Engineering News mentioning Uncle Cal as one of the relatively few 50-year members of the ACS (American Chemical Society). I was reminded of this last summer when I had the chance to stop by and we talked patents for a while.

Although we were only able to touch on a few of his 16 (I think) patents.

I can only wonder if those early visits to Racine were influential to me ending up working in a similar field and a similar company. I'll say it was...

Uncle Cal will be missed.

-Theo

Theo - March 14, 2019 at 06:18 AM



“ Heartfelt condolences to you Pauline, and Coby too. Strength to you during the days ahead. May you feel at peace knowing that Cal is free from limitations of failing health and safe in the arms of our loving saviour.

It was nice to view all the pictures and see some of the many travels you enjoyed together.

Jeanne Timmerman

Jeanne Timmerman - March 14, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Calvin J. Verbrugge.



March 13, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ Cal was one of more than 30 grandchildren born into the immigrant family of Jacobus and Maria Verbrugge. There was a spectrum of personalities among those grandchildren from boisterous to shy. Cal was several years older than I was, but at large family events he was always sort of the "academic"--thoughtful, smart, interesting. I believe that characterization was lifelong. He was a lifelong learner. He curious about God's world.

He was unassuming about how smart he was and his contributions including several patents to the commercial world. He was always committed to God's kingdom.

I should note that he is also among the many progeny of Jacobus and Maria who proudly carried the name "James" as a part of their identity. Jacobus and Maria made sure their progeny knew that God expected service from his people. Their son, John, (Cal's father), embodied that expectation. Cal was also a "good and faithful servant."

Condolences to Pauline, his siblings and children

Byron James Hoogwerf, MD

Byron J. Hoogwerf - March 13, 2019 at 12:45 PM



“ 86 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sturino Funeral Home - March 13, 2019 at 10:23 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Calvin J. Verbrugge.



March 13, 2019 at 08:41 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Calvin J. Verbrugge.



March 13, 2019 at 05:36 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Calvin J. Verbrugge.



March 12, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ I had the joy of being able to care for Calvin at his home. He was such a wonderful man and I always looked forward to seeing him. I loved when he would smile when I walked into the room. I will miss him so much. So sorry for the family to lose such a great man.

Alyssa Hubbard - March 11, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ Calvin was always such a pleasant and patient person to work for. He was very good at explaining complex chemistry and I learned a tremendous amount from him. He truly was a very fine person.

Michael Fischer - March 12, 2019 at 01:25 PM



“ Calvin enjoyed playing the card game called Rook, we would

play the game till all hours of the night, he was the last one to

say goodnight. Calvin was a good sport!

Marianne - March 12, 2019 at 10:16 PM



“ Although I didn't know Cal very well personally But I heard a lot about him from Coby and know him to be a very generous and kind person. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you mourn his passing. May the Lord of life give you his comfort and peace now and in the months ahead. Lena Kiers

Lena Kiers - March 13, 2019 at 12:23 PM