



## Tonnis Willem Zomerma

May 27, 1929 - December 31, 2016

Tonnis Willem Zomerma, 87, of Potterville, passed away at his home on Pinch Hwy, Saturday December 31, 2016. He was born on May 27, 1929 to his parents Siverdinus and Grietje (Luxema) Zomerma in Siddeburen, Netherlands.

Tonny, as most knew him, was a true Wooden Shoe Dutchman. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1952. Several years later in 1958 he became a naturalized US citizen. On August 6, 1960 he married Bernadine Steele and together they enjoyed farming on their own farm. In 1967 he started work at the Eaton County Road Commission, becoming an engineer. He was proud of the work he did designing roads and overseeing their construction all the way through to completion.

In his retirement Tonny always stayed busy and wouldn't slow down. Tonny was a great friendly fella who some in his neighborhood referred to as "the wavin' man" as he would sit in his chair in front of the garage and wave to those who drove by. He was an avid fisherman enjoying Walleye fishing trips with his brother-in-law Vaughn. He loved fishing so much he built a pond in his own back yard and stocked it himself so he could enjoy fishing with his granddaughters. He was most proud of his family, especially his granddaughters. It was through them that he became an avid fan of fast pitch softball. He followed their games from T-ball to college and he often traveled

to spring training in Florida and tournaments around the country. Tonny also enjoyed many trips back to the Netherlands for Zomerman family reunions. The most recent trip in 2005 included his entire family traveling together and staying with relatives.

Tonnis is survived by his wife Bernadine; their daughter, Irene (Thomas) Porter; granddaughters Catherine and Victoria Porter; his brother Willem (Judy) Zomerman of Potterville; and his brother-in-law Vaughn (Lee) Steele. He was preceded in death by an infant sister and his parents.

Visitation is Wednesday, January 4, 2017 from 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 5, at Pray Funeral Home.

Memorials are suggested to Benton Township EMS. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Tonnis's Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Tonnis Willem Zomerman*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - January 04, 2017 at 10:18 AM

GC

“ *Dear Bernadette, Irene and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Mr. Zomerman as a small little girl, taking us down to the fence row to look at the cows, while my mom and dad came to visit. I remember the rows of wooden shoes by the back door and was so amazed how he could walk in them. My mom and dad would have been so sad to hear this news, they both loved Tonny and Bernadette and the friendship you all had. Sincerely sorry for your loss. Gail (Hussey) Carr.*

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**Gail Carr** - January 08, 2017 at 07:28 PM

BM

“ I will never forget going to Florida for the World Series and having Mr. and Mrs. Zomerma cheer us on. I have many great memories of him that will last a lifetime and I would just like to thank him for all his endless support and encouragement over the years. He will be missed!



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**Brittny Miller** - January 08, 2017 at 10:24 AM

G.

“ Hello dear family Zomerma in Michigan,  
(Bernadine & Irene, Tom, Catherine and Victoria)

*My sincere condolences to the death of Tonny, your husband, your father and grandfather.*

*I was shocked by it! Your Christmas card he wrote himself yet. And now this.*

*I wish you much strength in the coming period.*

*I think of you.*

*Regards,*

*Grietje Zomerma-Glas*

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The Netherlands  
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**G.Zomerma-Glas** - January 06, 2017 at 03:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tonnis Willem Zomerma.*



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January 04, 2017 at 04:51 PM



“ *Much Love, Jim, Lori and Alex purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Tonnis Willem Zomerma.*



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**Much Love, Jim, Lori and Alex** - January 04, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ *45 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - January 04, 2017 at 10:21 AM

MJ

“ *Mary Jagiello lit a candle in memory of Tonnis Willem Zomeran*



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**Mary Jagiello** - January 04, 2017 at 08:13 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tonnis Willem Zomeran.*



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January 03, 2017 at 01:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tonnis Willem Zomeran.*



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January 02, 2017 at 12:57 PM

DB

“ *Sorry to read of Tonny's passing. He was a good man and always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by many in the Potterville community.*

*With deepest sympathy,*

*Dan Bargy, Dorothy Bargy and family*

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**Daniel Bargy** - January 01, 2017 at 08:09 PM