



## Gerald Rozenboom

February 2, 1922 - September 1, 2019

Jacob Gerald Rozenboom was born in his parent's home northwest of Bussey, Iowa on February 2, 1922. He was the youngest of 12 living children born to Geurt (George) and Maatje (Martha) Van Snippenberg Rozenboom who had emigrated from the Netherlands in 1910. His parents farmed in the Pella, Peoria, Bussey, Tracy and Lacey areas. Gerald began his education at the Bussey Consolidated School and graduated from eighth grade at the Lacey School.

Gerald was drafted into the Army in 1942 and was called to serve overseas during WWII, spending most of his time in France, Belgium and Germany. He married Clarissa Stek on August 14, 1945, also known as VJ Day. During their wedding reception, the church bells in Oskaloosa began to ring signaling the end of the war. Gerald often said the sound of the bells was the best wedding gift they could have received. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army on January 11, 1946. He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal and two bronze service stars.

Six children were born to Gerald and Clarissa: Allan, Calvin, Norman, Kenneth, Kathleen and David. Sadly, Allan passed away on June 29, 1962 from Hodgkin's Disease at age 15. A year to the day later, the Lord blessed them with the birth of their youngest son. Gerald and Clarissa lived and farmed near Wright, Iowa until they retired in 1987.

Gerald was a farmer and liked to "tinker" throughout his life. He designed and built many innovative and practical pieces of farm equipment. He also had an avid interest in flying, obtaining his pilot's license at age 55. He and Clarissa enjoyed their retirement together, spending time with family, hobbies, traveling and volunteering.

Gerald was a faithful and active member of Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Oskaloosa, serving in many ways. He was also a strong supporter of Christian education, serving on the boards of Oskaloosa Christian Grade School, Pella Christian High School and Dordt College. Music was very dear to his heart and he enjoyed singing and listening to beautiful harmony.

Gerald and Clarissa moved to the Oskaloosa Care Center in 2016 where he passed away at age 97.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents; his eleven siblings: Gertie, Jennie, John, Joe, Lucy, Coby, Gerrit, Gysbert, Johanna, Jeanetta, and Martha; and his beloved first-born son Allan.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 74 years, Clarissa; their five remaining children and spouses: Calvin (Connie), Norman, Kenneth (Becky), Kathy Hoksbergen (Carroll), and David (Tammy); twelve grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Oskaloosa. A graveside service will be held before the funeral service on Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. in the Forest Cemetery in Oskaloosa. For those wishing to attend the burial, a procession will form at the Bates Funeral Chapel at 8:45 on Wednesday morning to leave for the cemetery. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 12 noon at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church with the family present at the church from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday evening to greet friends and relatives. Memorials may be made to the Oskaloosa Christian Grade School or the Hodgkin Lymphoma Association.

# Events

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**SEP 3 Visitation - Open 12:00PM - 05:00PM**

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Bethel Christian Reformed Church  
2157 230th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

**SEP 3 Visitation - Family Present 05:00PM - 07:00PM**

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Bethel Christian Reformed Church  
2157 230th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

**SEP 4 Burial 09:15AM**

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Forest Cemetery  
634 North 9th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

**SEP 4 Funeral Service 10:30AM**

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Bethel Christian Reformed Church  
2157 230th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

# Comments

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“ My deepest sympathies to you and your family at this time of your loss. May the Lord give you Peace.

Clint P. Van Zee - September 08, 2019 at 12:50 AM

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“ Dear Aunt Clarissa and cousins,  
My deepest sympathy to you during this time of sorrow and loss. I pray that God will grant you his peace and hold you gently in his loving hand.  
I have many fond memories of dear Uncle Gerald. My mother loved him dearly, and I learned to do the same. I always was proud of his ability to fix things and invent things. Tom, my two boys and I enjoyed going to the EAA in Oshkosh many summers with him; it was a special time with Uncle Gerald. He spent time with us and taught us things about WWII and the planes; a great history teacher. He was fun, and was quite a character. One memory that stands out is from a day when Tom and I visited with Aunt Clarissa and Uncle Gerald at their Wright home. After a delicious pork chop dinner, Uncle Gerald got out his airplane that he was working on. We sat on the couch under the upstairs steps and watched as he explained it all to us. He then decided to show us just how strong this plane actually was by standing on a wing. Well, that didn't work out well, and the plane broke into many pieces. I felt just awful for him, but he took it all in stride - amazing.  
I hope you all have great memories to hold dear in your hearts.  
With love,  
your cousin Nancy from Wisconsin

Tom LeMahieu - September 05, 2019 at 08:15 PM

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“ My sincere sympathy to Aunt Clarissa and all of the family on the loss of Uncle Gerald.  
I remember him always having a smile, his building an airplane ? I think, letting my boys ride some sort of motor bike, “walking the beans”, my playing on your large front porch with big pillars and so many beds upstairs for all of those boys!  
He was a child of God who lived a full, adventurous life and left so many lovely memories for those around him.  
Love and prayers to all,  
Jan Wassink DeJonge

Jan DeJonge - September 03, 2019 at 12:46 PM



“ Our sympathies to Aunt Clarissa and family. So many memories with the Rozenboom family including frequently ending at your house when visiting at Grandma and Grandpa's. Thanks for sharing the pictures. I still remember Uncle Gerald running up the hill at the

cemetery with my Mom's funeral in 2010. Our prayers are with all of you.

Carolyn (Fynaardt) and Bill Heethuis

**Carolyn (Fynaardt) & Bill Heethuis** - September 03, 2019 at 06:12 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald Rozenboom.



September 03, 2019 at 10:49 AM

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“ 43 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Bates Funeral Chapel** - September 03, 2019 at 10:45 AM

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“ I remember coming to Wright to visit other family members, but getting to visit Great Uncle Gerald and Great Aunt Clarissa as well. Fond memories of playing with Dave in the yard of the house and all around Wright. My sympathies on the loss of your father.

**Connie Rozenboom Ellis** - September 03, 2019 at 10:22 AM

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“ Doug and Evy Gibbons purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gerald Rozenboom.



**Doug and Evy Gibbons** - September 03, 2019 at 10:16 AM

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“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Gerald Rozenboom.



September 03, 2019 at 09:46 AM

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“ Kathy and Carroll I pray that God will give you comfort and peace in the passing of your dad.

**June Slagter** - September 03, 2019 at 12:36 AM

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“ Dear Clarissa and Family,

What a wonderful Christian legacy that Gerald left for all of you...Gerald served his country overseas during a dangerous time in our world's history, so that we today, may enjoy freedom. Gerald worked hard, he loved the Lord, his family, and volunteered in his church and community. We are sure that he was very proud of his children, grandchildren & great grandchildren, following in the Christian principles and values which he taught.

You will miss your husband, dad, & grandpa, we know. We want to share a little story with you about him which we think will bring a smile to your lips. We share this story in a loving way, not to pick on Gerald, but to share how it has brought laughter to us, even after these past 37 years...

The year was 1982. Tom and I were dating. I grew up in the Bethel Christian Reformed Church and was still a member there. Tom and I had just enjoyed Sunday dinner at my parent's home, Ron & Rosemary Van Veldhuizen. My parents had just informed us that they were to join two other couples that afternoon at Quarton's Nursing Home to present some devotions for the residents. Quarton's Nursing Home was a house, located in the vicinity north of the old Matthew Lumber Yard. A few elderly residents lived there, cared for by the couple who also lived in the house. My parents asked if Tom and I would go along..."two more people to help sing songs and cheer up the residents would be good," they said." Tom wanted to impress his girlfriend's parents, so he agreed.

A total of eight of us were standing in the hallway between two bedrooms of the second story of this home, as Gerald led us in singing hymns to a couple of elderly ladies in their rooms. We don't remember the name of the hymn being sung, but Gerald stopped our group of eight, right in the middle of the song, looked directly at

Tom, with the most serious look on his face, and said, "Someone here is singing out of tune. Let's start this song again, and try to do better." After this constructive criticism, Tom has not given up on going to nursing homes for the church, but he now sticks to either lip singing or reading scripture.

Thank you for smiling with us. We truly keep you in our prayers during this difficult time. Saying, "Good by" to a precious husband, dad, and grandpa is not easy, but knowing that you will see him again in heaven gives so much comfort.

In Christian Love,

Tom & Cindy Drost

**Tom & Cindy Drost** - September 02, 2019 at 10:20 PM

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“ what can i say about Gearld, he was a loving person and loved his family and friends very much, he will be missed! and a special hearffelt sympathy to his wife clarrissa!

**georgia binns** - September 02, 2019 at 07:13 PM