



Chester Jay VanHaitsma

January 20, 1940 - January 6, 2012

Chester Jay VanHaitsma, of McBain, went home to be with his lord on Friday, Jan. 6, 2012, at Cadillac Mercy Hospital. He was 71.

He was born in Reeder Township, Missaukee County, on Jan. 20, 1940, to Charles and Freda (Borgman) VanHaitsma.

He married Rose Koolstra on Dec. 23, 1960, at the Vogel Center Christian Reformed Church.

He received his bachelor's of science degree and a master's degree in history. He taught in Houghton Lake, California, Marion and retired from the McBain Public High School in June 1999.

He was a member of the Calvin Christian Reformed Church, where he had been very active and had taught the Adult Sunday School. He was also on the Home Mission board at the Church. He did volunteer work for Friend's Ministry, Senior Care and the Friendship Family Home. He coached basketball, enjoyed reading and his yard maintenance business. He enjoyed his family and friends. He was also involved with the Light House Cafe at the Lake City Christian Reformed Church.

He is survived by his wife, Rose of McBain; children, Kenneth (Dawn)

VanHaitsma of Dyer, Ind., Karl VanHaitsma of McBain, Karen Schepers of Nampa, Idaho; grandchildren, Tim (Nichole) Schepers of Dell City, Okla., Lindsay (Kevin) Grove of Crown Point, Ind., Kenny Jr. (Jen) VanHaitsma of Dyer, Ind., A.J. Van Haitsma of Dyer, Ind.,; great-granddaughter Tianna Schepers; siblings, Willard (Eleanor) VanHaitsma of McBain, Joyce (Jud) Walbrink of Zeeland, Helen VanHaitsma of McBain, Gordon (Joyce) VanHaitsma of Grand Rapids, Jim (Barb) VanHaitsma of McBain; in-laws, Nelva (Harvey) Wolters of Zeeland, Donald (Hazel) Stolte of Little Rock, Ark., Bernice Koolstra of Lake City, Martin Koolstra of McBain, and Dave (Deb) Koolstra of Falmouth; and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Gerald VanHaitsma, and his parents.

Funeral services will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, at the Vogel Center Christian Reformed Church, with the Rev. Ken Koning. Burial will be at the Riverside Township Cemetery. A visitation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at the Burkholder Funeral Home in McBain.

Memorial contributions can be made to Care Net of Cadillac.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I first knew Chet as a fellow class-mate at the Mc Bain Public School.
Then, we car- pooled as we took evening classes from CMU in Cadillac, while working on our Bachelor's degrees in teaching.
Finally, I enjoyed chatting with Chet at our high school reunion. He will be missed.
May God solace and sustain you now and in the difficult days to come, as only He can.

Mary Ann (Spoelma) Brzezinski - January 24, 2012 at 03:38 PM

LC

“ I worked with Chet between the years of 1988-1995 at McBain Public. Chet was a special man and a joy to work with. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Linda Coffell - January 16, 2012 at 06:07 PM

AK

“ Rose, you & your family are in our prayer. Yes, Chet will be missed by all who knew him.

Arlene Kramer - January 11, 2012 at 04:05 PM

JD

“ We will meet you there "
on the happy golden shore"
and be together with our wonderful Lord and Savior forevermore.

Julia Dieterman - January 10, 2012 at 03:08 PM

PN

“ We are deeply saddened by your loss. Our children had many wonderful times with him. He was an excellent basketball coach and taught nthem so much more.Please accept our sympathy for your family

Penne and Earl Naas - January 09, 2012 at 05:50 PM

DH

“ Rest in peace Uncle Chet. I know that you suffering has ended and your in a better place.

Daniel Van Haitisma - January 09, 2012 at 03:18 PM

BA

“ Our thoughts are with you as you lay to rest your husband, father,brother and friend. With love and prayers, John and Betty Addink

Betty (Karsten) Addink - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 PM

DF

“ MY PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL I AM TRULY SORRY CHET FIRST TOUCHED MY LIFE AS A BASKETBALL COACH IN 1965/66
DALE D. FAUBLE

Dale D. Fauble - January 09, 2012 at 10:34 AM