



Wilbert "Whip" Koetje

December 28, 1922 - November 29, 2011

Wilbert \"Whip\" Koetje, age 88 of Marion, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, at Autumnwood of McBain.

He was born on Dec. 28, 1922, in Highland Township, Osceola County, to Cornelius and Anna (Dick) Koetje.

He married Pearl Bode on Nov. 7, 1947, at the Lucas Christian Reformed Church.

Wilbert worked in construction up until 1990 for Cadillac Construction, Bill Dracht Construction, and Peter Schierbeek Construction. After 1990, he worked at Sears in Cadillac. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Asiatic Pacific Area and was aboard a ship that sunk during the war. He was a member of Highland Christian Reformed Church, where he had served as elder and deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also supervised the construction of the north addition to the church. He enjoyed riding his Ford 8N tractor and John Deere gator around the county, golfing, photography, deer hunting, wood working in his shop, picking mushrooms and going for coffee with friends.

He is survived by his wife, Pearl Koetje of Marion; children, Michael (Christina) Koetje of Vashon, Wa., Charles Koetje and special friend Mary Schierbeek of

McBain, Gayla (Joe) Hoekwater of Zeeland; eight grandchildren, Amy Koetje, Rebecca (Scott) Voelker, Charley (Jamie) Koetje, Nathan (Nikki) Koetje, Aaron Koetje and friend KayCee Kraeger, Jenny (Tom) Hoort, Kerri (Rick) VanVorp, Andrea (Todd) Nieto, and seven great-grandchildren; brother, Casper (Nella Mae) Dick of Grand Rapids; in-laws, Jay Bode and Jean Bode of Wyoming, and Harold (Helen) Bode of Kentwood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter-in-law Nancy Joy Koetje, and many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at the Highland Christian Reformed Church with the Rev. Keith Mannes officiating. Burial will be at Highland Hillside Cemetery in Osceola County. Visitation will be at the church from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to services on Friday (9034 23 Mile Rd., Marion Mi.)

Memorial contributions can be made to the Church or Northern Michigan Christian School.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Burkholder Funeral Home in McBain.

Military graveside services will be provided by the Cadillac Area Honor Guard.

Tribute Wall

DF

“ I'
Il trulely miss whip stoping and checking up on me. But the last long talk Whip and had last summer he stated he was ready to go home, it made feel uneasy, but i know now that he is home and I will see him again. You as a family must be very proud to know that Whip is happy.

Dale Fauble - December 02, 2011 at 03:08 PM

BH

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with your family at this time.*

Barb Hoekwater - December 02, 2011 at 01:22 PM

KF

“ *Prayers are with you at your time of sorrow. Whip was an amazing man and will be sadly missed by all. He was always so happy and cheerful and could make anyone smile. Love and prayers to Pearl and the family.*

Karl and LindaBailey and family.Marion,Michigan - December 01, 2011 at 12:35 PM

RV

“ *I can'
t think back to our years at Highland Church without thinking about Whip. He was friedly, fun loving, mischievous, and told great stories. But most of all, he was a devoted Christian with a heart for helping others. He will be missed by those who knew and loved him. Roger VanderTuuk, Jenison, Michigan*

Roger VanderTuuk - December 01, 2011 at 08:45 AM

BB

“ *My prayers are with all of you. I've known Whip and Pearl for many years. So sorry to hear. Barb (Dan Vanderhoef's Mom)*

Barb Heistand Baird - November 30, 2011 at 04:15 PM

PS

“ *Koetje Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of great loss.
Paul and Kathy Smits
Homosassa, Florida*

Paul and Kathy Smits - November 30, 2011 at 02:14 PM

LA

“ *I thank God for the love and support Whip has given my family. He was a wonderful man I will never forget him.*

Lisa Avenatti - November 30, 2011 at 01:10 PM