



Jacob Dykstra

October 3, 1952 - June 9, 2025

Jacob "Jack" Dykstra, beloved husband, father, "Opa", brother, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 72. Jack was a valiant warrior, fighting daily for renewed health. But in God's sovereign plan, he met his Savior in the early morning of June 9, 2025.

The Bible describes King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18:6 as a man who "...held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him." That verse could also be said of Jack. Diagnosed with glioblastoma in January 2025, Jack embraced each phase of this difficult journey as an opportunity to demonstrate his unwavering relationship with Jesus. Jack's faith was clear in the kind and grateful words he shared with those who cared for him and in the blessing he spoke over visitors as they left:

"May the LORD bless you and keep you, and make his face shine upon you and give you peace."

Jack was born on October 3, 1952, in Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands, to Jan Rein Dykstra and Anja Aafien (Wierenga) Dykstra. At just 18 months old, he and his family emigrated from the Netherlands to Canada in February 1954, joining many Europeans seeking new opportunities and a fresh start after the Second World War.

In 1968, Jack's father accepted a job in the United States and the family moved to New Jersey. During his senior year of high school, Jack had a life-

changing experience when he became a born-again believer. His faith became the guiding force in his life, and he became deeply involved in his local church youth group.

Following graduation, Jack attended Bob Jones University, where he earned a B.A. in History and Speech. It was also there that he met the love of his life, Katherine Joann Kapanka. The two were married on June 28, 1975, beginning a loving partnership that spanned five decades. This year, they had been joyfully celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary—a milestone marked by gratitude and grace.

In the summer of 1996, at the federal courthouse in Detroit, Michigan, Jack became a naturalized American citizen. He was employed by Ford Motor Company for 30 years before retiring. Jack was a faithful member of Bethesda Christian Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan, where he actively contributed to his church community.

Jack and Kathy raised two children who were the pride of his life: Aimee, born June 25, 1976, and Ben, born July 4, 1982. He was a devoted and loving father, and later, an adoring “Opa”.

Jack was preceded in death by his loving parents, Jan and Anja Dykstra, and his beloved in-laws, Donald and Beverly Kapanka.

He is survived by his cherished wife, Kathy; his daughter Aimee Dykstra Bice and son-in-law Sean Bice; his son Ben Dykstra and daughter-in-law Mary; and his seven beloved grandchildren: Annika, Lane, Wesley, Audrey, Samuel, Charlotte, and Eleanor.

Jack is also mourned by his five siblings: Elisabeth Dykstra (Mildred), Annette Buisman (Wim-Jaap), Hilary Dijkstra (Margriet), Yvonne Bond (Morgan), and Paul Dijkstra (Kristin); his four brothers-in-law: Paul Kapanka (Dee), David Kapanka (Jayne), Tom Kapanka (Julie), and Jim Kapanka (Heather); and

many nieces and nephews.

Jack will be remembered for his unwavering faith, gentle humor, and the deep love he poured into every aspect of his life. He had a remarkable intellect and could recall seemingly endless facts about history, geography, and logistics, sharing them with passion and insight. He loved spending time with family and friends and enjoyed skiing, biking, boating, camping, and road trips. Jack was also the go-to guy for anyone who needed a helping hand behind the scenes—dependable and quietly generous.

His was a life well-lived. He held fast to the Lord—and he will be deeply missed.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 13, 2025 from 3-8pm at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile). Instate and Funeral Services will be the following day Saturday, June 14, 2025 with Instate at 9:30am and the Funeral Service starting at 10am at Bethesda Christian Church, 14000 Metro Pkwy, Sterling Heights, MI 48312. Interment at Lakeside Cemetery, Port Huron, MI.

Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" @
WujekCalcaterra.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **13.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Instate / Funeral Service

JUN **14.** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Bethesda Christian Church
14000 Metropolitan Parkway
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Tribute Wall

RW

“ So glad to have known Jack.
We spent several New Years Eves with Jack and Kathy along with many other events.
Always enjoyed talking with him.
He was a good man who I know will be sorely missed until we meet with him again in heaven.. I know that has to be a comfort to all of those who loved him 💔

rRobin Wolson - June 15, 2025 at 05:50 PM

BN

“ I was the flower girl in his wedding to Kathy, she was my first grade teacher. He was an excellent husband.

Becky Klinetop Nettle - June 15, 2025 at 08:47 AM

HD

“ Hilary D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob Dykstra.

Hilary D. - June 13, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Jacob Dykstra.



June 13, 2025 at 12:15 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jacob Dykstra.

June 13, 2025 at 12:15 AM



“ Sharon and David Hall planted a tree in memory of Jack Dykstra.

Sharon Hall - June 12, 2025 at 07:30 PM



“ Reading about Opa's love of boating reminds me that he was one of the first people my husband Ermi met when he came to the US for grad school from Ethiopia in the summer of 2004. Jack took him out on a tubing adventure that Ermi will never forget. He ended up with a bloody lip from a collision with Mary's shoulder, and I don't think he's ever been on a tube since...but it's a memory we'll no doubt be talking about for the rest of our lives thanks to Opa. The Ephrems send our deepest sympathies to the entire Dykstra family.

Amy Ephrem - June 12, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ David A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob Dykstra.

David A. - June 12, 2025 at 03:55 PM

TM

“ *The Lipinskis, Bulats and Masons purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Jacob Dykstra.*



The Lipinskis, Bulats and Masons - June 12, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Jacks Remembrance*



Ben Dykstra - June 12, 2025 at 08:17 AM

TF

“ *The Maxfield Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Jacob Dykstra.*



The Maxfield Family - June 12, 2025 at 08:01 AM

TF

“ *The Maxfield Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob Dykstra.*

The Maxfield Family - June 12, 2025 at 08:01 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Dykstra - June 11, 2025 at 05:53 PM



“ Love from Elly, Bert and Trudy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jacob Dykstra.



Love from Elly, Bert and Trudy - June 11, 2025 at 10:05 AM