



REMEMBERING
Bastiaan Koekkoek

October 15, 1931 - May 3, 2023



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Dad, Bastiaan Koekkoek. Dad has left the world of the living and has gone to be with his heavenly father and loving wife, Greta.

Bastiaan was 91 on his last birthday, and was born in the Netherlands where he had a lovely early childhood with his parents and two brothers on a farm in Almkerk. Bastiaan discovered and nurtured his talent and love of music, learning to play the organ. Over the years, this love of music became an important part of who he was. Bas went on to play the organ in the Christian Reformed Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba and in Duncan British Columbia, as well as for countless weddings and events over the years. Bas belonged to the Duncan Christian Reformed Church, where he was a devoted member, taking part in various church activities and offices.

As a young lad, he lived through the second world war's occupation of his homeland. Bas's home was unfortunately located on the front line and was bombed by friendly fire. His mother sadly perished, and his younger brother was injured. He ran home to discover his mother, who died in his arms. This traumatic event marked his character for the rest of his life. He became quiet, thoughtful and introspective. Their home destroyed, the boys were separated and sent to stay with various relatives.

Aged 18, Bas embarked on a life changing journey as he left his homeland to make a new life in Canada. He found himself in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he secured lodgings and met Greta, his future wife. They married and started a family of 5 children. Their marriage spanned almost 65 years.

In 1980, we again saw that bold spirit of adventure which prompted Bas's first move to Canada. Bas, Greta and the younger children moved and started a new life on Vancouver Island.

Bas was skilled with his hands and took pride in building and fixing things. Over the years, Bas and Greta built various lovely homes together, which they both took great pride in. Bas could often be found helping the children in fixing up their own homes, as they too started their new lives.

In 2021 Bas lost his life partner our Mom, Greta. He is survived by his children Mary-Lynn, Ron, Paul, Len and Carol-Ann, his many grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He felt they were his greatest achievement. He is further survived by his two brothers Hank and Anton, and many beloved nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews in the Netherlands.

