



## Henri L. Van Dam

March 29, 1940 - March 14, 2019

Henri L. Van Dam, age 78, of Grove, OK passed away Thursday, March 14, 2019 at his home surrounded by family, after battling cancer for 8 years. He was born on March 29, 1940 to Eduard and Bertha (Wijnschenk) Van Dam in Antwerp, Belgium. As a child, his family migrated to the United States through Ellis Island, NY, making their home in New York, and later moving to Chicago, IL. Henri graduated from Chicago's Evanston High School in 1958. Henri joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Pensacola, FL. After the Navy, Henri made his home in Wichita, KS, for over 30 years, working at Equitable Insurance, Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages, PennyPower and Comcoa. He was always recognized as a top performer in every field that he entered. While at Comcoa, he opened 59 Rent-A-Center stores in the state of Florida and was known industry wide as a leading Rent to Own Operator. He was married over 20 years to his first wife, Karen (Miller) Van Dam, residing mostly in Wichita and had 2 children, Doug Van Dam of Tulsa and Timirie (Van Dam) Shibley of Wichita. After divorcing, Henri spent time in the Chicago area before moving to Tulsa, OK in the mid 1990's, where he and his son opened and operated Customer's Choice Rental & Sales (14 stores). On December 5, 1998, Henri married the love of his life, Linda Read, in Tulsa, OK, making their home in Grove, OK. With that union, Henri gained another daughter and blessed her with the Van Dam name, Kara (Van Dam) Sapp and loved her like his own. As a family they have owned and operated Grand

Spirits Wine & Liquor in Grove.

Henri was known for his larger than life personality, and outgoing charisma. With his quick wit and ornery streak, he was always entertaining. He was a self-professed lover of dogs and babies. He enjoyed all types of water activities and was an avid gardener. More than anything, he was a family man and treasured his time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Left to cherish his memory: wife of 20 years, Linda Van Dam, son Doug Van Dam and wife, Michelle of Tulsa, OK, daughter, Timirie Shibley and husband, Patrick, of Wichita, KS and daughter, Kara Sapp and husband, Clark, of Grove, OK, sister, Elise Smith of Syracuse, NY; five grandchildren, Jordan (Van Dam) Corbett, Taylor Van Dam, Zachary Van Dam all of Tulsa, Maci and Abbey Morgan of Wichita, one great grandson, Miles and many loving nieces and nephews, and his "fur-babies" Abbey, Kaci and Jessie.

The family request donations be made to Second Chance Pet Rescue or St Jude's Hospital in Henri's memory.

A gathering for family and friends will be from 6-8pm Tuesday, March 19, 2019 and Nichols-Stephens Reception Room, 10201 US Hwy 59 Grove, OK.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 7-9pm Saturday, March 29, 2019 at Doo-Dah Diner, 1530 S. Webb Rd, Wichita, KS 67207. Hosted by Timirie Shibley & Kara Sapp.

# Previous Events

## Gathering for family and friends

MAR 19. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service  
10201 U.S. Highway 59  
Grove, OK 74344  
(918) 786-6761  
[nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Henri L. Van Dam*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *I have known Henri for 45 years. He was the most upstanding and outstanding person I have ever known. When Doug and Timirie were little kids, our families went on several vacations together. Henri and I did numerous business deals together. Later in life, Henri and Linda and my wife, Claudia, and I did some serious deep sea fishing on our many trips to Costa Rica. He will be missed by so many, I can't even count. God bless Henri, and rest in peace. What a great guy, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. On our last conversation, March 5, he said, for the first time, "I love you," however, I never doubted his love, we just never needed to say it. I loved him too, so much.*

**Dick Furlong** - March 20, 2019 at 09:26 PM



“ *Sending love and prayers to you all, Timi, Doug and the rest of the family as you mourn the passing of a really cool dude.*

**Susie Utter Wolf** - March 18, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ *Marcus Bolte lit a candle in memory of Henri L. Van Dam*



**Marcus Bolte** - March 18, 2019 at 01:03 PM

TS

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Timirie Dam Shibley - March 18, 2019 at 05:41 AM

GG

“ My heartfelt condolences to Linda and family on Henri's passing. In the 20+ years I knew Henri, I don't recall him having a "bad" day. Henri was one of the most positive, energetic and optimistic people I've ever known. I'll treasure my time and friendship with Henri, the "old salesman" as he frequently referred to himself. I'm a better person for having known Henri. Gip Gibson

Gip Gibson - March 17, 2019 at 04:17 PM

RS

“ R.I.P. Henri. Oh, how I loved his sense of humor, his sweet, funny nature and his words of wisdom. Those fun years of Rent-A-Center TV commercials, Florida trips, and of course “the twins”. It certainly wasn't work when Henri was around. Such a good man. Such a loss. My heartfelt condolences.

Robin Ragland Smith - March 16, 2019 at 07:24 PM

JG

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



JERRY GIBBONS - March 16, 2019 at 06:26 PM

SH

“ Anyone who knew Henri knew God broke the mold when He created him! If he was in your corner he would do anything for you. From too many business “adventures” to count to a warm & sincere friendship, Henri brought humor & joy to my life for decades. How he loved his kids & grandkids & their accomplishments. During their college years we had many “Go Cats”/“Rock Chalk” “discussions”!! Linda was such a blessing for him & we loved celebrating their marriage (even if we had to wait for a K-State game to finish first!). Fun, warm memories I’ll carry forever. Sending love & condolences to the family. You will be missed my friend!

Sharon Van Horn - March 16, 2019 at 09:51 AM

LB

“ Lee Bendinelli lit a candle in memory of Henri L. Van Dam



Lee Bendinelli - March 16, 2019 at 09:45 AM

LB

“ R.I.P. Henri. You made those of us who chose to follow you much better men. Believe it or not, but you still manage me to this day and always will. "When you stop moving forward is when you start to die". Henri Van Dam

Lee Bendinelli - March 16, 2019 at 09:44 AM

RP

“ *Russ Paul lit a candle in memory of Henri L. Van Dam*



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**russ paul** - March 16, 2019 at 08:11 AM

LB

*He was good for us Russ.*

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**Lee Bendinelli** - March 16, 2019 at 09:45 AM

DG

*Henri Van Dam was one of the finest men I've ever known and he will always be remembered with love, dignity and grace. I cherished the friendship and he will never be forgotten Dr. M. A. Grigory*

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**Dr. Milli Grigory** - November 25, 2022 at 03:20 PM