



Walter "Wally" Rolek

July 5, 1948 - May 12, 2017

Walter "Wally" Rolek, age 68 of Hebron, formerly of South Chicago, passed away May 12, 2017. He proudly served in the U.S. Army and was a Vietnam veteran. Wally was a Journeyman Machinist for many years at U.S. Steel Southworks and Acme Steel. He was also a union delegate with Acme Steel. Wally had a wonderful personality and was a loving husband, brother, and friend. He was an avid animal lover and loved his dogs. He will be dearly missed. Wally was preceded in death by his parents- Walter and Mary Rolek. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years- Camille; sisters- Janet and Barb Rolek; his "almost" son and special friend- Jay Ing. Funeral service for Walter will take place on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point. Friends may visit with his family from 2 p.m. until the time of service at Burns. Cremation to follow at Burns Funeral Home Crematory. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ABRA, Inc. (All Breed Rescue Angels) P.O. Box 1426, Crown Point, 46308. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

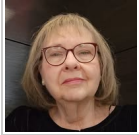
Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 6:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Wally and I were first cousins. Our mothers were sisters. We lived on the same block, only about eight homes apart, so we saw each other every day when we were young.*

He was a typical boy, always full of mischief. Celebrating the 4th of July was extremely meaningful to him in part because he was born on the 5th of July.

I recall his brilliant ideas on how to make firecrackers known as M-80s more powerful. Wally's ingenious mind devised a plan to place them in his neighbor's pipe fence. The lights, the fire, the sound ripped through the entire block. Everyone wondered what had happened? Wally was long gone, laughing and proud of his masterful plan.

Just when we thought this was the entire excitement for the day, a noise mimicking an explosion resounded from the alley of his home.

Running to the back of the house and into the alley, we found garbage cans smoking, the lids flying into the air about 10 feet high. Yep, Wally had done it again.

This time he put M-80s into the garbage can with their lids on to produce an even grander explosive effect.

We children loved it. His parents, however, were mortified by his actions.

While stationed in Vietnam, Wally was able to purchase china, crystal, silverware and ornate silver pieces for a fraction of the cost we paid in the States. He sent me a catalog and I picked out a few china sets. One was a Noritake pattern and the other was a Mikasa pattern. Along with those two china sets, he sent me several silver pieces. They were beautiful then and still remain beautiful now.

My cousin Wally was full of love. He had a kind, soft heart inside

that rough exterior. He was a practical joker, full of pranks.

He hassled my sons whenever he saw them and swore he did not like children. One Christmas, my sons, Freddie and Derek, made ornaments for him and Camille, even a Rudolph tree topper.

Camille told me that they adorned their Christmas tree with the handmade ornaments for many years after.

About three years ago, I was having an outpatient procedure performed at a local hospital. Barb told Wally about it and he phoned me the day before to tell me that he would be meeting us at the hospital because he didn't want Bob, my husband, to have to wait alone. He stayed until I was released from recovery.

"Special," that's what I call him. You went away too soon, dear cousin. I wish we had more time together.

However, your Mom and Dad, my Aunt Mary and Uncle Lou, must be so happy that you are with them once again.

Your loving cousin,

Caryn Jatzak Quattrocchi

Barbara Rolek - May 20, 2017 at 04:34 PM



The above eulogy was written by my cousin, Caryn Jatzak Quattrocchi. I just typed it in for her. Disregard my picture next to her post.

Barbara Rolek - May 20, 2017 at 04:36 PM

PL

I remember your cousin Caryn very well as we too lived on the same block. The Wally she describes is the Wally I remember. I was likely an unnamed co-conspirator/accomplice during those explosions. It is a beautiful eulogy. Thanks so much for sharing it. -Peter Lozada Cypress, Texas

Peter Lozada - August 11, 2020 at 06:43 PM

JA

“ May 12th 2017... I lost my friend, my mentor, my benovelent and beloved Walter J Rolek. I will protect Camille, Barb, and Janet with all of the courage I learned from you. Heavy lies the crown... You left with a piece of my heart. Leaving behind your shoes, I can not fill. Love you Wally. Jay

Jay - May 14, 2017 at 02:22 AM

KW

“ Camille, so very sorry, just want you to know I am thinking of you.

Kathy Wann - May 13, 2017 at 03:45 PM

DS

“ Wally and I grew up in South Chicago and worked together at Artic Ice Cream as teenagers. He was a fun guy and he knew everyone in my family. I remember him bring Santa Claus one year and yes, he was the best. Many of his or orginal sayings I still use today. God bless you my old friend.

Dennis Sura

Dennis M Sura - May 13, 2017 at 10:14 AM

DH

“ Wally and Camille were special to me. I worked with Camille for many years & got to know Wally. He was so much fun. My deepest sympathies to his family.

Donna Hays

Donna Hays - May 13, 2017 at 10:05 AM

JR

If I could give you a title I guess I would call you "Mr. Congeniality" from the time we moved from our childhood home to live on Manistee you always, knew the neighbors and their names before the rest of us did. You carried on the tradition throughout your life.

I always loved the "orchard" parties when it was apple picking time. You got out the cider press and helped the little kids make apple juice. Then it was on to the pumpkin patch to pick a pumpkin to take home.

Whenever I couldn't remember the details of an event in the past I always knew I could count on you to fill in the blanks.

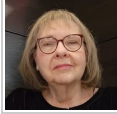
*There are so many memories that will continue to bring your spirit back to me each day. I love you and miss you. Till we meet again.
Love, Janet*

janet Rolek - May 16, 2017 at 08:31 AM

BW

My sympathies and love to the Rolek family. Wally was always the one to put a smile on your face. He had a fun loving spirit that is equal to none. His stories were lengthy, but they always had a great ending! We will all miss you my friend.

Becky Worley - May 16, 2017 at 04:18 PM



Wally, my brother, was a study in contrasts.

*He had no problem reading the riot act to a complete stranger for taking up two parking spots. Yet, at the same time, a movie like *An Affair to Remember* could bring him to tears.*

He could embarrass you with his off-the-wall, risqué sense of humor and aggravate you with his obsessive-compulsiveness and attention to detail. (He was the type to come into your home and start straightening pictures on your wall.)

The next minute, he could melt your heart with his kindness, honesty and sense of justice. Like the time he gave an elderly lady a lift home because he saw her struggling to carry bags of groceries.

He took great pride in his job as a journeyman machinist where he worked with tolerances plus or minus one tenth of a thousandth of an inch.

When physical limitations forced him to take an early retirement, he was lost. His beloved apple orchard also was too much for him.

Yet every once in a while, his dimples deepened and his eyes twinkled mischievously and you knew Wally was still capable of pulling off a world-class prank.

He loved his friends and, by all accounts, they loved him. There will never be another Wally.

He was a husband, a brother, a friend, a hero.

I love you, Wally.

Your Big Lil' Sis,

Basia

*Barb Rolek
Crown Point, IN*

Barbara Rolek - May 20, 2017 at 04:09 PM