



Walter Williams

December 6, 1925 - January 9, 2017

Walter Paul Williams, 91, of Glen Ridge NJ passed away on Jan. 9, 2017, peacefully, in his sleep, at his home. Walt was born in Pittston, PA, on December 6, 1925, the fifth of eight children. He grew up in the coal region near Wilkes-Barre during the depression. Soon after Pearl Harbor, he joined the Navy as a Radioman. After the war, he attended East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, where he met Jean May; they were married in 1954. Walt was very athletic, and participated, refereed, and coached many sports at various levels, including basketball, track and field, and most notably, football. After teaching and coaching in Pennsylvania and East Orange, he took a job as the first football coach at Wayne Hills High School, and retired as chairman of the Phys Ed. Department decades later. Every summer since the late 1950's, he was the pool director at the Glen Ridge Country Club, where he taught swimming lessons to hundreds of people. His wife kept him busy doing projects for the Pilgrim Nursery School at the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, where he played Santa Claus every Christmas for 30 years. After he retired from teaching, he joined the Glen Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Squad. He is survived by his son Todd, daughter-in-law Wendy, and grandchildren Parker and Audrey of Thousand Oaks, CA. He was preceded in death by his son Teddy in 2001 and his wife Jean in 2004. Visitation, Saturday, January 14, 9AM – noon, Van Tassel Funeral Home, 337 Belleville Ave, Bloomfield, NJ. Memorial service Saturday January 14, 1pm, Glen Ridge Congregational Church, 195 Ridgewood Ave, Glen Ridge, NJ.

Cemetery Details

Glen Ridge Congregational Church "Garden of Memory"

195 Ridgewood Ave
Glen Ridge, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 14. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Van Tassel Funeral Home
337 Belleville Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 743-1234 or (973) 743-1761
<https://www.vantasselfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 14. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Glen Ridge Congregational Church
195 Ridgewood Ave
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

Tribute Wall

DB

“ It was a pleasure to know Walt over the years..as a neighbor and a friend. We will miss our "chats" outside on the block. It is comforting to know that Walt made it to the wise old age of 91. May he rest in Peace with Jeanne and Teddy.

Sincerely, Donna and Joe Blanes

Donna and Joe Blanes - January 14, 2017 at 08:54 AM

BM

“ It has been my joy and blessing to know this really good guy. Jean, Walt's wife, was my cousin and we were about 5 months apart in age. Her dad was a favorite uncle and they lived a few miles away and she and I went to different schools. However, we were special friends and remained in touch over the years.

With busy lives we drifted apart for many years but did see each other during special times like funerals and reunions. Over these years we got to know Walt and Todd and Teddy and were fully charmed by the remarkable love of this family. It was always to evident that Jean had picked well when she found and married this man.

In later years and after the death of Jean we actually got to know Walt better and then, only a few years ago, played a role in bringing our daughter and Walt together. She was teaching at Seton Hall at the time and Walt offered to let her use a room and his whole home several nights a week. It was pretty much a match made in heaven as they pretty much adored each other and their time together.

I've always thoroughly enjoyed our visits and phone conversations and the recognition that our values matched. Walt was caring and truly compassionate individual who brought many rays of light and hope to our world. It is a better place because he was here.

Thanks Walt You made a difference.....Bruce May

Bruce May - January 13, 2017 at 02:13 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Walter Williams.* ”



January 12, 2017 at 01:54 PM

JR

“ I was still learning the world as a very young child when we moved next to my Dad's co worker and friend Beatrice May and her family . We were destined to know all of those added to the May family .. including Walt Williams who would marry Jean May in 1954 , a year after my birth . Us kids have moved away but my Mom continued to live across the street from our original home next to the Mays and continued her life long friendship with Beatty May until her death .. She still talks of her good friend. Mom also continued her friendship with Bea's daughter Jean until her death over decade ago . With precious Teddy gone (Jean and Walt's son) that left just Walt and Todd . Mom continued with cards back and forth on holidays and birthdays with Walt . She had mentioned last month that she hadn't heard from Walt this Christmas and thought she should give him a call to see if all was okay . She is 92 years old herself and both the hubbub of the new year and getting through the holidays (and the fact that she is still working at her age) Calling Walt got by her ... No matter what our age we all need to do immediately what we think to do when it comes to our friends and family . IF we put as much energy into visiting and sharing time with one another , doing for others that we care about as we do with our dreaded cellphones... you get the lesson (or lecture as I am guilty , too, of putting things off sometimes to where it is too late .) I will continue to share the story that my Mom tells of the time that you fired one Thomas Mapother , graduate of Glen Ridge High School ,know to the world as Tom Cruise because of the foul language Tom had been using in a job where Walt Williams was his boss . Walt Williams possibly taught TC something about character by doing so ... To Walt ... You will forever live through those that knew and loved you as you touched so many lives in your time ... in that dash that they put between your birth year and the year when you left this earth . Rest In Peace knowing you were loved by many . Joan Sharer Ressman and for Mary Hahn Sharer

Joan Sharer Ressman - January 12, 2017 at 11:08 AM