



## Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter III

March 1, 1953 - July 17, 2020

Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter, III – 67 of Lake Park, Ga passed away Friday, July 17, 2020 at South Georgia Medical Center after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on March 1, 1953 in Tampa, Fl to the late Walter E. & Marie (Spooner) Wacter, Jr. At the age of 15 he met his lifelong sweetheart, DeDe. They were married on September 29, 1973. He began a 35 year career as an engineer with Norfolk Southern. Walter enjoyed woodworking, old cars and fishing. Family was his life, he cherished the Sunday dinners at his house where all of his family gathered for Sunday lunch after church. He was a member of Francis Lake Baptist Church where he served as a deacon for over 30 years. Walter was a member of the Azalea Lodge #716.

Survivors include: Wife of 46 years: DeDe Wacter, Lake Park; Daughter & Son-in-law: Christy & John Whitaker, Barney, Ga; Son & Daughter-in-law: Kevin & Erin Wacter, Lake Park, GA; 5 Grandchildren: Shaw Wacter, Brynn Wacter, Ellie Whitaker, Jules Whitaker & Jenna Whitaker; 2 Sisters & Brothers-in-law: Wanda & Jim Julka, Marietta, GA, Wilma & Dub Music, Lakeland, GA; Uncles: Bobby Wacter, Doerun, GA, Raymond Wacter, Germany and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM Tuesday, July 21, 2020 in the Francis Lake Baptist Church with burial to follow at Dasher Cemetery. Seating will be limited and per church guidelines social distancing and mask are required. For those that feel more comfortable the family is encouraging friends to meet at the cemetery at 11:00 AM. No formal viewing will be held. The family wishes to send a special thanks to all his Brothers in Christ who have been by his side through the years. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Community Christian Academy, 1202 N. Hutchinson Ave, Adel, GA 31620. Sympathy may be expressed online at [www.musicfuneralservices.com](http://www.musicfuneralservices.com). The Wacter family is being served by the professional and caring staff of Music Funeral Services, Valdosta.

# Cemetery

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**Dasher Cemetery**  
3689 Carroll Ulmer Road  
Valdosta, GA, 31601

# Events

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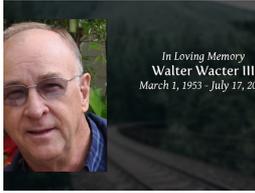
<b>JUL</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<b>21</b>	<hr/>	
	Francis Lake Baptist Church	
	5111 Springwater Drive, Lake Park, GA, US, 31636	

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Music Funeral Service** - July 20, 2020 at 02:35 PM

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“ Dede, Rose and I are so sorry about Walters passing. We found about it very late and would like to say it has been a pleasure to know you both and your family throughout the years. Watching the tribute video was very moving as we witnessed the love of family displayed throughout the years. Our thoughts are with you family during this very difficult time.

**Stan/Rose Highsmith** - August 05, 2020 at 12:43 PM

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“ Randy joins me in expressing our sadness to hear of Walter's illness and passing. We will keep all of you in our prayers . We are sure he will be greatly missed which is testament to a life well lived.

Debby Moritz and Randy

**Debby Moritz** - July 27, 2020 at 10:51 AM

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“ My Love and Prayers Dede to you and your precious beautiful family. What a awesome tribute! Walter was loved by so many and will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences.

Cindy Bender

**Cindy Bender** - July 22, 2020 at 01:28 AM

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“ Dede I am so sorry to hear of this too late to be at the Service or Cemetery. Strange thing is I had Walter on my mind last week and should have called you then. We were out of town until Sunday. Prayers for you all! I loved the video. So many wonderful memories to thank God for. Love you!  
Deborah Johnson

Deborah Johnson - July 21, 2020 at 11:23 PM

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“ Walter was a very good person just like his father. It was my pleasure to be fortunate to have known them. Deede ,he loved you very much.

Guy Martin - July 21, 2020 at 10:02 PM

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“ Deede and family, Walter was such a great example of a true friend. As classmates and when we met you, I always thought you made such a striking couple. It is hard to believe that has been 50+ years. We have had y'all in our thoughts and prayers during this time of sickness. We will always remember WEW III and Deede. Much love and prayers. Our hearts are hurting. Glenda and Jerry Conner

Glenda Conner - July 21, 2020 at 12:25 PM

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“ Love and prayers from the Chuck Woodall family.

Chuck Woodall - July 21, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ Dede I just found out today about Walter. I am so very sorry and will be praying for you in this difficult time. It has been two Months since Bill passed away. We really thought a lot of Walter. If you need to talk call me.229-563-8660. Love you

diana wood - July 21, 2020 at 04:47 PM

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“ Dede, Kevin ,Christy and family, I am so sorry to hear about Walter's passing. He was such a fun, kind, loving man. I would shake my head and smile everytime he called me "Heffer". I will continue to keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Walter was a good man, a great man and he will be greatly missed. Love you all.

Heather Shoup - July 21, 2020 at 08:17 AM



“ Dede, Kevin, Christy and family,

We could not begin to express our feelings at this time. We met Walter and Dede when we began attending church at Francis Lake. We will always remember when we joined the church family there, Walter came to us with the directory giving us a very special welcome and informing us that he and Dede would be the deacon team that we could call if we needed anything at all. We laughed and said they would be our baby sitters. Since that time ya'll have been the very best friends that we could ever hope to have and we've enjoyed many good times shared with ya'll..

Walter always had kind words to say and always made us feel really special. All thru his battle with his health, we never heard him complain. He and you, Dede were always upbeat and looking forward to better days. Always wanting to share everyone else's problems.

Walter was a shining example of what I believe God wants us to be. We've enjoyed many good times shared with ya'll and our other special friends and look forward to sharing more with you Dede and seeing Walter again in Heaven because we have absolutely no doubt that he is there rejoicing with his Mom and Dad.

We love you dearly,

Marilyn and Huron Nichols

**Huron V or Marilyn H Nichols** - July 21, 2020 at 07:24 AM

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“ Dear Dede, I am so sorry to hear about this, my dad always spoke so highly of Walter, sending my prayers and love to you and your family

**Kelly livine** - July 20, 2020 at 11:28 PM

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“ Gene and I are so sorry to hear this. We got to know Walter and his family at Francis Lake Baptist Church. Our prayers are with all the family for peace and comfort during this time. He will be missed by so many!!

**Gene and Ann Johnson** - July 20, 2020 at 02:00 PM

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“ In 2004 I had the honor of meeting and working with Mr. Walter, as I called him. He set the example for many of us new employees, regardless of our Crafts. In doing so, he also set the bar high to ensure that we learned something that would make our job easier, or benefit us as we advanced in our railroad careers. For me personally, one of his greatest traits that drew me to him was his Christian faith and the respect that he showed to many of us co-workers....the new guy (me) starting his first day, or the salty railroader that hired out 30 years ago. I knew I was always in good hands with Mr. Walter at the controls of NS 3096. Through the years I kept in touch with him. Often I would see him visiting his friend in Lake Park while working my industry. He would always come chat with us. I reached out to him shortly after my father had passed away from cancer. At the time he was having to go through a new regiment of treatment. His words were encouraging. As I reflect, I remember the great man in Christ. I remember the great friend, mentor and co-worker. He and his family/friends are in my thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace Mr. Walter. You made a big difference in many ways...to many people.

**Richard Youmans Jr.** - July 20, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear this sad news. Our prayers are with you and my God comfort you and family in the coming days.

**Keith and Jena Sandlin** - July 20, 2020 at 05:19 PM

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“ Dearest Cousin DeDe,  
My thoughts & prayers go out to You & Family during this difficult time. Walter was a true gentleman in every regard. My sincere condolences. Walter is earth's loss & heaven's gain. I'm certain that He & my Brother Pat will bass fish together on the Golden Pond!  
All My Love,  
your cousin Paul Cullen

**Paul Cullen** - July 20, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ Cousin DeDe,  
The video brought tears to my eyes. Wonderful man, beautiful family, cherished memories! Thanks for sharing. Stay strong, keep faith & know that you are loved by many.  
Luv,  
CUZ Paul

**Paul Cullen** - July 21, 2020 at 07:30 AM



“ Much Love & prayers going your way. Jim & I were so close to Marie & w.e. you'all seemed like family. I am so sorry about Walter. But he is no more pain. I missed being there today but I have so many health problems, Don't go any where. You & family will be in my prayers that GOD will take care of you at this time.

**Marilyn** - July 21, 2020 at 08:57 PM

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“ Wilma- I'm so sorry to hear of your brothers passing. May God wrap his loving arms around your family during this difficult time. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. keep your warm and loving memories close at heart..... until you meet again!

**Terry Bennett McLane** - July 20, 2020 at 09:16 AM

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“ I worked with Walter many years ago at Norfolk Southern. He was a kind and patient man--liked by everyone. RIP my friend.

**Lanny Davis** - July 20, 2020 at 08:40 AM

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“ Billy Exum lit a candle in memory of Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter III



**Billy Exum** - July 20, 2020 at 08:39 AM

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“ Nine years ago we moved from the Augusta area to Lake Park. We had been here a few days & were still unpacking boxes. We heard a motorcycle outside & went out to see what was going on. There was a happy, smiling man getting off & a pretty long-legged lady getting off of motorcycle. DeDe & Walter Wacter. From years of coming to visit our children here we knew the Wacters son & family but not them. They gave us a big welcome to town & church. We made plans to go to dinner on a weekend coming up & that was the beginning. We just clicked. From that day forward for nine years almost to the day. Since then we've done everything together. Day trips, antiquing, a trip to New York, mountain & beach trips. Meeting for dinners before & after church with our other friends. Meeting for dinner & playing cards & dominoes at the last minute. Gary & Walter called one another sometime during the day everyday checking on each other. He called Gary Scooter. We know Walter is in heaven. We know we will see him again, but we miss him so much already. But we still have DeDe & we will still be doing things with you DeDe. We love & miss you “Wally”. Pam & Gary (Scooter) Zgutowicz

**Pam & Gary Zgutowicz** - July 20, 2020 at 08:32 AM



“ Kevin , Erin and family, we are so sorry to read about the loss of your dad. Our prayers are with you. May You feel the love and prayers of your friends. May God grant you peace during this difficult time.

Most sincerely,

Harry and Delia Hamm

**delia hamm** - July 20, 2020 at 11:36 PM

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“ Dear DeDe, Matt and I pray for the Lord to give you comfort and peace during this time of loss. You and your family are so special to us and we treasure those good times we spent together at Francis Lake Baptist Church. Sending Much Love and Many Prayers to your precious family.  
Matt and Gayle Marable

**Gayle Marable** - July 20, 2020 at 08:30 AM

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“ Mark Wisenbaker lit a candle in memory of Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter III



**Mark Wisenbaker** - July 20, 2020 at 08:09 AM

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“ Gary Moore lit a candle in memory of Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter III



**Gary Moore** - July 20, 2020 at 08:04 AM

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“ So sad to hear of Walter passing worked many years on the railroad with him our Fathers worked together many years of memories with his family It was a honor to be a friend of Walters i will as many others miss him much RIP my friend i know you are with God now

**jimmy carter** - July 20, 2020 at 06:55 AM

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“ So sad to hear of Walters passing. May the Lord help all the family through this time of grief. Danny Crosby

**Danny Crosby** - July 19, 2020 at 11:50 PM

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“ DeDe and family, Larry and I were so sorry to hear of your loss. May your memories bring you comfort and make you feel that a part of Walter is still with you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Nell and Larry Moore



Nell Moore - July 19, 2020 at 10:58 PM

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“ Dear Dede,

I was heartbroken to hear the news that Walter had passed away. Even though he had been in the fight for his life for a long time it does not soften the pain of grief that I feel. He was my best friend for a while when we were in school, but as we started to get interested in girls and begin to date, we drifted apart. I have always thought of him as my oldest and dearest friend. If you remember he and I survived a wreck together. I loved him like one of my brothers and I will miss him forever, he has always held a place in my heart.

I know his passing puts you in a very awkward situation you wanted his pain and discomfort to end, but you didn't want to be left alone to spend the rest of your life in the world without him. I understand that even when you know that his death was coming it does not soften the shock at all. I could always tell that you both were very much in love with each other. It is difficult to know what to say, when someone's world has been turned upside down. I do know it is important to reach out at a time like this, but also understand there is nothing I can say to ease the heartache of your lose, but I do empathize.

I know that Christians live their life with the guarantee of an everlasting life after death. Walter has fought the good fight, he has finished his course, and kept the faith, henceforth there is a crown of righteousness laid up for him. I pray that our heavenly father will relieve you of your bereavement and leave you with the cherished memories that you and he shared together. I pray that you will be blessed and someday soon return to happiness.

Benny Pittman - July 19, 2020 at 10:36 PM

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“ Ya are in our heart and prayers. He was a good friend for a long time. He will truly be missed



**Bill and Sarah Mizell** - July 19, 2020 at 10:01 PM

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“ Walter is a dear friend and he will be dearly missed. I was blessed to have Walter as a mentor. When my father passed away, Walter was there to comfort and pray for me, I appreciated that more than he could know. I am praying for God to comfort his family through this difficult time.

**Patrick Folsom** - July 19, 2020 at 09:23 PM

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“ DeDe I am so very sorry for your loss. I always thought a lot of you both. I've thought of you guys over the years but had no idea Walter was sick. You and your family is in my prayers.

I know he is in a happy place now with no pain. May God be with you at this time. Rocky sends in condolences and was very sad to hear the news.

Judy AntulovLee

**Judy Antulov-Lee** - July 19, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ DeDe my prayers are with you and the family. I pray the Lord wraps you in his loving arms.

**Peggy Wilson** - July 19, 2020 at 10:28 PM

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“ Knew him as a co-worker, as a man of God at Francis Lake, as a friend who was always there for anyone, one of the true great people I have known and ever will meet. I loved him as brother, words do no justice. If I can live the rest of my life like Walt lived his I know we will meet again. To my friend Walter you are now in the presence of an awesome wonder. No more pain my friend.

**Kenny Green** - July 19, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ Cousin Dede, my heart goes out to you. You and Walter were so kind and loving to my aging parents as they failed. I can never repay you. May angels sing him to his rest.

Theresa Cullen

Theresa Cullen - July 19, 2020 at 08:56 PM

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“ DeDe and family may God continue to be with you as I know he was with Walter in his earthly walk. My what a glorious home he has now. You both were so close and it is a difficult time for you but God's love will see you through it as will the prayers of so many that love you all. Just know those prayers will continue for all of you. Robert enjoyed all those years on the RR working with Walter and sharing that apt. when they with Bobby had to work out of Macon. RR family always. You are in our heart and Walter's RR family will miss him greatly.

Robert and Shirley Newton - July 19, 2020 at 08:53 PM

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“ Rip Dear Pal, you will be missed

Lavon Prine - July 19, 2020 at 08:53 PM

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“ It's hard to except the passing of a true friend. A man who when he says (You Have A Friend In Me), you truly have that and much more! I miss you...  
Rest In Peace my friend.  
Arv

wayne owens - July 19, 2020 at 08:41 PM

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“ DeeDee , I am so sorry for your loss. Tommy and I are praying for you and your family. he was loved by so many. memories are a wonderful thing and i have very fond memories of “my cher” He was such a good sport and willing to do anything to make sure others had a good time. much love and prayers for you all. Barbara and Tommy Waldron.

**Barbara Waldron** - July 19, 2020 at 07:53 PM

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“ Walter will be missed so greatly, Dee Dee and family are in our prayers.

**Tina Sirmans** - July 19, 2020 at 07:46 PM

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“ Todd and I extend our condolences to the Wacter family. Walter was a kind and generous man and always was willing to help a friend. When he was at Norfolk Southern he was always helpful to Todd with shipping and receiving rail cars at ERCO worldwide. We also had the pleasure of getting to know Walter and Dede and the kids through our extended family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Todd and Michelle Owens

**Todd and Michelle Owens** - July 19, 2020 at 07:45 PM

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“ The Wacter Family are in my thoughts and prayer. Mr Wacter was a follower of Jesus Christ our Lord, he will be missed. I am praying here for Mrs Wacter and the Children May God give the comfort at this time.

**Rhonda Owens** - July 19, 2020 at 07:39 PM

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“ We spent many days in the summer at my house with all the kids playing in the pool. Many nice memories of wonderful neighbors. I'm so sorry DeDe, I loved your whole family.

**Faye Mcelvey** - July 19, 2020 at 07:02 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers to DeDe and the family. Walter was a true family man and Christian. He will be missed by us and his entire Church family.

God Bless,

David and Dale Hodges



**Dale Wood Hodges** - July 19, 2020 at 06:51 PM

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“ Praying for you and family. It was a pleasure working with Walter. So sorry to here about this. GOD bless you and give ya'll comfort. Phillip and Judy Seymour

**Phillip Seymour** - July 19, 2020 at 06:25 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Walter has been a long time friend.

**Lama Exum** - July 19, 2020 at 05:32 PM

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“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you. We have known Walter since he was a young boy. Bobby worked on the Railroad with him. He was a fine Christian man from a fine family. May God bless you all with His peace.

**Bobby and Geri Allbritton** - July 19, 2020 at 05:14 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter III.



July 19, 2020 at 04:07 PM

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“ Growing up on the dirt roads of ‘Pine Forest Estates’, I have many fond memories of the Wacter family. Among them are attending birthday parties at their home and playing neighborhood football games in the McGee’s front yard hoping Kevin would pick me to be on his team.

I also have fond memories of working with Walter on the railroad. In heavy rain, Walter would always lean out of the locomotive window getting his head soaking wet keeping an eye on his crew.

I remember working the 3 o’clock yard job with Walter and how much he looked forward to DeDe and Christy bringing supper from home for him to enjoy.

Walter will be greatly missed. We’re all sad by his passing. May God Bless.

Bud Watson

**Bud Watson** - July 19, 2020 at 03:38 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Emory "Papa" Wacter III.



July 19, 2020 at 03:26 PM

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“ Oh Walter, Walter, I didn't realize Your departure would hurt so much. I'm sure I can't say rest in peace (RIP) because I know You've already heard Jesus tell You, "Well done my good and Faithful servant and because of Your Lifelong and willing earthly service to Others, You'll be put in charge of much here in Heaven." I thoroughly enjoyed the 35-years as a co-worker of Yours and a 47-year friendship which started the day we both applied for work at SRS. Your Christian Faith was always been an encouragement to many. Your Faith (believing in unseen Heavenly things because You believed God's written word of the Bible and agreed it to be so) has now turned from FAITH to SIGHT!  
Fond Memories Always and the Most Sincerest Condolences to Your Family.

pete and Debbie Leisey

pete Leisey - July 19, 2020 at 02:41 PM

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“ DeDe and Family, so sorry for your loss. Praying God will wrap you in his arms and give you peace and comfort. Walter will be greatly missed. He always had the biggest smile on his face for everyone. Keeping you and the family in my thoughts and prayers.

Joann Wallace - July 19, 2020 at 02:31 PM

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“ Wilma & Family, I'm so sorry in the loss of your brother. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing him, but he had been in my prayers during his last treatments. He sounds like he was a wonderful family man and a devout Christian. I know he will be missed, but God needed him more. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

Debbie Mosier - July 19, 2020 at 02:13 PM

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“ Dear DeDe and family, So sorry to hear of walter's passing. May God wrap his arms around you and your family during this difficult time. He was a good husband, father and grandfather. You were a good wife too . He was always so kind . Will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. May God Bless! Classmate Lowndes 71'. Debbie Sarco Rewis.

Debbie Rewis - July 19, 2020 at 01:26 PM