



Ralph Calvin Walker

September 14, 1929 - November 18, 2020

Ralph Calvin Walker, age 91 of Dayton, passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2020 surrounded by his family at his home in Dayton. Ralph was born on September 14, 1929 in Whittier, CA, the son of the late James Woods Walker and Rose (Travis) Walker. Ralph was also preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Brooks Walker, second wife, Gladys Carroll Walker, son, James Ralph Walker, brother, Harold Walker, sister, Ailene Griffith, half-sisters, Barbara Smith, Reba Garrison, Betty Ann Warnkey and half-brother, Dub Hill.

Ralph was raised in Dayton, lived in Battle Creek, MI for 47 years and returned to Dayton in 1994. He retired from General Motors in Kalamazoo, MI as an inventory supervisor. He was an evangelist, enjoyed gardening and was a member of the Dayton Family Worship Center.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Greg) Rogers of Battle Creek, MI; step-brother, Butch Hill of Redbank; three grandchildren, Dustin (Denise) Rogers of Spring Port, MI, Jimmy Walker, Jr. of Battle Creek, MI and Kellie Sue (Marc) Johnson-Torres of Battle Creek, MI; seven great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Susan Walker of Battle Creek, MI; step-son, Dr. Bob (Carolyn) Carroll of Hixson; step-daughters, Judy Tingle, Joan Carroll and Wanda (Wencil) Morris all of Hixson.

Funeral services for Ralph will be held Sunday afternoon, November 22, 2020

at 3:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel with Bishop Bob Carroll officiating. He will be laid to rest at Spring City Memorial Gardens next to his wife Betty Brooks Walker.

Social distancing is strongly encouraged and MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED.

Funeral service live streamed at: <https://my.gather.app/remember/ralph-walker>

Please share your memories of Ralph on his online guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

The family is being cared for by the Vanderwall Funeral Home where they will receive friends Sunday afternoon after 1:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Spring City Memorial Gardens

Spring City, TN 37381

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Vanderwall Funeral Home, Inc.
164 Maple St.
Dayton, TN 37321
(423) 775-2662
tvan193@aol.com

Visitation

NOV **22**. 1:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Vanderwall Funeral Home, Inc.
164 Maple St.
Dayton, TN 37321
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tvan193@aol.com

Tribute Wall

“ I have known Brother Walker and his family as long as I’ve known anyone. I grew up in the Andrus Street Church of God in Battle Creek, Michigan and he and his family were going there when I was born. There’s never been a time when there wasn’t a Walker in my life.

He may not have known it, but when I was born, he inherited an obligation. In the absence of a Christian father in my home, I believe God sent men like Brother Walker to show me how a Christian man should act. He became one of the many men God provided to me and my brother Tim as a substitute for not having a Christian father in our home. But the actions he displayed over the many years told me he had no problem accepting that added responsibility

I’m not here to vilify my own father, but dad didn’t attend church, or subscribe to Christian values in the home. Although my mom did her best, and succeeded, in maintaining a Christian environment in our home, there was not that team effort from both partners. I think this is the reason that I began to take notice of men around me that acted differently than my dad. There were a great number of men in the church that I had an opportunity to observe through the years. Several pastors and many laymen were a part of this church and had an influence on my life. But Brother Walker was one that really stood out. I think one of the reasons was that he was always there. From the time that I first remember him until he moved away, he was always there. He was very committed to this church.

I also think having children in the same age bracket as me made me take notice of you, and maybe caused you to take notice of me. You were one of my best friend’s father.

This created many situations where I had opportunities to see how he acted as a Christian, as a husband, and as a father. Over time, I noticed that the way he acted was different than what I saw at home.

I saw a man pray. I learned that it wasn't a weakness to pray to God for help or strength. He spent a lot of time in the altar. I saw him get in touch with God, pray and weep. I knew this wasn't just a show for church, but that he was the same man at home as he was at church.

I saw a man humble himself before God and his fellow man. I learned that it wasn't a weakness to be humble.

I saw him love his wife in a Godly manner. I learned about Godly love, caring and commitment.

I saw the way he acted towards his children. I learned of selflessness, of the way God acts toward us as his children.

He never tried to be a substitute father to me, although, had I asked that of him, he probably would have tried to accommodate me. It was humbling to know that he had a desire to aid me in a spiritual struggle. He didn't really "try" to be anything other than what he was, a good and decent man, a good husband, and a good father.

He had no idea that I had "chosen" him to be my example. He had no idea when I was making my observations, or when I was watching. He never had the opportunity to prepare himself for my "tests". He was just a good, humble Christian man doing what he thought was right.

I'm sure he struggled with things, and had some down times, like we all do. He was a human being. But he was a very good human being. I am glad that I can let people know that I appreciated him for who he was and what he meant to me.

The lessons that I learned from Brother Walker were generally, a lot of short lessons learned over a long period of time. We are from different generations and sometimes I wouldn't appreciate what I was learning from him as much at the time, as I would later, when I might face the same challenge. Brother Walker helped me more

than just about anyone I know, and he will be sorely missed.

I was fortunate to be able to give Brother Walker a more personalized copy of this letter earlier this year.

Tom Bannister

Tom Bannister - November 22, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ralph Calvin Walker.*



November 21, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ *I'll never forget meeting Uncle Ralph for the first time. What a ray of sunshine! Such a sweet man. We will miss your beautiful smile and spirit. Love you so much.*



Mary Griffith - November 20, 2020 at 10:57 PM



“ 12 files added to the album Memories Album



Vanderwall Funeral Home, Inc. - November 20, 2020 at 01:21 PM