



James Madison Walker

December 29, 1936 - December 29, 2013

Colonel James Madison Walker of Shelbyville passed away on December 29, 2013, at the age of 77. Born in rural Lincoln County, Colonel “Big Jim” Walker rose to prominence as a highly decorated Army combat veteran, helicopter pilot, avid hunter, outdoorsman, and owner of the Quail Valley Hunt Club in Petersburg, Tennessee.

A 1959 Graduate of the University of Tennessee, Colonel Walker served on active duty in the United States Army from August 1959 until October 1981. He loved his Country and he loved the Army. He commanded soldiers at every level from platoon to brigade. He served as a combat helicopter pilot for three years during the Vietnam War and received many awards and decorations for heroism, gallantry, and high achievement in aerial combat operations against a hostile enemy. In addition to being a Master Army Aviator, "The Colonel" was also a tough as nails Army Airborne Ranger.

A lifelong hunter, Colonel Walker owned and operated the Quail Valley Hunt Club in Petersburg for over 25 years. He chose to open the hunting club just a few years after his retirement from the Army, and after a successful stint as an army aviation consultant. Big Jim shared his passion for bird hunting with thousands of hunters from every skill level. Hunters came from around the country to bird hunt at Quail Valley, but more importantly, they came just to spend time and make friends with the legendary “Big Jim” Walker.

“Big Jim” Walker lived large, loved life, and loved people. He was an American original and truly one of a kind. He had thousands of friends and friendships that he loved and cherished very much, but his proudest accomplishment was his family. He was preceded in death by his father, James Edwin Walker, and his mother, Clara Estelle Edde Walker. He is survived by a sister, Linda Thompson, and a brother, Charles Michael Walker. He is also survived by his wife of over 58 years, Jane Gillum Walker, and three sons and daughter-in-laws, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) James Madison Walker, Jr. and Niki Styles Walker; Robert Carl Walker and Dr. Laura Cox; and Joseph Mark Walker and Teresa Beard Walker. He is survived by ten grandchildren: Amanda Walker Durham, Dr. Sarah Walker Metelka, Jessica Leigh Walker, Emily Jane Walker, James Madison Walker III, Claire Edde Walker, Samuel Joseph Walker, Rachel Marie Walker, James Clay Walker, and Benjamin Matthew Walker. He is also survived by two great-grandchildren: Amelia Grace Durham and Hanna Claire Durham.

Visitation for Colonel Walker will be from 3pm-7pm on Sunday, January 5, 2014, at The Lynchburg Funeral Home, located at 1630 Fayetteville Highway, Lynchburg, Tennessee. Funeral Services will begin at 9:30am on Monday, January 6, 2014, at The Lynchburg Funeral Home. An Interment Service will begin at 2pm at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery located at 7931 McCrory Lane in Nashville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either the Sarah Cannon Fund, 310 25th Avenue North, Suite 103, Nashville, TN 37203, or the Army Aviation Association of America Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468.

Cemetery Details

Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Lynchburg Funeral Home
1630 Fayetteville Hwy
Lynchburg, TN 37352
(931) 759-4444
lynchburgfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Service

JAN 6. 9:30 AM (CT)

Lynchburg Funeral Home
1630 Fayetteville Hwy
Lynchburg, TN 37352
(931) 759-4444
lynchburgfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall



“ *James Madison Walker*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *To Mrs. Jane G, Walker, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) James Madison Walker, Jr. and family members.*

To the soul of our dear friend, Jimmy Walker,

*It was in 1999, when we first have met
You've stood so tall, you've got me scared
Your Tennessean draw, had a lot of might
I loved it, enjoyed it, and made me feel, I am spared*

*Your loving heart, was one of a kind
Cheered and cared, for everyone around
Your smiles, jokes and words were revered
We laugh and laugh, until we were drowned*

*We pray the all mighty, to bless your soul
and to cherish our memories, all life long
May God bless, your family every day
And to help them be, forever strong*

Rafik Hammami, Ismail & Omar Hammami

Rafik Hammami - January 09, 2014 at 04:31 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Brian Earle - January 08, 2014 at 11:07 AM

JW

“ I am heartbroken to hear of Jim's passing. I met him back in 2001 when he wanted a computer and webpage for his hunting club, so Clyde from TTCS took me to meet him. He kinda scared me at first, as I didn't know how to take him, but then after a few visit, and trying many many times just to show him how to get on the internet and do email, I got to really know him. Wow he was a great man! He told me many stories and we could talk for hours! This man was certainly one of a kind and he will be missed dearly. Sending my prayers to the Walker family, and Jane I know we only met once, but please know I am thinking about you.

Jeanne Warren - January 06, 2014 at 04:57 PM

TC

“ Jane,
Our hearts and prayers reach out to you and entire Walker family. We honor you both for your dedication to Country (with your service in the military), family, and friends. We pray God is holding you ever so gently in the palm of his right hand. Until we are assembled again I salute you old soldier for the impact you have made on so many.
COL (Ret.) Ted A. Crozier

Ted Crozier - January 06, 2014 at 10:52 AM

DW

“ Jane, Bobbie Sue and I both are so very thankful that we got to visit with you by telephone this afternoon. We are both deeply saddened by Jimmy's passing. As you know, I have always thought so highly of him. The sacrifices that you both made during his active military career are truly appreciated. I know that military life is never easy for a family, and that time spent in combat is especially stressful. I have such great memories of Jimmy, Jerry and me growing up together. I also cherish the times we were able to spend together as adults. Bobbie Sue and I are also thankful to have been able to come by your home to visit with the two of you this past summer. Please know that if there is anything we can ever do for you, please feel free to call on us.

We are very sorry that we will be unable to attend the services. We have both been sick throughout the holidays. We are recuperating, but we are physically unable to travel at this time. We will continually keep you in our prayers, because we both understand what you will be going through in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Our love and prayers,

Dwain & Bobbie Sue Walker

Dwain & Bobbie Sue Walker - January 04, 2014 at 10:50 PM

EJ

“ Uncle Jimmy, you were one of a kind. You made us laugh, embarrassed us, and then made us laugh again. Your stories will live on, but we will miss you. Aunt Jane, Jim, Bob, and Joe...you are in my thoughts and prayers. Much love, Edde

Edde Johnson - January 04, 2014 at 07:29 PM

CS

“ Charles Hummel, Bill MacKay, Paul & Mary Schwent purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of James Madison Walker.



Charles Hummel, Bill MacKay, Paul & Mary Schwent -
January 02, 2014 at 08:24 PM

PS

“ Such a great loss of a giving man with a beautiful smile, warm heart and funny jokes to help lighten the load of others. His love and laughter will always be remembered. We are blessed to have called Jimmy our friend.
Paul and Mary Schwent

Paul & Mary Schwent - January 02, 2014 at 08:05 PM

PS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul & Mary Schwent - January 02, 2014 at 07:56 PM



“ Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Madison Walker.



January 02, 2014 at 01:22 PM

CF

“ CROWN FORD purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Madison Walker.



CROWN FORD - January 02, 2014 at 12:54 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of James Madison Walker.



January 01, 2014 at 03:34 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of James Madison Walker.



January 01, 2014 at 03:30 PM

BG

“ Jane, You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Jimmy will be deeply missed at his school reunions.

*Billy and Patsy Gray
Class of 55*

Billy Gray - January 01, 2014 at 12:30 PM

DJ

“ *1st Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield seems like only yesterday when I recall all the good times we had. Lot of water under the bridge since then with both joy and sorrow. I like to think that we did some good to make this old world a little bit better place to live. If nothing else we showed folks how to smile, laugh and praise our awesome God and Savior. Maybe we even set the example a bit for folks to appreciate this great nation and the freedom it stands for. Be sure your brass is shined, your shoes polished, and your hair cut so you will pass the final muster. You are missed.*

*Donald R. Jordan
Lt Col, USA-Retired*

Donald Jordan - January 01, 2014 at 09:30 AM

CC

“ *The entire membership of TCAA is deeply saddened by the passing of Jim Walker. Rest assured, he has become God's co-pilot and is in the Heaven above us.*



COL (R) Ted Cimral - January 01, 2014 at 08:59 AM

CC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



COL (R) Ted Cimral - January 01, 2014 at 08:54 AM



“ *Holiday Homecoming Basket was purchased for the family of James Madison Walker.*



January 01, 2014 at 06:23 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane and family. We will certainly miss "Jimmy" (as we referred to him). From the Class of 1955, Central High School, Fayetteville, TN
Gary & Jo Ann Thompson*

Gary Thompson - December 31, 2013 at 06:46 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of James Madison Walker.*



December 31, 2013 at 05:39 PM

LW

“ *Big as life, with an infectious laugh. He was always there if you needed him. He meant a lot to my father, Clarence Walker and to my mother Jane (they all met in college - Jimmy and his Jane & Clarence and his Jane). When ever he came to visit there was always at least one joke about my mother Jane being his wife. We all knew that without his Jane, who stood beside him all the way, he would not have been who he was or do the things he accomplished in life. Jimmy was truly a good man and will be missed. Be at peace, Linda Walker*

Linda Walker - December 31, 2013 at 01:12 PM

GM

“ *Well, Jimmy- we came a long way from the hollers of Champ and Kelso. It was my true honor to have known you and be able to call friend and fellow soldier. You fought the good battles both personally and for the freedom of our country. I salute you. Jane- Faye and I treasure your friendship and send our deepest feelings at this time. We know your family will rally around for you. Keep the good times in your memory of Jimmy. He was one of a kind. We will miss him.*

George & Faye Massey

George Massey - December 31, 2013 at 12:48 PM

LT

“ *My Protector, My Friend...My Brother. The memories we made will be treasured. Your Sister.*

Linda Thompson - December 31, 2013 at 07:50 AM



Linda Lou, Just a thought to let you know Faye and I are thinking of you. Jimmy was a great friend and fellow soldier. He will be missed. I hope all his traps and trot lines will be full forever. George

George Massey - December 31, 2013 at 12:39 PM