



CSM (Ret) Hans Walter Schafer, Sr.

December 15, 1942 - December 1, 2009

Hans Walter Schafer, Sr., son of the late Franz Josef Schafer and Margareta Schafer Nelis Wolf, was born on December 15th, 1942 in Niederlahnstein, Germany. He spent his childhood growing up in Lahnstein, Germany until he reached 19 years old. Turning 20, and ready to begin a career, he moved to the states and joined the United States Army. In Europe, his friends and family referred to him as Hans, however as he made a home for himself in the U.S. friends and family called him Walt.

On October 17th, 1970, Walt and Bonnie M. (Tanner) Beacham committed their vows to each other in front of a very small group of close friends and family at the First Baptist Church in Waynesville, MO. The couple shared 39 wonderful years of marriage together. Most friends and family refer to their relationship as more of a soul-mate partnership rather than just a marriage. The couple was blessed with 2 children; Rebecca (Becci) and Hans Jr. (Wally). Walt also had a son in a previous marriage, Michael Miller.

Proudly serving 27 years in the United States Army, and a veteran of the Vietnam War, he spent the majority of his career in Field Artillery. He was a well-respected soldier and although asked to apply for the highest ranked position available in the United States Army, Walt was ready to retire in 1989 as Command Sergeant Major. He earned several accolades and awards during his tenure as a soldier, including both the Republic of Vietnam Cross of

Gallantry w/Palm (unit) as well as the prestigious Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Walt had an undeniable talent as a Wood smith and truly enjoyed projects around the house. He had a love for the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing with his family and friends. Most of all, he cherished spending time with his children and grandchildren. From supporting them at sporting events to sitting the grandkids on his lap while he took the riding lawn mower for a lap around the yard, as long as he had them close, he was happy. His sense of humor was dry, and many friends and family have wonderful memories of practical jokes he had shared with them throughout the years. In addition, frequent road trips provided a plethora of memories and vivid stories that are built to last.

Walt went home to be with the Lord on the morning of December 1st, 2009. He passed peacefully in his home, at 66 years old.

Walt will be sadly missed, and fondly remembered by his wife Bonnie. He had 3 children: Rebecca Harrison and her husband Paul Harrison, and their 2 children Michael and Hali Harrison, all residing in Springfield, MO; Hans Walter Schafer, Jr. and his wife Suzie Schafer, and their children Kyle and Sierra, all residing in Virginia Beach, VA; Michael Miller and his wife Ada Miller, and their children Adalis and Grace, all residing in Buffalo, NY.

Funeral services with military honors were held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, December 4, 2009 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert with Chaplain (CPT) Jeffrey Wirick officiating. Walt's son, Hans, Jr., recalled his wonderful memories of his father and gave a toast to his father's memory. The songs "Island of Love", "Goodnite, Sweetheart, Goodnite" and "Elvira" were played. Military honors were provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Services were under the direction of

Memorial Chapels and Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Walt Schafer and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory.

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of CSM (Ret) Hans Walter Schafer, Sr.*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - December 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *CSM (Ret) Hans Walter Schafer, Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Aunt Bonnie I'm so sorry i didnt know uncle Walt died. I loved him very much. I remember all the fun times him and my dad had, all the fishing and crazy things. I didn't know and i'm so sorry. My prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Bonnie Mentola-Merrill##imported-end##*

December 11, 2009 at 06:17 PM



“ *Bonnie, you have my deepest condolences. I'm so sorry to hear about Walt. My prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Melanie Mason##imported-end##*

December 05, 2009 at 01:14 AM



“ Words are hard to find to express my sympathy.....just allow God to guide you and hold your memories ever so near to your heart!! May peace be with you and love abide within each of you during these times. Becca.....I am here always.....if not just a shoulder with no words spoken.##imported-begin##Matt and Sarah Ray##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 03:46 PM



“ We would like to send out condolences to Bonnie. I'm honored to have known Walt, he was always a kind friend to me, my father, and mother and to all he came into contact with, he will be greatly missed by those of use that thank him for his patriotic service to our great country.
Christopher, Shellie, Shannon & Sierra Heinen##imported-begin##Ret SFC Christopher J. Heinen##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 01:25 PM



“ I am so heartbroken for you and your family. I can't pretend to know your pain and I am crying with you. Please let me know if I can do anything. I love you guys very much. -Tracey.##imported-begin##Tracey Peters##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 01:06 PM



“ Our family sends all of our love, prayers and thoughts during this difficult time. If there is anything you need a hug, a meal, a shoulder to cry on... let us know. We love you all dearly.
Love the Dotsons - Mike, Kathleen, Mitch and Kaitlyn##imported-begin##Kathleen Dotson##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 11:57 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I know Becca respected and loved her father very much.##imported-begin##Todd Davis##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 10:51 AM



“ Death is a sad and tragic affair
Even when it is long anticipated
But no death is as hard on the living
As the unexpected death of a loved one

Death does not always come with warning
With time to say the sad farewells
Sometimes it comes, unannounced
With no time for even a brief goodbye

There are the saddest of times
When death takes one so dear to us
Without any warning, unexpected
And in our grief, we bid our sad farewell

We share your sadness at this mornful time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Bob, Karen, Robert and Katie Groves##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 10:36 AM



“ I am truely saddened by the news of Walts passing. He was a great friend of my Dad and family. I always liked hearing the stories of their Drill Sgt. days. My heart and prayers are with Bonnie, Becky and Wally.##imported-begin##Mary Heinen##imported-end##

December 03, 2009 at 10:01 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you . Jessi & Anna & family.
Shyloh wish I could give all big hugs.##imported-begin##Sarah
Campo##imported-end##*

December 03, 2009 at 01:20 AM