



Joseph Clifford Walker

SEP 22, 1938 - JUL 10, 2023



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Joseph Clifford Walker

SEP 22, 1938 - JUL 10, 2023

Joseph Clifford Walker, 84, of Centerville, IA, passed away Monday, July 10, 2023, at MercyOne Medical Center after an extended illness.

Joe was born on September 22, 1938, in Mystic, Iowa, the middle child and only son of Clifford (Happy) Haines Walker and Evalee (Sanders) Walker. As a child he started working alongside his father on his family's farm north of Mystic. He graduated from Centerville High School in 1956 and went on to Indian Hills Community College while continuing to farm full-time.

Joe served in the United States Army National Guard from 1960 through 1968 attaining the enlisted rank of Sergeant E-5 and earning the distinction of 'Expert' Marksman. In 1964 he attended the Iowa Military Academy, was commissioned, and attained the rank of First Lieutenant. He enjoyed his time in the National Guard and appreciated the many friends he made.

In 1962 Joe met Sharon Lilland who had just taken her first teaching job at Centerville High School where she intended to stay just one year. Joe convinced her otherwise and they were married on December 28, 1963. At the time of Joe's passing, the couple was less than six months from their 60th wedding anniversary.

Relocated by the creation of the Rathbun Dam, Joe and Sharon settled into their permanent home north of Centerville in 1967 and had two children, Kjersten and Joseph II (Joe). Joe Sr. continued to farm until age 70. He introduced conservation methods to the county as the first 'no-till' farmer and as an early adopter of terracing.

Joe bought and restored two bulldozers to build his own terraces and ponds. He served for a decade on the Appanoose County Conservation Board and as a Trustee of Vermillion Township where he tended the Jewish, Thomasson, and Dale Cemeteries with care for years.



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Sharon, Kjersten, and Joe (Bridget) along with seven grandchildren (Karianna, Katrin, Karsten, Kajsa, Saskia, Sabine, and Stellan), extended family, friends, and neighbors are left to honor the memory of Joe's life. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Evalee Walker, and sisters, Carole and Barbara.

A visitation (10 a.m.) and military service and funeral (11a.m.) will be held on July 22, 2023, at the First Lutheran Church in Centerville with a lunch following the service. A private burial will be held at a later date.

To those who loved him deeply, Joe embodied integrity. His interests ranged from wild and domesticated animals to art and antiques, from classic cars and motorcycles to military history and British comedy, and from gospel, country, and classical music to news and trivia.

Perhaps above all he will be remembered by his family for his dry wit, his inventive mind, his quiet generosity, and his unwavering loyalty. In Lieu of flowers, Memorials have been established at The First Lutheran Church, The Centerville Historic Preservation Corporation (HPC) and The Appanoose County Historical Society, which may be sent to Thomas Funeral Home, ATTN: Joseph Walker Family, 501 North 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.thomasfh.com or on our funeral home Facebook page.



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 5:07 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 4:38 PM



Fran Meyer posted:

Our deepest sympathies to Sharon, Joe and the entire family. Fran & Tom

August 11 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our deepest sympathies to your family during this difficult time.

July 26 at 7:00 PM



Linda Wytttenbach Gebhardt posted:

Sharon and family, we are truly blessed to have known Joe and the memories we have shared. Especially when you visited in Wisconsin. Our deepest sympathy, love, peace and prayers are with you. Rudy & Linda; Peg & Virg and families

July 20 at 7:00 PM



Margery Davison lit a candle in honor of Joseph.

Joseph was a good man and he is going to be greatly missed. Our condolences to the family. From the Ewing's Margery and Marilyn



July 19 at 7:00 PM



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RB

Renald And Darcie Bouchard posted:

Sent with love, remembrance, and our deepest sympathy.

July 18 at 7:00 PM

JM

Joni Ford Mcfarland posted:

Mrs. Walker - I'm so sorry for your loss.

July 17 at 7:00 PM

SM

Shelli Minor posted:

So sorry for your loss.

July 16 at 7:00 PM

MW

Melissa Willey posted:

So Sorry for your loss. My dad, Jerry Bubenyak was a good friend of Joe. May he RIP, prayers to your family. Melissa Willey and family.

July 15 at 7:00 PM

TM

Tara Hornaday-Micetich posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss Sharon! ❤️🙏

July 15 at 7:00 PM

CC

Connie Casteel posted:

So sorry for your loss.

July 15 at 7:00 PM

LM

Linda Miller posted:

So sorry for your loss Sharon. Hugs to you.

July 15 at 7:00 PM



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TD

Tom & Joni Davis lit a candle in honor of Joseph.



July 14 at 7:00 PM

SM

Sherry Murphy posted:

So sorry for your loss. Such a kind and accomplished person. Thinking of you all.♥

July 14 at 7:00 PM

JB

Janie Long Bailey posted:

Very sorry to see this. Prayers for all of you.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

NB

Nancy B. Bennett posted:

Thinking of you!

July 14 at 7:00 PM

JC

Jan Carney posted:

So sorry for your loss. Thoughts to you and your family.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

KM

Kim Moore posted:

Sorry for your loss!

July 14 at 7:00 PM

BS

Barb Sanders posted:

Deepest regards.

July 14 at 7:00 PM



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AR

Andy Robinson posted:

He was such a nice person. So sorry to hear this.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

JM

Janice Houser Mcelvain posted:

Our deepest sympathy.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

JB

Joann Ballanger posted:

So. Sorry for. Lose

July 14 at 7:00 PM

PH

Patricia Huebner posted:

I am so sorry Sharon prayers to your whole family

July 14 at 7:00 PM

ST

Sara Tait lit a candle in honor of Joseph.



July 14 at 7:00 PM

JS

Jennifer Dwight Salstrand posted:

So sorry Sharon. Joe was such a great guy and I do miss visiting with him. Hugs and prayers for you and the kids.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

AT

Annette Tubbs posted:

I am so very sorry...

July 14 at 7:00 PM



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MB

Marsha Brown posted:

My condolences to Mrs Walker and family.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

DS

Denise Sheston posted:

Sharon I am so sorry for your loss of Joe. Prayers for all of you in the coming days.

July 14 at 7:00 PM

CF

Connie Kaster-Foster posted:

Sorry for your loss. Hugs and prayers.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JW

Judy White posted:

So sorry for your loss Sharon n All the family sending thoughts n prayers 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

KS

Karen Shondel posted:

So sorry for your loss, Sharon and family. Hugs and Prayers

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CH

Carol Ponsetto Heffron posted:

I am so so sorry. ❤️

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MS

Maryann Stottlemyre Long Sparks posted:

So sorry, my thoughts and prayers go out to all!

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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TB

Todd Baze posted:

So sorry 😞

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DP

Deb Peterson posted:

I am so sorry he was a good man.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CH

Courtney Hiatt Hawkins posted:

So sorry to hear this. Prayers for the family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DH

Dan Howington posted:

Sorry for your loss Sharon. Prayers for you and your family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DL

Dennisandvicky Lawson posted:

Thinking of you Sharon and your family. So sorry to hear this♥

July 13 at 7:00 PM

BP

Belinda Potter posted:

My condolences to the family. I always enjoyed visiting with Joe.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

SC

Susan Barker Cole posted:

Oh, Sharon! Sending prayers and hugs for you and your family!

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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DB

Diana Brice Borkenhagen posted:

So sorry Sharon. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. 🙏🙏🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JB

Jean Beeler posted:

Dear Sharon, please know I am thinking of you all. I always enjoyed talking with Joe. He was such an interesting man. Will be praying for you and love you much. Jean

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MP

Malissa Pace posted:

Prayers Hugs sent

July 13 at 7:00 PM

KM

Kaysie Mcsweeney posted:

So very sorry for your loss thoughts and prayers for your family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

RC

Rosemary Clark posted:

So sorry Sharon and family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

PM

Paula Mitchell posted:

Thoughts and prayers for the entire family! May your many happy memories help you through this most difficult time.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CM

Carol Jean Daniels McClurg posted:

Sharon and family, So sorry for your family's loss! Thinking of all of you with my deepest sympathy'

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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KS

Karen Seeley posted:

Keeping your family in my prayers...

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CM

Carol Jean Daniels Mcclurg posted:

Sharon and family, So sorry for your family's loss! Thinking of all of you my deepest sympathy!

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MB

Mary K Bennett posted:

So sorry for your family's loss. Prayers and hugs.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CM

Carol Jean Daniels Mcclurg posted:

Sharon and family, So sorry for your family's loss! Thinking of all of you with my deepest sympathy!

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JC

Jane Craver posted:

So sorry Sharon. Hugs to you!

July 13 at 7:00 PM

SO

Suzanne Odonnell posted:

Sorry for your families loss, prayers for all

July 13 at 7:00 PM

NF

Nina Finch posted:

So sorry, Sharon and family. Sending love, and may peace and comfort be with you all.

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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DR

Deanna Russell posted:

So sorry Sharon and family. Thinking of all of you and keeping you in my prayers. Love & hugs ❤️🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

TT

Tracy Thomas posted:

Oh I'm so sorry for the families loss.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

SA

Stephanie Lathrop Anderson posted:

He was my neighbor as a little girl. Always remember driving by their beautiful home and seeing Joe out farming or choring. My condolences to Sharon, Kjersten and Joey and their families.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

KF

Kira Foster posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss Sharon and family! I absolutely adored Joe and our morning conversations. He asked me every morning for the word around town.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MW

Melinda Oden West posted:

I'm so sorry to hear this. Sending love, prayers and hugs for his lovely family. ❤️

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DS

Dianne Strickler posted:

So sad to see. I will be thinking of you all

July 13 at 7:00 PM

PH

Pat Calhoun Houser posted:

Sharon, Thoughts and prayers for you and your family 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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HH

Helen Helleur posted:

Sending Prayers and thoughts 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MA

Mary Jo Neubauer Allgeier posted:

So sorry for your loss 🙏❤️

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MS

Maryanne And Bob Sobiech posted:

Peace to Joe and to you, Sharon, Kjersten and Joey. We are so glad to have you all in our lives. Maryanne and Bob Sobiech

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JA

Jan Dick Allen posted:

We're so sorry, Sharon. We will be praying for you and your family. ❤️🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CS

Connie Shiltz posted:

Sharon, I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband Joe. Thinking of you.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

SM

Sandy Mitchell posted:

Prayers for your family! He will be missed.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CB

Carolyn Bills posted:

My condolences to Sharon and family 🙏🌹

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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PA

Pat Atkinson posted:

So sorry Sharon, Prayers hugs to you.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

PD

Patricia Devore posted:

So sorry Sharon for your loss Prayers and hugs

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CK

Carolyn Kruzich posted:

So sorry for your loss you're in my thoughts and prayers

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JZ

Jill Pefley Zintz posted:

Mrs. Walker- I'm so sorry to hear this. I know you were very faithful, compassionate and consistent in caring for Joe. He was a very kind man who loved his family and his farm. Praying for your strength during this time of loss. 🙏❤️🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

LI

Lola Louise Virden Ingram posted:

So sorry for your loss Sharon, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family .

July 13 at 7:00 PM

GM

Gary Masters posted:

Sorry for your loss Sharon and family His life will give everyone a lot of great memories RIP Joe

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DS

Debbie Swayne posted:

So sorry for your loss Sharon you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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BS

Bill Sharp posted:

Prayers Sharon

July 13 at 7:00 PM

TC

Tamara Carel posted:

Thoughts and prayers to the family

July 13 at 7:00 PM

LR

Linsey Symmonds Rouse posted:

Prayers and hugs!

July 13 at 7:00 PM

BC

Bethony Cockrum posted:

My heart goes out to Sharon and family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

KH

Kathy Robinson Hudson posted:

Sorry for your loss Sharon and family you are in my thoughts and prayers 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MB

Mindy Cowan Belloma posted:

Sending prayers

July 13 at 7:00 PM

GH

Garydenise Howe posted:

Sharon, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Prayers 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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KB

Kathy McClaskey Ballanger posted:

So sorry for your loss

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MC

Michelle Aiello-Van Cleave posted:

So sorry for your loss, Mrs. Walker. Hugs and prayers to all of you.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

PJ

Peggy Johnson posted:

Hugs to Sharon and the family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CP

Carolyn Padavich posted:

So very sorry to hear this! Sending thoughts, prayers and hugs to Sharon and family! 🌸

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MT

Marcy Lyons Thamke posted:

So sorry for your loss

July 13 at 7:00 PM

KA

Kerri Ann posted:

I'm so sorry Mrs. Walker and family 🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

TB

Tiffany Nicole Brown posted:

Lots of great memories of Joe. My favorite was when he gave me a bag of carrots for Halloween and that became the joke for years to come. He even brought me a bag when I graduated. Love to you all!



July 13 at 7:00 PM



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MC

Melinda Campbell posted:

Oh I am so sorry. He will be greatly missed

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DM

Debbie Farrington Miller posted:

My sympathy and prayers

July 13 at 7:00 PM

SM

Shane Morgan posted:

So sorry for your family's loss sending prayers

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JK

John Huffman& Kathy posted:

Sorry to here about Joe. He was a good person.I was in the National Guard with Joe. He was a good officer. Sharon I want you and your family you have my sympathy. John

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JF

Jolene Susin Fadiga posted:

Condolences to family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

RP

Reta Pope posted:

Sending love & prayers to you Sharon & family for the loss of "your" Joe. Hugs

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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GT

Greta Tarbell lit a candle in honor of Joseph.

Sharon and Family..So sorry for your loss. Please know our thoughts are with you, may you cherish all those wonderful memories. With Deepest Sympathy ..Greta and Darl Tarbell

July 13 at 7:00 PM



DL

Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson lit a candle in honor of Joseph.

Dear Sharon, Please accept my sincere sympathy and prayers. We are so sorry for your families loss. Bev

July 13 at 7:00 PM



KS

Kathy Steele posted:

Joe had his dry wit and sense of humor til the very end. It has been a pleasure and joy to take care of Joe.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DZ

Dorothy Zaputil posted:

Sharon and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort and peace.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CM

Claudia Mccarthy posted:

Sharon and family, I am so sorry to see this. Thoughts and prayers for you all

July 13 at 7:00 PM

BB

Brandy Bauer posted:

So sorry for your loss

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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PS

Penny Sharp posted:

Sending lots of love to all of you.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

JW

Jeff White posted:

Sorry for your loss Sharon and family

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CD

Chris O'donnell posted:

So sorry for your families loss Sharon! 🙏🙏🙏

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MS

Margie Stewart posted:

Thoughts, prayers and hugs Sharon and families! So sorry to hear of your loss.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

LJ

Linda Louthan-Johnson posted:

Sending my condolences Sharon to you and your family. Hugs

July 13 at 7:00 PM

CK

Charla Kepner posted:

So sorry Sharon. Sending prayers for you and your family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

KD

Kathy Doll posted:

So sorry for your loss.

July 13 at 7:00 PM



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PE

Penny Eddy posted:

So sorry Sharon & your family

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DD

Deb Drew posted:

RIP, prayers to the family

July 13 at 7:00 PM

DA

Deanna Allen posted:

Prayers and hugs to the family

July 13 at 7:00 PM

SN

Sandy Nab posted:

So sorry Sharon and to your family also. Sending prayers for you and the family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM

BF

Bev Frevert posted:

Love to all of you!

July 13 at 7:00 PM

PC

Pamela Young Curtis posted:

Hugs Sharon, Kjersten, and Joe, sorry for your loss..

July 13 at 7:00 PM

MR

Margueritte Rardin posted:

Thoughts and prayers to all the families! Sharon and families he was one of the good ones! So sorry!



July 13 at 7:00 PM



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Vanessa Ann Fraser posted:

So very sorry for your loss Sharon. Thoughts & prayers for your family.

July 13 at 7:00 PM



Stephanie McGill posted:

So sorry for your loss. Prayers and hugs.

July 13 at 7:00 PM



Media

Joseph Clifford Walker

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 4:38 PM



Joe had his dry wit and sense of humor til the very end. It has been a pleasure and joy to take...



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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