



Walter L. Wilhelm

August 7, 1949 - December 10, 2025

Walter Lee Wilhelm, age 76, passed away on December 10th, 2025. Driving back from visiting his brother in Ohio, he suffered a sudden medical emergency, but remained composed enough to control his vehicle and prevent harm to others. Walter passed away the same way he lived his life: protecting the community around him.

Walter was born in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, to parents Frederick and Eva Wilhelm. From an early age, he knew his calling as a firefighter, often getting into trouble at school for skipping class when he heard the fire sirens sound. To the great benefit of so many people, his need to help was something he couldn't resist. Walter joined the United States Air Force in 1968 as a firefighter. He transitioned to civilian life in 1972, but stayed on as a firefighter at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, continuing to follow his passion, often volunteering his time as well. He began to work part time at the base, and part time with the Chesterfield Township Fire Department. After dedicating more than thirty years of his life to Selfridge, he retired from the base, but not from being a firefighter. He continued working at the Chesterfield Township Fire Department, eventually making Captain and retiring (for real this time) in 2017. For nearly fifty years of his life, Walter put his community first, selflessly and courageously risking his life to save countless others. And yet, this was only part of who he was.

Walter, better known as Walt to his family, met his wife, Debbie, in 1972 and they were married just three months later. They soon started a family and were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Wendy and Rachel. Wendy and Rachel both recall how playfully goofy he was, loving to spend time outside and making them laugh with his pranks, naming him the “Master of Disaster”. From summers in Ohio spent on the lake, fishing and swimming, to winters in Michigan spent ice skating by Swirly Top, Walt was a loving father and husband, soaking up every second of happiness he created with his family. As the years rolled by, he got upgraded to “Opa” with seven grandchildren, then two great-grandchildren. He never lost his lighthearted nature, despite being mercilessly teased year after year for (unfortunately) being an avid Ohio State fan. Yet, ignoring this rather glaring red flag, pun intended, his family adored him endlessly.

When he wasn't protecting his community or enjoying time off with his family, Walter served as a Trustee for his church, Good Shepherd Lutheran. He loved being involved in community service projects and devoted much of his time giving back to God, who had blessed him with so much.

Walter, Walt, Dad, Opa, is survived by his wife, Debbie Wilhelm, his two daughters and their spouses, Wendy (Charles) LaPointe and Rachel (Robert) Malt, his seven grandchildren and their spouses, Madeline (Philip) Colón, Joey (Azurley) Wilhelm, Shaun Malt, Nathaniel Malt, William Malt, Hanna Malt, and Brendon Malt, and his two great-grandchildren, Gabe LaPointe and Annabelle Colón, along with Walt's two siblings.

The family is organizing a viewing at Wasik Funeral Home (New Baltimore, MI) on Friday, December 19th from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be an additional viewing on Saturday, December 20th, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (New Baltimore, MI) from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, followed by a church service at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Lunch to follow at The Palazzo Grande

(Shelby Township, MI) at 1:30 pm.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **19**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Gendernalik Chapel
35259 23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Instate in church

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
31100 23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047-1863

Funeral Service

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
31100 23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047-1863

Tribute Wall

JA

“ *My brother...how you will be missed! The three of us will always have our love, our memories and that can't be taken away! RIP Wally, you deserve it 🥺❤*



Janis Allard - December 21, 2025 at 01:18 PM

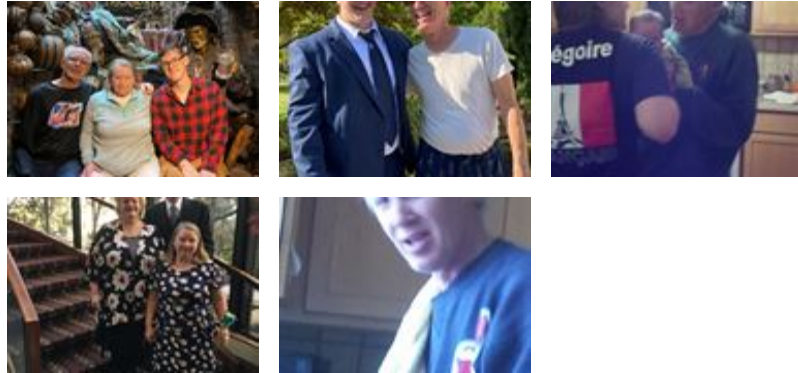
MK

“ *Walter was my mom's next door neighbor. He was always friendly and helped her a great deal. He cut her grass, plowed her snow, changed locks in her house, put a new battery in her car and probably a lot more. He did a lot for the woman that lived on the other side too. He was a very loving man and always helped others. He will be greatly missed for the person he was not just for the many things he did for others. Monika Khan*

Monika Khan - December 21, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ 102 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - December 18, 2025 at 12:32 PM



“ *Love you Cheryl and Ed. purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Walter L. Wilhelm.*



Love you Cheryl and Ed. - December 18, 2025 at 09:26 AM



“ *FreeStar Financial Credit Union purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Walter L. Wilhelm.*



FreeStar Financial Credit Union - December 17, 2025 at 06:20 PM

JW

“ Jack and Karen Worline purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Walter L. Wilhelm.



Jack and Karen Worline - December 17, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BD

“ Bruce, steve, randy , kevin , den purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Walter L. Wilhelm.



Bruce, steve, randy , kevin , den - December 17, 2025 at 12:48 PM

CT

“ Credit Union ONE Commercial Lending Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Wilhelm.

Credit Union ONE Commercial Lending Team - December 17, 2025 at 12:13 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Walter L. Wilhelm.



December 17, 2025 at 12:13 PM

DB

“ I remember complaining as a kid and he'd say
“Would you like some cheese with your whine”.
Classic Walter! He was a legendary euchre
player, loving husband, loving father and
always a child at heart.



Matthew 18:3 “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like
little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Thank you for all the wonderful memories, Walter! Love you!

David Bodanyi - December 17, 2025 at 12:03 PM

GG

“ Gayle Brown, John, Kim& Zack Greig purchased
the Country Basket Blooms for the family of
Walter L. Wilhelm.



Gayle Brown, John, Kim& Zack Greig - December 17, 2025 at
11:06 AM

GG

“ Gayle Brown, John, Kim& Zack Greig planted a <a
[href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518"](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)>Memorial Tree in
honor of Walter Wilhelm.

Gayle Brown, John, Kim& Zack Greig - December 17, 2025 at 11:06 AM

DJ

“ Deborah J. planted a <a href="/store/Product.aspx?
[ProductId=4518"](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)>Memorial Tree in honor of Walter Wilhelm.

Deborah J. - December 16, 2025 at 09:20 PM

KG

“ When God said “ Love your neighbor” , Walter answered “Yes Sir”.....I cannot even find the words to express my gratitude for the innumerable times he mowed my moms lawn and plowed her snow, how he tended to her pets (and my chickens) and helped to repair just about everything, how he greeted me with a “Hi-de-ho Neighborette every time I was in the yard and how he rushed over to help and calmed me when my mother was rushed to the hospital. We are all devastated at the loss of our friendMay God comfort, Debbie, Rachel, Wendy and the family as they move through these days. You are all so loved....Walter, We will think of you every time we see a deer or turkey in my yard. I look forward with great joy to hear another “Hi-de-ho Neighborette” when I too return to my heavenly home.

Kim, John & Zack Greig

Kim Greig - December 16, 2025 at 07:36 PM



“ So many memories to share from playing tag, ghost in the grave yard and just making us laugh he was a giant kid at heart . Always remember hearing his scanner on no matter what day or time you were at the house . You will be missed Walter my heart and hugs go out to Debbie and the family. Love you all so much

Stacey Bodanyi - December 16, 2025 at 07:36 PM

RH

“ Walt was frequently checking in on me, especially after Vera, Debbie's sister, moved in with me. He even shoveled the snow on the driveway in the winter. He was a blessing to many of us. He and Bob, a staunch Hookem Horns' (TX) fan, talked football.

Lynn & Bob

Rev. Bob & Lynn Herrod - December 16, 2025 at 02:58 PM