



Walter Dean Vernon

March 3, 1938 - April 7, 2018

Walter Dean Vernon, age 80, of Bristol, TN, entered his heavenly home on Saturday, April 7, 2018 and was greeted by his beloved dog, Fiona. He was born on March 3, 1938 in Athens, Ohio, son of the late Darrell and Dorothy Vernon.

Walter graduated from Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio. He was a long time resident of Bristol where he retired from Sprint as the Director of Marketing. He served in various positions at Sprint, Ohio Bell and as a school teacher in Central Ohio. An avid outdoorsman, he was an avid fisherman, golfer and loved spending time on South Holston Lake with friends and family. He was a member of Kettlefoot Gun Club and various civic organizations. He was an Ohio State Buckeye fan. In his retirement he eagerly anticipated the arrival of hummingbirds in the spring and provided food for the birds in his backyard as well as ensuring the deer were fed all winter. He attended State Street United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his adoring wife of fifty-six years, Nancy Vernon; his daughter, Kim Dunn and husband Gary, of Victor, Idaho; his son, Pat Vernon and wife Karen, of Crystal Lake, Illinois; his favorite grandson, Spencer Vernon; special "Wednesday Lunch Bunch" friends; and his fly fishing buddy.

The family will receive friends Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM at Oakley-Cook Funeral Home, Bristol, TN. A Celebration of Life Service will follow at 3:00 PM with Pastor Mark Hicks officiating. A private committal and inurnment will be held at a later date in Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Dublin, Ohio.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to Dr. Philip Claybrook and the caregivers at Wellmont Hospice House.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Walt's honor to The Bridge Home No Kill Animal Shelter, 2061 Highway 75, Blountville, TN 37617 or Holly Help Spay-Neuter Fund, 14 6th Street, Bristol, TN 37620.

Arrangements especially for Mr. Vernon and his family have been made through Oakley-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory.

Comments



“ Nancy our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Mike and Kerry Fuller (friends from Laurel Marina)



Mike and Kerry Fuller - April 15, 2018 at 05:37 PM



“ . purchased the Heartwarming Thoughts Boston Fern for the family of Walter Dean Vernon.



. - April 12, 2018 at 07:38 PM



“ Sending my love and condolences. Good memories playing bridge, hair cuts, and love this family.

Kathy Hall - April 11, 2018 at 09:39 PM



“ Nancy, so very sorry. Will keep you and your family in my prayers.
Jo Ann Lester

jo ann lester - April 11, 2018 at 05:07 PM



“ Sincere condolences to the Vernon family and may God provide you with peace during this difficult time. Walt was a class act in every way. Respected by his superiors, peers and subordinates alike. RIP Walt and God speed.

Larry - April 11, 2018 at 02:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter Dean Vernon.



April 11, 2018 at 01:37 PM



“ Our Sincerest Condolences to Nancy, Kim, Pat and families. Walt was a terrific father, husband and friend. I often reflect on our time in Bristol in the late 70's / early 80's, specifically our small little cul-de-sac. Some of my fondest memories of Bristol are that wonderful Vernon family that lived across the street. Truly Special Times!! It's an honor to know Walt, Nancy, Kim and Pat and calling them friends and validation in my mind that there are still kind people in this world.
Mr. Vernon, I salute you. Rest in Peace Sir.
COL Todd, Debbie, Matthew and Grace Patnesky

Todd Patnesky and Family - April 11, 2018 at 01:18 PM



“ The greatest man ever! He was our boss at Sprint in Raleigh and was highly respected by all. He genuinely cared for us and took time out of his busy schedule to ask about our personal lives and family. RIP Walt! My prayers are with you Nancy, Kim, Pat and your families. I KNOW he will be missed! ~ Suzanne

Suzanne Wakefield - April 11, 2018 at 10:49 AM



“ Walt was a wonderful person. My life was so richly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with him at United / Sprint Telephone. I know he will be missed by many friends and family. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Liz Adams - April 11, 2018 at 10:41 AM



“ In the journey of life, you recount experiences and accomplishments and how they combined to form the fabric of your life. The final product doesn't mean much unless you recount the people who fit into that life and having done so exerted an influence that remains clear, never to tarnish. The ones who were true friends.

Walt Vernon exerted that kind of influence. We were friends. As a friend he never let me down. When I needed his help, he gave it unselfishly. He hired me at United Intermountain Telephone Company. As a boss, he listened as we described what we wanted to do and supported our plans and actions. Walt was a leader he had a good heart. When I left UIMT, and my new Company closed, Walt supported me coming back. Walt wasn't just talk.

In fact, he and Nancy invited me into their home during the transition. They treated me like a member of the family. I will always be grateful.

Later when Freeda and I moved to Texas we stayed in touch with Walt and Nancy and I got to share time with them last October. Walt, as I pray for the repose of your soul, I know your memory will always be with me.

Matt Ryan - April 10, 2018 at 09:57 PM



“ I worked with Walt for over 30 years at United/Sprint and had so much respect for him as a leader and more importantly as a person. Walt always looked out for others. My thoughts and prayers are with Nancy and the entire family.

Gordy Weeden - April 10, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Dean Vernon.



April 10, 2018 at 01:25 PM



“ Walt was a good friend, neighbor and colleague at United. Beside his passing, my only regret was not fishing with him last Summer. The time just slipped by and we didn't make it to this year's warmer weather.
I offer my condolences to and prayers for his family.

Roy Burress - April 10, 2018 at 09:55 AM



“ Pat, Karen and Nancy,
So very sorry for your loss. Walt meant a lot to so many people and will be missed. I will always have a special place in my heart for him, he was great to have had the pleasure to work for. May God give you comfort during this time.

Julie McVey - April 10, 2018 at 09:30 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Dean Vernon.



April 09, 2018 at 08:26 PM



“ Gerry & I moved to Bristol in 1978 knowing no one and were greeted and welcomed by Walt & Nancy within the first week . That friendship developed and flourished from that point. We can't say enough about how close we became. Walt was one of the most sincere, caring , kind individuals I have ever met, and I consider him a true best friend.

We will miss the enjoyable time spent with the Vernons, especially the regular weekend bridge games.

Ed & Gerry Patnesky

Franklin, VA

Ed Patnesky - April 09, 2018 at 05:22 PM



“ From your loving friends at XSOLIS purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Walter Dean Vernon.



From your loving friends at XSOLIS - April 09, 2018 at 05:17 PM



“Walt told me when I was working for him that “things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out.”
I have never forgotten that and have repeated it to others often.

Tyler Franklin

Tyler Franklin - April 09, 2018 at 04:59 PM



“Tyler...Walt had such wise adages. For those of us that worked for him and with him....he taught us all so much.

Brenda Madison - April 10, 2018 at 11:38 AM



“Nancy, Kim, Pat and family: I was so sorry to hear of Walt's passing. Bob and I have fond memories of our newlywed days on Jonesboro Road and the wonderful Vernon family. God bless. Our prayers are with you.

Julia Simmons - April 12, 2018 at 07:12 PM



“Walt was one of the good guys!!
We send our condolences and prayers to Nancy and family.

Tom and Alice Geller

Tom and Alice Geller - April 13, 2018 at 03:15 PM



“Nancy & family, I am so sorry for your loss. May GOD bless & comfort you all as only He can. Our Lettermen days is where I had the privilege to meet your Walt. He was always such a gentleman and so kind to us all. You, Nancy, were an absolute joy to be around, thank you. My prayers are with you & your family now, Kathy Woodby

Kathy Woodby - April 14, 2018 at 10:07 AM