



Walter A. Niemeyer

April 18, 1937 - January 5, 2014

Conway, SC...Walter A. Niemeyer, age 76, died Sunday, January 5, 2014 at Regency Hospital in Florence, SC.

Mr. Niemeyer was born in Winona, MN, the son of the late Adolph and Della May Bromrick Niemeyer. He loved shopping at Walmart and "never met a stranger". Mr. Niemeyer loved Military Life in the Army and was the recipient of a Purple Heart, Silver and Bronze Stars and he was submitted for the Congressional Medal of Honor. The movie "We Were Soldiers" was based on Mr. Niemeyer's platoon. He also loved his John Deere collection and fishing.

Mr. Niemeyer was predeceased by daughter, Tammy Wynette Phillips.

Survivors are: his wife, Barbara A. Bessette Niemeyer; three daughters, Susan Dash of Conway, Charlene Garrett (Mackey) of GA and Laura Smith (Scott) of Conway; 11 grandchildren and 5 great- grandchildren; two brothers, Melvin Niemeyer(Melba) of LA and Marvin Niemeyer (Carol) of MN.

Services will be held on 1:00 PM Friday, January 10, 2014 at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church with the Rev. Marion Brazzell and Jan Putnam officiating.

The family will receive friends 6-8:00 PM Thursday at the funeral home

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ The Servant Lutheran Church
2105 E. Hwy 501
Conway, SC 29526-9505

Tribute Wall

PD

“ I was Walt & Barbara's pastor at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in the 1980's. It was a privilege to know him and his family. I remember the first time I made a house call on the Niemeysers. It was a hot Georgia night, and Walt had taken his leg off because it was cooler. I did not know then that he wore a prosthesis. I think my expression gave away my surprise (I am a terrible poker player) but Walt made a joke about having a 'wooden leg'. He was a joy to know and a genuine inspiration to me and to all who knew him.

Pastor Paul Doellinger - June 03, 2014 at 04:19 PM



Charlene
Garrett

Thank you! Dad had went into the mall one time and his foot came off of his wooden leg. imagine the looks on the people around him. You are in our hearts always pastor Doellinger.

Charlene Garrett - October 06, 2014 at 09:22 AM

GJ

“ I just learned of Walt's death. I grew up in Winona county and knew Walt well. Our mothers were friends too, way back when. Used to see Walt at the local dances. After he went in service he wrote to me for awhile but we eventually lost touch with each other. I ran into him once in a grocery store in the 70's in Goodview/Winona when he was home visiting family. He was a special person and he deserves "top shelf " in heaven. My sympathy to all of his family.
Geri (Luedtke) Janzen
Reedsburg, WI 53959

Geri Janzen - February 19, 2014 at 12:32 PM



Laura
Smith

Thank you...

Laura Smith - April 07, 2014 at 07:42 AM

CH

“ *Dad lifes journey will never be the same without yor smile, your voice, or you beautiful blue eyes. I miss you daddy.. my heart is broke....*

charlene - February 01, 2014 at 09:03 PM

CH

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charlene - February 01, 2014 at 09:03 PM

LS

“ *I miss u daddy*

laura smith - January 18, 2014 at 04:58 AM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Walter A. Niemeyer.*



January 09, 2014 at 09:04 AM

GO

“ I just found out last night that Walt had passed away. My heart is sad. I met Walt in 1965 on Ward 35 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on my first assignment as a young Army nurse. We had so many casualties come in to the ward that November after the Ia Drang Valley battle, and Walt was one of them. The men all needed food, medicine, and a chance to see their families. It was such a hectic night. Through it all Walt was upbeat and said that the other men needed assistance more than he did. He remained always upbeat and positive throughout the nine weeks I worked on the ward, before going to Vietnam myself. Although we lost track of each other over the years, I always remembered him and his courage. I even wrote about him in the book *A Piece of My Heart*. Around 1990 or so I heard another Ia Drang soldier mention his name, and I set out to find him. A few hours later we met again for the first time in all those years. What a joy for us both! We've had several times that we have seen each other since then, and I will cherish those times with he & Barbara.

My heart goes out to you, Barbara, and to your family. He will be missed by so many. Walt was such a good man. He has now joined all the other great soldiers who have gone before him. We who are left behind will always remember him, his courage and bravery until we too pass away. Walt...I'm so glad I knew you, and I'll remember you always. Your fight is over now and you fought well. Be at peace...

*Your "Nurse",
Grace (Barolet) O'Brien
Army Nurse
Ward 35
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
1965*

Grace (Barolet) O'Brien - January 09, 2014 at 08:46 AM

SH

I just learned that Walt passed away and join our brothers in arms who we new and served with at Kelly Hill Ft Benning and Vietnam. Walt and I served in the same Battalion, the same Company and the same Platoon for a number of years. At Ft Benning, we helped the Army pioneered and developed the use of the Helicopter as a weapon of war. During that perior alone, we became a very closely knitted group that had special feelings for one another. In August 1965, we were on a ship heading for Southeast Asia. We were well trained and confident that we were fully prepared to get the job done. The last time I saw Walt or heard his voice was in November 1965 as he was being MEDEVAC. Despite the nature of his injury, he looked at me and said "Hagood, Don't Worry Buddy Because Everything Will Be Already". After Vietnam, I was reassigned directly to Germany and Walt and I lost contact. I served our Army for 43 years: (half as a soldier and half as a civilian). After learning of my old friend's passing the tears flow once again some 60+ years later. Yes, we were much more than just friends! "We Were Soldiers Once and Young". This is not good bye, but a reminder that we will meet again. To the family, my belated condolences. Just knowing Walt was a gift to us all.

*Your Friend and Battle Buddy
Samuel Hagood Jr
1st Bn, 7rh Calvary
South Vietnam
1965
Before and Beyond*

Samuel Hagood - July 09, 2021 at 07:44 PM



Charlene
Garrett

“ *Charlene Garrett lit a candle in memory of
Walter A. Niemeyer*



Charlene Garrett - January 09, 2014 at 08:44 AM

MB

“ I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Niemeyer family. May those precious memories of your dear loved one Walter be foremost in your hearts and minds along with this wonderful promise that Jesus made at John 5:28,29. Again, my sincere condolences.

MB - January 08, 2014 at 03:46 PM

JJ

“ Sgt. Niemeyer was a real Hero. His love for his fellow soldiers was evident in The Ia Drang Valley Battle, LZ X-RAY. I will always remember the day he came to my home to visit me. I had just returned to Columbus, Georgia, after spending over 3 months in the Letterman Amy Hospital, San Francisco, California. We talked for quiet a while, catching up on the news about our Combat Brothers. My wife and I always looked forward to seeing him and his wife and family at The Reunions. My daughter-in-law, Christie adored him. My grandsons, Evan, Garrett and Gavin knew Sgt. Niemeyer and about his sacrifice on that day, at LZ X-RAY. Everyone liked the pens he always gave them. If Christie and Danny were not at The Reunions, he always gave me an extra pen for her. My wife and I are so thankful for the time we spent with Walt and Barbara at The Branson Reunion. He will be missed by all who knew him. Garry Owen, My Brother! R.I.P.

I pray that God's Blessings will give his family the strength and comfort they need for the days ahead. John and Shirley Rangel

John Rangel JR. - January 07, 2014 at 10:32 PM

CH

“ Chris Austin, Elizabeth & Tanner Hardtke, and Jake Heaser purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Walter A. Niemeyer.



Chris Austin, Elizabeth & Tanner Hardtke, and Jake Heaser -
January 07, 2014 at 08:07 PM

BF

“ I am sorry to hear of Walt's passing. As you all know, Walt was a kind, loveable and caring person and I was gifted to have known him. At one of our Cavalry Reunions he told me about his being wounded at Lz X-Ray, a real Hero to all of us. I am proud to have fought with him! He will be missed but never forgotten. Love to his family, Bill & Jenny Beck. (A Co.1/7 Lz X-Ray)

bill beck / friend - January 07, 2014 at 07:50 PM

LC

“ Aunt Barb, may God be with you and the entire family as we send Uncle Walt Home to be with God his Father. I am so sorry that Mom, Dad & my family won't be able to make it out to the funeral service. I will miss Uncle Walt's stories and I know Ralph will as well. Ralph made a special connection with Uncle Walt because Ralph is such a history nut and Uncle Walt lived part of the history that interests Ralph. Love you all and God Bless.

Lisa Cronkhite - January 07, 2014 at 07:05 PM

NH

“ I remember Waltre all the way back to our days at Ft Benning. I allways found him to be an honorable man. I greatly appreciate the time were together all the way to Veit Nam. Our prayers are with the family. Love and kindness to all.

Nathan Harvey & Family. LZ XRAY

Nathan Harvey - January 07, 2014 at 04:11 PM

JH

“ Barbara, Laura and family how very sad Barry and I are! We will miss seeing Mr. Walt in the neighborhood and Church! We loved him very much and He was such a great support for me when my brother passed! He came by several times to check on us and we will always remember his kindness! Our prayers are with you all and we are just around the corner should you need ANYTHING! God bless you and help you to heal as only God can! Barry & Jessica Hatoway.

jessica hatoway - January 07, 2014 at 02:45 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Walter A. Niemeyer.



January 07, 2014 at 02:29 PM

DD

“ I was privileged to know Walter well. We were both invited to a Pow Wow for one of my squad leaders which took place outside Buffalo NY. This was years ago, and Walter was walking well. Marvin Curry, brother of Wilbur Curry who was killed, took charge of us, and in his capacity of docent of the Buffalo Water Museum with several large ships, the entire weekend was different and fun for Walter and me. Marvin was a retired Navy Diver. Walter was one of the good guys, and I will miss him. God Speed, Walter. Garry Owen, Sir.

Dennis Deal - January 07, 2014 at 02:02 PM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Walter A. Niemeyer.



January 07, 2014 at 10:23 AM

TB

“ My dear sweet friend, may you rest in peace. Your love for life will always live in me. A man who shared stories of war and life. You had made a permanent mark in who I am. I loved the way children would come to you and thank you for your service in the military. The look of pride in your smile told me that you were truly devoted to your county. I am honored to call you my friend. Go rest high on that mountain. I will see you on the other side.

Teri Baker

Teri Baker - January 06, 2014 at 10:49 PM

LT

“ To the Family, and Friends of Walter: Neimeyer! My Prayers, and Love for my Brother Walter in, and Out of the Battle of the IA DRANG Valley: and Other Battlefields of War; I Salute You, All with Love, for Our Fallen Brother! Walter Neimeyer! R. I. P. We Miss You, Already My Brother: Wreath Layer: CO. B 1/7TH Air-Mobile Cavalry: LZ-XRAY Edward Times! GarryOwen!!!

LZ-XRAY Edward Times - January 06, 2014 at 09:58 PM

CK

*Walt, I am going to miss you at our reunions.
Bob Kincaid, C Co., 1st of the 7th*

Charles E Kincaid - January 07, 2014 at 03:13 PM

BF

“ Sgt Niemeyer and I spent many days & nights together in Walter Reid Army Hospital in 1965/66. We had our picture made together when we received our Purple Hearts. I was an Officer who had great respect for Walt. Later as civilians in Florida we then became good friends.

To Barbara & family. I want you to know how much I learned to love the big guy.

My wife Sara & I talk of him often and every day it seems that I use one of the pens he kept me in through the years with A Company 1/7th Cav - We Were Soldiers on them.

Garry Owen old Friend

*Lt. Bill Franklin
Hotwire 3/6
C Co 1/7th
LZ X-ray 1965*

Bill Franklin - January 06, 2014 at 09:42 PM

MI

“ My poppy was the biggest hero ever to me i loved hearing his war stories and go to walmart with him i love and miss everything about him he will still go on forever never to be forgotten

Michelle - January 06, 2014 at 08:59 PM

MI

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Michelle - January 06, 2014 at 08:59 PM

WU

“ RIP Soldier !!!! You have earned your rest !!!!



Wayne Williams - USMC - January 06, 2014 at 07:16 PM

DT

“ I met Walter when I became friends with his daughter Charlene 30 yrs ago in school! He was truly a great man, he was always there for me and after my daddy passed he was there. This family is just like my own and I thank God for Him bringing them into my life! He will truly be missed! Prayers for the family! He is safe in the arms of Jesus with his daughter Tammy and his little great granddaughter Hanna! Forever in our hearts!

Darla Trammell - January 06, 2014 at 06:39 PM

SB

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Sharon B. - January 06, 2014 at 05:48 PM

JG

“ *In combat in Vietnam in November 1965 Walt Niemeyer sacrificed his leg to save the lives of several other GIs when an enemy hand grenade fell among them. Walt simply dropped his leg over the grenade to absorb the blast and the shrapnel. He was a hero and a loyal 1st Cavalry veteran. We will miss him.*

*Joseph L. Galloway
war correspondent*

Joseph L. Galloway - January 06, 2014 at 05:30 PM