



## Walter Theodore Berner, Jr.

July 5, 2010

Murrells Inlet Walter T. Berner, Jr. Our beloved husband and father, Walter T. Berner, Jr., known locally as "The Mayor of Wachesaw" passed away on Monday afternoon July 5. At the time of his passing, he was at home surrounded by family and friends. He was 85. Walter is survived Muriel Berner, his wife of 62 years, their three surviving children Carol, Claudia, and Ted and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by a fourth child, Ellen, who passed away from breast cancer in 1999. Walter was born in Miami, Florida in 1924 to Margaret Marsh and Walter Berner, Sr. An avid sailor, Walter spent his early years sailing and exploring the Florida Keys and had many a tall tale of his exploits. He attended Florida University, but with the onset on WWII, Walter enlisted in the Navy. He attended mid-shipman school at Notre Dame and under the V-12 program went on to receive his degree in mechanical engineering from Tulane University. He completed two tours of Duty as a Chief Engineer on several ships, including the USS Fall River and the heavy cruiser USS Des Moines. One of his more colorful duties involved his action in the Atomic bomb blast at Bikini Atoll. While on leave in New York City, he met Muriel Blandford on a blind date, they married in 1947, after which he was recalled for his second tour in the Korean War. His civilian career as an Engineer led him to over 38 years with Esso and Exxon Research and Engineering, a majority of these years were spent on overseas assignments. The Berner Family made their home in Belgium, Argentina, Japan, the Philippines, Venezuela, Holland, and Aruba. In retirement, Walter put his 33'

Cat Ketch sail boat "Por Fin" through its paces, battling several hurricanes and winning the Newsday Cup in the "Round Long Island" Race. He capped his sailing adventures by crossing the Atlantic from the Canarie Islands to Puerto Rico, tracing Christopher Columbus' path, in the Columbus 500 race. Walter and Muriel built their permanent home in Murrells Inlet in 1986, at which time Walter began his second career giving back to the community. He served as an original board member on the Murrells Inlet Board of Directors, the Georgetown County Water and Sewer Board, and the Georgetown County Architectural Review Board. Walter chaired the Waccamaw Neck Council where he was a driving force in the rebuilding of the Wacca Wache Landing, Murrells Inlet 2007, the Marsh Walk, and Veteran's Pier. Extremely well read, Walter had a keen interest in local history, wine, tall tales of adventure, the Spanish guitar, and the love of family. The entire Berner family is greatly indebted to Barry Weber, Walter's nurse, whose loving care eased the pain of his declining health. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, July 10, 2010 at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church with Dr. Rev. B. Mike Alexander, Jr. officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Sign a guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com) In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Winyah Community Hospice Care, 132 Professional Lane Unit B, Pawleys Island, SC 29585 or to the Belin Memorial United Methodist Church Land Acquisition Fund, PO Box 528, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Muriel and family, The Johnson family send their deepest sympathy. Walter was loved by all who knew him. Our association was initially Exxon and grew into more than that like skating on the pond in Mendham with the kids to Grub Club with the adults. Then the sailing, some couples and then the men on their adventures. The Berners doors were always open to entertaining friends. And what delicious food we all ate. Carl remembers the pickled,okra that Walter loved. He will certainly be missed, but we know he has gone to a beautiful place. Love and prayers to you all from all the Johnsons.##imported-begin##elsie & Carl Johnson##imported-end##

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July 15, 2010 at 01:56 PM



“ Muriel, We are so sorry to learn of Walt's recent death. Our prayers are with you and your famiiy. He will be greatly missed. As you know, he was always so helpful and supportive while I was at Belin; and I will forever be grateful for that. It was my honor to have had the opportunity to get to know both of you. Shalom, sandra stevens poirel##imported-begin##Sandra Stevens Poirel##imported-end##

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July 12, 2010 at 03:04 PM



“ Dear Muriel, Our deepest sympathy to you, Carol, Claudia and Ted for the loss of Walt. We still have fond memories of our two years together in Aruba on the HDS II Project and of our parallel travels for Exxon. My first encounter with Walt, however, was as a third class midshipman on a summer training cruise to Europe in 1952 on the USS Des Moines, when I fell asleep on a midwatch in his engine room and as a consequence spent a good portion of the cruise on extra duty in the ship's laundry. This was the first of many valuable life's lessons I learned from Walt when our paths crossed again in Florham Park. He was a gifted manager and a wonderful friend and mentor to all of us at ERE. I will miss him. Neil###imported-begin###Neil & Ora, Lisa & Duncan MacFarlane###imported-end###

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July 11, 2010 at 02:19 PM



“ Muriel, My sincere condolences on Walter's passing. I know that he will be fondly remembered. John###imported-begin###John Semmens###imported-end###

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July 11, 2010 at 10:33 AM



“ To Ted and the entire Berner Family, We understand how difficult this time is for you but we know your hearts will heal from the loss of this very special person, who has played such a big and wonderful part of your life. Our thoughts are with you during this time of sorrow and recovery. Jeanne, Ron, Keith, Ruth and Roger###imported-begin###Jeanne & Ron Macdonald###imported-end###

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July 10, 2010 at 01:51 PM



“ Not only was Walter the "Mayor of Wachesaw", we also called him "The voice of Wachesaw" Fond memories of Walter over the last 21 years, he will be missed!!!##imported-begin##don & susan chittick##imported-end##

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July 09, 2010 at 09:00 AM



“ To the Berner family: What an honor it has been to know you. Some of my best memories have been watching Ms. Muriel and Barry with Mr. Walter. You guys were always eating!!! I am here and you are in my prayers! Mark Adams##imported-begin##Mark Adams##imported-end##

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July 08, 2010 at 04:39 PM



“ To Muriel and family,It is with great sadness that Greg and I send our condolences to you. May lifelong memories see you through. We will never forget the forever grin that told of love of life and the moment, and the "twinkle" that was always in his eye. He is the only "Mayor" and loyal subject that Wachesaw will ever have.God bless. Charlene and Greg Atkinson##imported-begin##Charlene Atkinson##imported-end##

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July 08, 2010 at 02:24 PM



“ Wishing you strength, confort and healing during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Alfonso Ramirez##imported-end##

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July 08, 2010 at 12:30 PM



“ *Very sorry about your loss. I wish I could be with you. I have you and your family in my prayers. This will take time, but be assure that you can count on me during this process. You can find in me a friend and someone to whom you can talk to. Receive a big hug. GOD Bless You.##imported-begin##Gloria Colon##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2010 at 11:39 AM



“ *My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Rely on your many friends to help you get through this.##imported-begin##Lea Ann Conway##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2010 at 11:16 AM



“ *Please accept mine & Vinnie's heartfelt sympathy on the passing of your dad.##imported-begin##Johnny Watts##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2010 at 10:39 AM



“ *Dear Muriel we have never forgotten the good times we had with you and Walter at your home and aboard "Bubba". Our deepest sympathy to you and your family, we know Walter will be sorely missed. Joan and Don Ewart##imported-begin##Joan Ewart##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2010 at 10:14 AM



“ Dear Claudia My condolences go out to you and your family during this hard time. it is never easy to lose a loved one, especially someone who led such a impactful life. I am in Myrtle Beach visiting my Dad and was reading the local newspaper. Hopefully you remember me from our Ethicon days.... Again so sorry to hear about your loss. Warmest regards to you and your family Erica Chrustic##imported-begin##Erica Chrustic##imported-end##

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July 08, 2010 at 09:51 AM



“ Dear Berner Family, All of us at Comfort Keepers were deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Berner's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.##imported-begin##Comfort Keepers##imported-end##

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July 08, 2010 at 08:04 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to Claudia and the entire Berner family...##imported-begin##Jeane DeVries##imported-end##

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July 07, 2010 at 08:22 PM