



Walter Frank Urban

February 18, 1932 - January 14, 2024

Walter Urban passed away into eternal life on January 14, 2024, just 2 months after losing his wife of 69 years, Evelyn Urban in November. Walter Frank Urban was born the youngest child of Ignatius and Eva Urban of Fountain on February 18, 1932 in a snowstorm and left the same way, in a Michigan snowstorm.

Married on July 31, 1954, Wally and Evelyn celebrated 69 years together. They lived in their Fountain home for more than 60 years and one of Wally's favorite things was when all of the family gathered together there.

Wally was the last of his immediate family living and was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Adelle Kuzma and Ann Jaarda, his brothers Joseph, Stanley, Johnny, Tony and James who was killed in action during WWII. Wally will be greatly missed by his three daughters and two sons: Lorraine (Kenny) Baushke, Carolyn (Steve) McVicker, Thomas (Renee) Urban, Larry (Sherrie) Urban and Suzi (Robert) Panetta. Wally was a loving grandfather to 14 grandchildren: Amanda (Josh) Yelenick, Sam (Claire) Baushke, Hannah (Steve) Newell, Garrett Urban, Kyle (Marina) Urban, Ben (Anne) Urban, Matthew Urban, Nathan Urban, Anna (Jay) Oliynyk, Andrew (Faith) Panetta, Chandler (Katie) Panetta, Logan (Kendall) Panetta, Heather (Chris) Vanderhaag, and Adam (Sheryl) McVicker; seven great grandchildren Leo and Hazel Baushke, Elise, Brynn and Caleb Newell and Jack and Cole

Vanderhaag.

Wally spent his career as a tool and die maker. Most of his working life he worked for Harrington Tool Company in Ludington where he retired in 1997. More than 60 years ago, Wally and Evelyn bought 20 acres and a shack in Fountain, Michigan. The home still had an outhouse, there was a barn and nothing much else. They moved there with their 5 kids and Wally worked all day at the die shop and then would come home and work all night to make the shack into a home. With the help of Evelyn's father, Warren Genson and the whole family, they dug a basement out by hand, added plumbing and later a large garage. Much later, they added an expansion. Wally was very proud of the corner property close to several lakes and all of the work there was done by his skillful hands. Wally also enjoyed farming and hobby farmed until his body no longer physically allowed. He and Evelyn raised cows, chickens and pigs on the farm as well as all sorts of vegetables, strawberries and raspberries. One of Wally's favorite memories was of a time share he bought up at Shanty Creek. Every year for 10 years, Evelyn would cook for weeks ahead to feed the whole crew and all would gather for a large Urban good time. Typically, it was around Wally's birthday and he got to spend that day with his whole family. He loved those memories. Wally was a faithful parishioner and an usher at St. Mary's church in Custer for 60 + years and the indentation of his shoes in his "spot" can still be seen in the back of the church.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Walter at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 20th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Custer with Rev. Daniel DePew as Celebrant. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Saturday morning from 10:00 am until time of Mass at the church. Burial will take place at Sugar Grove Cemetery later this spring. Those who wish to remember Wally with a memorial donation are asked to please consider St. Mary's Church.

Cemetery Details

Sugar Grove Cemetery

350 East Sugar Grove Road
Scottville, MI 49454

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Tribute Wall

TW

“ I visited with Walt a few times; when calling on Lorraine and Evelyn, for advertising, (& while shopping) at Flowers By Lorraine. Sincere condolences, especially to Lorraine & family; and Walt's very large family, left behind by his passing.



TERRY S. WILLIAMS - February 04, 2024 at 10:01 PM

D(

“ Uncle Wally & aunt Evelyn were the most generous and selfless people on this earth ❤️

David Kuzma (Deborah) - January 21, 2024 at 11:46 PM

MM

“ Marian M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Frank Urban.

Marian M. - January 19, 2024 at 03:38 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Walter Frank Urban.



January 19, 2024 at 12:49 PM

GC

“ GreenStone (Travis Paul & Cheryl) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Frank Urban.

GreenStone (Travis Paul & Cheryl) - January 19, 2024 at 12:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Frank Urban.



January 19, 2024 at 08:30 AM

GV

“ My memory of Walter and Evelyn started in 1975 when I worked with Tom and Larry. I was very shy at that age and wouldn't come down to have dinner with the Urban family and so Evelyn sent a plate upstairs so that I could eat. What I remember from our first meeting was being treated like family.

I didn't realize it at the time but my brother Virgil worked with Walter at Harrington tool. My brother sold Walter a riding lawn mower and they used it to clear the pond of snow so the kids could skate. The ice was too thin and Walter and the tractor went through the ice and my brother plucked Walter from the pond. It is a story that Walter shared with me many times.

I have been hunting Walter and Evelyn's property for several years now and because of this Evelyn would always tell me the story of coming home from her daughter's house to a yard full of deer. I will remember Walter's joy when I was able to hand him some ground venison from their own land for the freezer.

I will miss them both and my condolences to the family

George Vaclavik - January 18, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Walter Frank Urban.



January 17, 2024 at 11:00 PM



“ *Uncle Wally you were one of a kind and you will always be in my heart but I know you and Aunt Evelyn are holding hands in eternal life and that gives me great comfort. To my cousins you should not have to go through so much pain in such a short time but I know your parents brought you up in faith and gave you strength to confront all things in life. May God Bless you all. Thank you Cathy for sharing such a beautiful story about my uncle.*

Marian marie DeDalis - January 17, 2024 at 05:54 PM

CB

“ One of my favorite memories of your Dad's kindness starts with a tragedy. He called us one morning to tell us that our beloved dog Boots had been killed by another dog in his yard. We said we would be right over to get him and he suggested strongly that we let him bury Boots, because it wasn't something we wanted our children to see. He took care of it. Later that day, Carolyn and Doug asked if we could go visit his grave. I called your Dad and he said he had buried him behind the barn, but to bring the kids over and he would show them a spot where they could remember their pet. We went over and your Dad was waiting for us in the yard. He took the kids over to a patch of loosened dirt on the edge of their garden and told the kids they could pay their respects anytime they wanted. He quietly told me that it was too far for the kids to trudge back behind the barn and they would want to see his grave from the yard so he "moved around some dirt" in a better spot. All summer that part of their garden was visited and decorated with flowers(sometimes picked from their flower garden with your Mother's blessing), tree bark, a little stick cross, and whatever else the kids thought of. Every time we went around the corner for months they would both say,"That's where Boots is buried". Eventually their memories and interest faded and they no longer needed to visit, but I have never forgotten how he realized how much that would mean to my children and so he created a space for them to grieve. I'm sure there are hundreds of stories like this one about him and the impact he had on people's lives. I know he is happy to be reunited with your Mom, but I also know that you are all reeling from suffering two profound losses in such a short time. Please know that you are all in my thought and prayers. Cathy Becker

Cathy Becker - January 17, 2024 at 01:57 PM

AH

“ *Carolyn & Steve McVicker. I am so sorry to hear of the passing of both of your parents Carolyn. I didn't realize you had lost your mom in Nov. Thoughts & prayers. Mike & Annette Hack*

Annette DeLing Hack - January 16, 2024 at 08:34 PM