



Walter Merrill Mattox

January 24, 1933 - April 27, 2017

Walter Merrill Mattox, 84, passed away peacefully Thursday April 27, 2017 at St. Francis Hospital in Greenwood with family at his side.

Born January 24, 1933 in Sullivan County, Indiana, Walt was the only son of Clarence and Muriel Mattox. Walter grew up on the family farm and attended Dugger schools where he enjoyed playing trumpet in the band. Walter attended Indiana State Teachers' College/ I.S.U. in Terre Haute and served stateside in the United States Army in personnel. He received his advanced degree work at Indiana University.

Walt had a lifelong, keen interest in area youth, by educating, counseling and assisting students in our community. He became an energetic chemistry, science, math, history, driver's education teacher, senior class sponsor, guidance counselor, sometimes substitute bus driver, assistant principal and high school principal at Bloomfield High School and was employed there from 1956-1997. Walt was instrumental in keeping kids in school, promoting FFA agricultural education, maintaining high graduation rates, implementing computer technology in the district, and starting the National Honor Society to recognize students' academic merit, both the U.S. Navy NJROTC program and dual-credit course offerings for students with Vincennes University. Walt extended his respect for education to his family and always led them by example of its importance.

Walt was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church in Bloomfield and taught Sunday School classes early in his career. He was a member of Bloomfield Masonic Lodge #84.

Following his school retirement, Walt got immediately busy in other capacities. Always handy in carpentry skills, he continued to work in Construction Sales at Lowe's Hardware in Bloomington, became a U.S. Census worker, read meters for R.E.M.C. and grew a beard to be Santa greeting thousands of children and families at College Mall in Bloomington for multiple Christmas seasons.

Other events and involvements he enjoyed included family gatherings, attending Bloomfield Cardinals' and grandchildren's school athletic events, dramas, musicals, proms, band concerts, commencements, and dance recitals. Walt enjoyed tinkering with his beloved International Harvester antique tractors and trucks, and his 1955 Chevrolet, attending various car shows, tractor shows and parades. He was a Board Director of the White River Valley Antique Association and regularly engaged in repairing grounds and facilities for the yearly show where he enjoyed visitors and friends at his tractor display. Walt was also a member of the Classic Cruisers Car Club and South Central Indiana Antique Truck Club. Walt was proud to meet with fellow Greene County Veterans for events and enjoyed fellowship at ceremonies and weekly breakfasts. Also, Walt associated in regular morning gatherings and friendly conversations at Holtsclaw's Standard in Bloomfield.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents and first wife Patty Lou (Barnett) Mattox. Surviving relatives include his wife Linda Mattox, step- daughters Terri McGaffney of Bargersville, IN and Jennifer Stark, son-in-law Joe Stark and granddaughter Amelia Stark of Franklin, IN, only son Chris Mattox, daughter-in-law Michelle, and granddaughters Blaise and Ava Mattox of Bloomfield.

Friends may call from 3:30 to 7:30 P.M. on Friday May 5, 2017 at the Bloomfield First Baptist Church in Bloomfield and 9 A.M. on Saturday until the hour of service at the Church.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday May 6, 2017 at the First Baptist Church in Bloomfield with Rev. Arlen Pope, Rev. Nathan Brooks and Rev. Jack Tolbert officiating. Burial will follow at Grandview Cemetery in Bloomfield with Masonic service and Military Honors.

The family wishes any donations be made to the Walter & Linda Mattox Principal Scholarship Fund in care of Jenkins Funeral Home.

Online condolences to the family can be made at www.jenkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

Bloomfield, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Bloomfield First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

Service

MAY 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Bloomfield First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

Tribute Wall

BI

“ *Becky Ice lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox*



Becky Ice - June 29, 2017 at 09:23 PM

BH

“ *Walt was my high school chemistry teacher. Then he installed the ceramic tile in our bathrooms when we built our home which is still in place in one bathroom and think of him when I see it. Then we reconnected at car shows these last few years. Walt is a very special person and will truly be missed by many. Prayers for his family during this very difficult time. Brenda Hasler Hughes*

Brenda Hughes - May 04, 2017 at 10:16 PM

NB

“ *I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Mattox. May comfort and peace be with you all!*

Nellie Blevens - May 04, 2017 at 09:34 PM

DR

“ *Dusty Russell lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox*



Dusty Russell - May 03, 2017 at 07:56 PM

DR

“ Our prayers and thoughts for peace are with you in this time of loss. May the angels surround you and keep you close as you say good-bye to Walt.

Sincerely,
Garry, Linda, & Dusty Russell

Dusty Russell - May 03, 2017 at 07:55 PM

SA

“ Used to help older brother deliver papers and Walt and Pat were on the route. Still remember their huge dog. Probably a puppy in hindsight.

Mr. Mattox used to get a kick out of my Far Side t-shirt of two bears in crosshairs with one pointing at the other as if to say, "Shoot him. Not me."

Scott Stalcup, ABD - May 03, 2017 at 11:23 AM

KR

“ Chris and Michelle,

I am so sorry for your loss. I really liked working at Bloomfield HS for Walt. He was a great guy!



Kathy Rendant - May 02, 2017 at 10:22 PM

BM

“ *Walt, a good man that will be missed. This last girls basketball season it was good to see him attend and a nice smile on his face. I know he was enjoying every minute. Thinking of the family as you move ahead. Brenda Massette*



Brenda Massette - May 02, 2017 at 04:57 PM

JH

“ *John and Shannon Hasler, Patricia Hasler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walter Merrill Mattox.*



John and Shannon Hasler, Patricia Hasler - May 02, 2017 at 09:16 AM

NS

“ *Terri,
My deepest and sincerest condolences on the passing of Mr. M. I pray that you will continue to honor him by attending many parades in his memory.
Blessings,
Nelson*

nelson soto - May 01, 2017 at 09:48 PM

ST

“ *Stella lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox*



stella - May 01, 2017 at 09:29 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Walter Merrill Mattox.*



May 01, 2017 at 11:04 AM

JL

“ *Jeanette Lingamneni purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Walter Merrill Mattox.*



Jeanette Lingamneni - May 01, 2017 at 09:29 AM

SW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Sondra (Cobb) Williams - April 30, 2017 at 09:16 AM

LB

“ i am a second or third cousin of Walt's. (My father, Donald Ralph Brady and Muriel Mattox were first cousins--his Mother, Dorothy Merle Lambright Brady, and Muriel's Mother, Daisy Lambright Willie were sisters. Muriel was so proud of Walt and Chris. I took Muriel to Walt's marriage to Linda, and she told me things about Walt growing up. I am not able to come to the services because I fell and broke my foot, and just got out of the rehab yesterday. I will be thinking about you and praying for you--Ladonna Brady

LADONNA BRADY - April 29, 2017 at 09:33 PM

MB

“ I felt so happy to have Walt live down the road from my Mom and Bobby. I know he kept an eye on them and the Christmas that my Mom made me go to the mall with them so she could get a picture of me on Santa's lap. Little did I know that Santa was Walt. So when he knew my name and where I lived it freaked me out. God's speed and say Hi to Mom for us. Michelle Bensman.

Michelle Bensman - April 29, 2017 at 07:58 PM

JE

“ Blessings to you all in your time of grief.
Mr. Mattox was instrumental in keeping me in school; convinced me not to drop out, insisting that I graduate. He really did care about each student as an individual.

~Jessica Pittman
BHS class of 1995

jep - April 29, 2017 at 07:36 PM

BL

“ Sending condolences for Walt's passing to the family. May he be at peace. So happy I got to see him at my mother's funeral five years ago. Blessings to all.

Beth Uland Lopez - April 29, 2017 at 05:29 PM

SH

“ Linda - So sorry for your loss. Walt will be remembered for a long time. He was involved in many people's lives and in the community. He was a great man.

Sherry Hixon - April 29, 2017 at 11:26 AM

DJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all. It has been a long time but we think of you and yours fondly. Take care....

Deborah Jesseman - April 29, 2017 at 10:29 AM

RA

“ So many good memories of Walt at Bloomfield High School. I had him for driver's training in the classroom and I still remember many things he taught us.

Also on behalf of the Bloomfield High School Class of 1972 we extend our condolences to the family.

Roger Axe - April 29, 2017 at 07:39 AM

MC

“ Sorry for your loss Walter was my principal he always had time for you and was very kind.

Mike Class - April 29, 2017 at 06:27 AM

AM

“ *R.I.P. God Bless*



Anna Kaye Mitchell - April 28, 2017 at 09:47 PM

DB

“ *DIANE BRADSHAW lit a candle in memory of
Walter Merrill Mattox*



DIANE BRADSHAW - April 28, 2017 at 09:44 PM

NB

“ *Nancy Brinson lit a candle in memory of
Walter Merrill Mattox*



Nancy Brinson - April 28, 2017 at 09:21 PM

NB

“ *My condolences to all of you. Walt was a special person that kept
busy all his life. I have and will continue to miss seeing him drive
past going to or from his garage on N 157.*

Nancy Brinson - April 28, 2017 at 09:20 PM

AB

“ Alvin & Angela Brown lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox



Alvin & Angela Brown - April 28, 2017 at 09:07 PM

SS

“ Sharon Sparks lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox



Sharon Sparks - April 28, 2017 at 08:46 PM

SS

An icon in the education community in Bloomfield...he leaves many memories and a wonderful legacy.

Sharon Sparks - April 28, 2017 at 08:48 PM

MB

“ Malinda (Haywood) Bell lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox



Malinda (Haywood) Bell - April 28, 2017 at 06:29 PM

MB

Mr. Mattox taught me in school he was a wonderful teacher. So sorry to hear of his passing he will be greatly missed

Malinda (Haywood) Bell - April 28, 2017 at 06:30 PM



Fond memories of Mr Matrix. He was a wonderful presence during my school years. Praying for comfort to the family.

Kim Boyd Resler - April 28, 2017 at 07:20 PM

CB

“*Carolyn Yvonne Brown lit a candle in memory of Walter Merrill Mattox*”



carolyn yvonne brown - April 28, 2017 at 06:12 PM