



## Walter Lankford

March 6, 1924 - April 27, 2013

Walter M. Lankford, age 89, of Knoxville, passed away Wednesday, April, 24, 2013, at the Hospice Comfort House of Pella, Iowa. Walter was born at home in Lucas County, during a snow storm, on March 6, 1924, the child of Frank and Sally Florence (West) Lankford. Walter was raised in rural Lucas County until at age 17 he enlisted in the United States Navy. Walter served from 1941 to 1945, during WWII. He served as an airplane mechanic on the Kalinin Bay Aircraft Carrier and participated in the Leyete Gulf Battle. After his service in the Navy, Walter returned home and in 1947 Walter and Coleen Alley were united in marriage. Walter and Coleen were blessed with two children: Jerry and Renae. They later divorced. On November 1, 1969 in Princeton, Missouri Walter and Karen Raye Dye were married. They shared their home with Karen's children: Dale, Steven and Sherry, and in 1970 Walter and Karen were blessed with one child: Deb. Walter and Karen shared 43 years of marriage before Walter's passing. Walter enjoyed working all his life. Walter worked for 30 years with the V.A. Hospital in Knoxville as a nurse's assistant and always had a second job. He worked around Knoxville doing carpentry work, plumbing work, roofing, and worked in tire service at the Knoxville Firestone and Goodyear stores. After his retirement from the V.A. Hospital, Walter began his own plumbing and heating and cooling business. Walter owned and operated his business for several years in the Knoxville area. Walter also enjoyed spending time with his family. When their children were younger they would go fishing, hunting, mushroom hunting and cook outs after his retirement. Walter was also a member of the Pleasantville American Legion, Post #108 of Pleasantville. Walter is survived by his wife of 43 years Karen; their children: Jerry (Meredith) Lankford of Gardner, Illinois, Renae Lankford of Nevada, Missouri, Dale Sharp of Knoxville, Steven Sharp of Knoxville, Sherry (Millard) Gist of Knoxville, and Deb (Ed) Cross of Knoxville. Walter is also survived by 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 15 great great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents: Frank and Florence; three sisters: Gladys Richards, Ellen Lampkin and Elsie Louwsma; and two brothers: John and Robert Lankford. Walter's wishes were to be cremated and a visitation, with Walter's family present will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at the Winfield Funeral Home of Knoxville. Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. also on Saturday, April 27th, at the Winfield Funeral Home of

Knoxville. Military honors will follow services and a private family burial will be held at a later date at the Graceland Cemetery of Knoxville. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to Walter's family. Condolences may be sent to <http://WWW.winfieldfh.com>. The Winfield Funeral Home of Knoxville is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Comments

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“ I always looked forward to coming to see Walt and Karen on Mondays and Thursdays. You always made me feel so welcome in your home. I never knew Walt before he was sick, but I could tell from our time together that he loved life and most of all he loved his family. Sorry I couldn't be there today but it is my weekend to work. May God be with each of you as you adjust to life without Walt there with you.

**Jean VanDerKamp** - April 27, 2013 at 07:16 PM

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“ I went to school with Renae and we grew up on the same street. My thoughts and prayers go out to Renae and her family on her father's passing. Donna Rodgers Jackson

**Donna Rodgers Jackson** - April 27, 2013 at 08:02 AM

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“ Jerry, Meredith, and Renae.....My deepest sympathies go out to you and your families. You were very fortunate to be blessed with your father's presence for so long. May your memories help you find peace in your hearts during this sad time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jackie

**Jackie Hegwood Nielsen** - April 25, 2013 at 09:00 PM

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“ Jerry and family. My sympathies to all on the passing of your father. I'm sure you will miss him, and my prayers will be with you as you move through this transition; God's blessings to you all.  
Elayne.

**Elayne Slocum Waggoner** - April 25, 2013 at 12:21 PM