



Walter Graham Russ

January 10, 1946 - December 17, 2025

Walter Graham Russ, 79 of Fuquay Varina, North Carolina went to be with his Lord and Savior on December 17, 2025, at Transitions Lifecare, Raleigh, North Carolina after a long battle with Parkinsons. He was born on January 10, 1946, in Kelly, North Carolina to Cameron and Virginia Russ.

Walter grew up in Bladen and Pender Counties. He was an “outdoorsy” kid who loved to play basketball and explore the woods with his siblings and cousins. When he was 13, he sold newspapers on base at Camp LeJeune before going to school and in the summer, he worked in tobacco fields to earn spending money. He graduated from Burgaw High School where he played on the Varsity basketball team and was co-captain.

After graduating from high school, he briefly attended Wilmington College before entering the Air Force where he was assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska where he served in radar maintenance. He completed his service at Nellis AFB in Indian Springs, Nevada.

Upon discharge from the Air Force, Walter moved to Wilmington, North Carolina where he was employed briefly by AT and T. He then began his employment with Carolina Power and Light/Duke Energy Progress where he earned his electrical engineering certification. He retired in 2013 after almost 44 years of service.

Walter loved playing and coaching Cary Rec Department basketball for almost 30 years. He coached his children and grandchildren over the years. Walter and Sallie loved the mountains and enjoyed traveling to their cabin in Ashe County. When he was diagnosed with Parkinson's he became an active member of Rock Steady Boxing at AKtivate Fitness in Cary.

Walter is survived by his wife of almost 31 years Sallie Fulkerson Russ, his daughter, Tracy Russ McKennies (Willie); his son, Walter Graham Russ, Jr. (Ysaura); his stepdaughter, Erin Van Horn. Also surviving him are grandchildren Cassidy, Emma, Austin, Walker and great granddaughter, Josie and his sister Janet Henderson (Larry) and brother, Jerry Russ. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cameron and Virginia Russ and his brother, Ray Russ (Patricia).

The family will receive friends at Cary Alliance Church on Monday, December 29th, 2025 with visitation from 11-12 and service at noon with Pastor Tom Becker officiating. A private burial at Raleigh Memorial Park will follow at 2:30.

The family would like to thank John and Kellie Dullaghan of Senior Helpers of Holly Springs for their wonderful care and concern as Walters Parkinsons advanced. We will especially remember his caregivers, Dulcie Blanche and Simone.

Donations in Walter's memory may be made to Transitions Lifecare (<https://www.transitionslifecare.org/donate/>), Michael J Fox Foundation (https://give.michaeljfox.org/give/421686/#!/donation/checkout?c_src=oc-a1bVL000005RRVt) or a charity of choice.

Cemetery Details

Raleigh Memorial Park

7501 Glenwood Ave
Raleigh, NC 27612

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Cary Alliance Church
4108 Ten Ten Road
Apex, NC 27539

Celebration of Life

DEC 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Cary Alliance Church
4108 Ten Ten Road
Apex, NC 27539

Tribute Wall



“ *Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Walter Graham Russ*



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - December 23, 2025 at 12:14 PM

RJ

Walter was a good man. He loved his family and had a great sense of humor. I enjoyed working with him at CP&L/Progress Energy and whitewater rafting with him and Graham on the Nantahala River on Company outings. I look forward to seeing him again on the other side. Until then... R.I.P. Walter

Russ James - December 30, 2025 at 05:40 AM

YH

“ *Your sister Janet & Larry Henderson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Walter Graham Russ.*



Your sister Janet & Larry Henderson - December 26, 2025 at 03:43 PM

LR

“ Love Emma Russ and Paula Russ purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Walter Graham Russ.



Love Emma Russ and Paula Russ - December 24, 2025 at 08:33 PM



“ 60 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - December 23, 2025 at 12:00 PM

KA

“ As a Little girl growing up in Kelly, I remember feeling swamped by little boys five to six years younger than me. There was Walter Graham. Bobby. Ronnie. Johnnie. Harris and Lewis (my two brothers) .All Russ boys. All children of brothers or first cousins. It was so nice seeing Walter at the Kelly Historical meeting a few years ago. God Bless his family and know he was loved by even his older cousins. Kay Russ Andress

Kay Andress - December 23, 2025 at 09:06 AM

KH

“ *Uncle Walter will forever be in our hearts. I fondly remember his quick wit and contagious smile. Hugs to the family from California.* ”



Katherine and Scott Hotfelter - December 23, 2025 at 02:01 AM

SA

“ *Sending condolences to the McKennies and Russ family. Love, Jody and Brina* ”



Sabrina - December 23, 2025 at 01:23 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Walter Graham Russ.* ”



December 22, 2025 at 08:29 PM

RL

“ *Ray's family with love planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Graham Russ.* ”

Ray's family with love - December 22, 2025 at 08:29 PM

JH

“ *I will miss you forever and a day. Thanks for being such a special brother. Love you forever!! Love you so much! Janet*

Janet Henderson - December 22, 2025 at 06:36 PM