



Walter Eugene Heckler

August 11, 1933 - December 26, 2016

Walter Eugene Heckler, 83, of Walnut Hill, passed away Monday, December 26, 2016, at Centralia Manor.

He was born August 11, 1933, in Paris, Illinois, the son of Floyd Wayne and Helen (Mullenix) Heckler. On October 10, 1950, in Marshal, Illinois, he married Hazel Raymer, and she survives.

He was a grain elevator manager in Champaign County for many years, and in 1974, he and his wife became house parents for Illini Christian Childrens Home, where they served for 30 years. He was a volunteer fireman for Jefferson County Fire Protection District, and, for thirty years, was a bus driver for Rome Grade School. He also served as a Trustee on the Dix Village Board. He was a member of Boyd Christian Church, and served as an elder. In addition to his wife, Hazel Heckler of Walnut Hill; he is survived by two sons, Keith Eugene Heckler and special friend Shelley of Centralia, and Jonathan Matthew Heckler and wife Christina of Johnston City; two daughters, Linda Soard and husband Carl of Villagrove, Illinois, and Connie Jo Ward and husband Dan of Homer, Illinois; four grandchildren, Jessica Ward, Darrel Ward and wife Tammy, Joseph Ward and wife Kathy, and Thomas Ward and wife Ralinda, of Castana, Iowa; eight great grandchildren, Tyler Ward, Daniel Lee Ward, Daniel Dewayne Ward, Elizabeth Getz, Ethan Ward, Brianna Ward, Cheyanne Ward, and Kyle Ward; one brother, Albert Heckler of Joliet; and one sister, Beth Hilqadeik of Indianapolis, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Debra Ann Heckler;

and one great grandson, Cameron Ward.

Funeral Services for Mr. Heckler will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 30, 2016, at Boyd Christian Church, with Jeff Van Mater officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the hour of service on Friday. On Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., a graveside service will be held at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Newman, Illinois.

Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com, or on the funeral home's Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery

Newman, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Boyd Christian Church
Dix, IL 62830

Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

Boyd Christian Church
Dix, IL 62830

Graveside Service

DEC 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery
Newman, IL

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Charidy & Bryan Butcher and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Walter Eugene Heckler.*



Charidy & Bryan Butcher and family - December 29, 2016 at 03:53 PM

VB

“ *so many..i think the cook-outs ..just sitting around enjoying old memories ..watching our children grow up together. eating then playing volley ball and all the family getting together at grandma raymer,s. the ki9ds playing and the women cleaning up the kitchen while the men tossed horse shoes...you will be missed but nth memories will stay with me and my kids forever..until we meet again...violet and family*



violet buckels - December 27, 2016 at 07:15 PM



picture not too good...love you

Violet Buckels - December 27, 2016 at 07:17 PM

CF

Hazel and family I am so sorry for your loss. May God bless you all at this time of sorrow. Carolyn Fulk Fleshner. Violets sister.

carolyn fleshner - December 27, 2016 at 08:36 PM

SJ

“ Sheri Jones lit a candle in memory of Walter Eugene Heckler



Sheri Jones - December 27, 2016 at 04:49 PM

LT

“ Mr. Heckler was an amazing man. I was a teacher at Rome Grade School and while there I also served as bus monitor for 15 years. I enjoyed listening to his stories and watching him interact with the students. He loved each and everyone of them. When he retired I missed seeing him. He knew the kids and had a very well mannered bus. Every time we drove past his home he had stories and he hated to leave that place. He and his wife ran a Christian Children's Home that was full of love. Mr. Heckler will be missed.

Lisa Tucker

Lisa Tucker - December 27, 2016 at 09:01 AM

NR

I was a foster child there do you have any pitchers of him and how can I get the year books with me in it nila rodgers

nila rodgers - February 10, 2023 at 07:37 PM

DB

“ Hazel and Family, we are sorry for your loss and we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We will miss Walt.

Love, Darlene and Bob Hammermeister

DARLENE AND BOB - December 27, 2016 at 08:58 AM