



Walter "Walt" Behrman

March 13, 1946 - March 24, 2024

Walter F. "Walt" Behrman, 78, of Napoleon, Ohio died unexpectedly on Sunday, March 24th, 2024 at his residence. He was born March 13, 1946 in Elery, Ohio to the late Martin and Anna (Dishop) Behrman.

Walt was a 1964 graduate of Malinta-Grelton High School and 1968 graduate of Defiance College. He was a life member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler, where he served as an Elder and Chairman on the church council. Walt served as the Varsity boys basketball, golf and cross country coach at Napoleon High School. He coached basketball at Napoleon for over 30 years and was chosen as GLL coach of the year five times and District coach of the year four times, leading his team to six Great Lakes League titles and eight sectional league titles with an overall record of 264-134. He coached the golf team for 34 years and cross country team for over 10 years. He was inducted into the Napoleon High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

Walt taught at Napoleon Local Schools and served as the Driver's Education instructor for many years. He also worked at Gilson Screen and Honeck Tile Company.

He is survived by his sisters, Elnora Hockman and Alverda Rudlaff; nieces and nephews, Deb (Randy) Gerken, Tim (Tari) Hockman, Mike Rudlaff, Pam (Gary) Christner, Martin Rudlaff, and Jennifer (David) Adams; great nieces and nephews, Jason (Julie) Gerken, Andrew (Heather) Gerken, Krista (Brian) Duggan, Dustin (Kristin) Hockman, Tyson (Brad) Hockman, Lynette Dillon, Stephanie (Will) Spaulding, Cassondra (Brecken) Kennedy, BreAnne (Brian)

Engler, Blake Rudlaff, Hunter Adams, Ty Adams, Olivia Behrman, Matthew (Melody) Hockman, Sarah (Johnny) Robertson, and Christopher Hockman; and many great-great nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his brother, Weldon (Jeanette) Behrman; brothers-in-law, Byron Hockman, Jr. and Fred Rudlaff; and nephews, Jerry Hockman and Mark Behrman.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2nd at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler, Ohio. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held on Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, Ohio and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon Athletic Boosters, or American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be left at www.rodenbergergray.com

Cemetery Details

Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery

G-983 St. Rt. 109
Hamler, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Visitation

APR 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
G-983 St. Rt. 109
Hamler, OH 43524

Funeral Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
G-983 St. Rt. 109
Hamler, OH 43524

Tribute Wall

KD

“ My condolences on the passing of Walt. I didn't see him for a long time, but the memories are strong; especially the Dishop family Christmas dinners. For us it was all about Ruth, Walt and I playing. We too have felt the sting of death recently with the passing of Dr Megan, our single twin in Phoenix AZ in July of this past year. Her obituary is on line.
I will end to say as Christians we can take comfort in Philippians 3:20-21. Peace be with you. Your cousin Ken Dishop, kfdishop@aol.com

Ken Dishop - April 15, 2024 at 12:06 PM

CM

“ Hello, family. Now that you have had a celebration of Walt's life, I am certain you all have shared stories and know and understand how much he loved you all and cared to look after you and be involved with you. I am sorry for the void that will be in your lives. He is resting now; God knows him as a wonderful family and community man. Bless you all. Carolyn Honeck Mabee

Carolyn Mabee - April 03, 2024 at 02:55 PM

CM

“ My deepest sympathies to Walt's family. I know that Walt was close with many family members and enjoyed visiting them. I am so saddened to hear of his passing. I have many fond memories of spending time with Walt. We spent time in Ottawa, IL with my mom, Jane Hermann. We enjoyed a day visit to the Illinois/MI canal museum with the kids about 10 years ago, which was very enjoyable. Myself and all of my family have always thought Walt is wonderful and such a nice person. When my daughter was a fussy 5 month old infant, she was always smiling when Walt held her. She just loved him! I am a mom of 4 kids, and back when I only had one, Walt showed me the best method for setting up a pack 'n play. You put a comforter under the hard pad so the baby has comfort, yet is still safe. I have shared that method with many mom friends and everyone has always loved it. He was like a baby-whisperer! I wanted to share my fond stories with some of Walt's family, as he meant a lot to myself, my brother Jon, and my mom (Jane). Walt was blessing in our lives, and we are thankful for time spent with him. Sending love to Walt's family and rest in peace Walt, Christa (Hermann) McCord

Christa McCord - April 01, 2024 at 06:35 PM

RS

“ I have very fond memories of Coach Behrman. He was a gentleman's gentleman. I always enjoyed running into him over the years. He will be missed. Randy Schroeder Class of 1978.

Randy Schroeder - April 01, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter "Walt" Behrman.*



March 29, 2024 at 07:59 AM



“ *I won't cover again what an amazingly nice guy Walt was as that is well known and without question. I will add that Walt was an INTEGRAL part of the success of Napoleon basketball in the "glory years". Walt was so much more than a JV coach. Walt was the perfect calmness to dad's explosiveness and they made a wonderful team. I will always remember Walt and dad joining arms as the last seconds counted down in the championship game.*
John Church

john church - March 28, 2024 at 05:10 PM



“ *Hermann and McCord Families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Walter "Walt" Behrman.*



Hermann and McCord Families - March 28, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ *Hermann and McCord Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter "Walt" Behrman.*

Hermann and McCord Families - March 28, 2024 at 12:36 PM

DS

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Walt. I knew Walt during high school when I went to Holgate and Walt Malinta. We played basketball and I remember Walt used to tear us up, we just could not stop him. He would always send me a happy birthday greeting, my birthday was March 12 and his the 13th. A great friend and one of the nicest people you could know. Rest in peace, my friend.
Dennis Schuette

Dennis Schuette - March 28, 2024 at 11:58 AM

LM

“ I consider Walt a close friend throughout the 58 years I knew him. The coaching years, attending basketball clinics, and numerous golf trips were very special times. He was unique in that he always made you feel better about yourself when in his presence! I will certainly miss his positive attitude!

Lynn Martin - March 27, 2024 at 01:20 PM

BB

“ Walt was a great guy. I loved talking to him. Rest in Peace, my friend, you will be greatly missed.

Barb Bockelman - March 27, 2024 at 10:37 AM

RC

“ always enjoyed being around and talking sports while bowling at Holgate lanes. Will greatly miss you.

Robert Carpenter - March 27, 2024 at 08:10 AM

RJ

“ My sincere condolences to Walt's family, especially sisters Elnora and Alverda who influenced Walt greatly. As an MG64 classmate, Walt always led the way. Whether on the basketball court, playing sousaphone or golf, I found myself following his lead. A winner now in heaven as he was on earth.

Rodney Jones - March 26, 2024 at 07:56 PM

VR

“ My condolences to the family of Coach Behrman. He was a leader of young men as a teacher, a driving educator and a coach. I was fortunate enough to spend the better part of 3 years with Coach Behrman in the early 80's. He was my JV basketball coach as a sophomore. Walt was also my driving instructor in the summer. We often drove to Toledo and those were much appreciated trips later in my life. He would always pick me up first and drop me off last....we spent alot of time talking basketball and life in general. My Jr year, we were fortunate enough to move up to Varsity with Walt as he was given the job to replace Fred Church. He knew the game of basketball but most importantly, he would put his players in the best positions to be successful. I believe Walt wanted nothing more than to see his players succeed in basketball and in life. I will never forget the Sunday pizza game film sessions. It really was a way for us to be together in a family environment. Walt taught me valuable lessons during those 3 years. May he rest in peace.

Victor Rettig - March 26, 2024 at 07:31 PM

TF

“ The Mossing Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walter "Walt" Behrman.



The Mossing Family - March 26, 2024 at 05:30 PM

TF

“ *The Mossing Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter "Walt" Behrman.*

The Mossing Family - March 26, 2024 at 05:30 PM

DB

“ *Deborah Baus lit a candle in memory of Walter "Walt" Behrman*



Deborah Baus - March 26, 2024 at 04:46 PM

DB

“ *I had Mr. Behrman my first year of high school, as did many. The next year was drivers ed. That man had nerves of steel and always a smile. Rest in peace, Mr. Behrman, you will be missed 🦋*

Deborah Baus - March 26, 2024 at 04:43 PM

MV

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Walt Behrman. Walt played an important part in the process of raising my 4 boys to become the amazing, kind and productive adults they are today. One memory I have is how he personalized the job of coaching by having all the varsity boys to his home on Sunday evenings to eat his homemade pizza while watching game films. I am sure my boys did not realize it at the time, but he was teaching them that they were more than a team, that they were his family and no matter the disappointments or highlights of the previous week, they would gather together over "bread" to celebrate the good and create a plan to make improvements for the tasks that lie ahead in this next week. I have noticed that at least one of my boys creates a "team huddle" for his children when he wants to relay important information. Another memory involves my desire to create spirit at the game, so I asked Walt if I could make a new break through paper banner for the start of each game like I did for the FB games. His immediate response was fine, as long as there is nothing for the boys to trip over!!! So, with Walt's blessing, we added a lot of exciting pre-game drama for the boys. More stories, wonderful, thoughtful man, he will be missed.

MaryLou VanAusdale - March 26, 2024 at 03:38 PM

MP

“ What a wonderful man. I had him as a teacher my freshman year in high school, his first year of teaching. Every time I returned to Napoleon the past 50 years and saw Walt, he always had a hug for me and time to share great conversation. May he rest in peace.

Mary Small Poore - March 26, 2024 at 01:52 PM

JW

“ Walt and I were good friends in high school. One of my favorite memories with Walt was playing basketball on Sunday afternoons during basketball season on the upper level of a farm barn in the Malinta area. Walt was a genuinely good guy.

Jim Whitaker - March 26, 2024 at 12:38 PM

VD

“ To Walt's Family,
As the M-G Class of 1964 slowly loses its members, we all stop to remember the good times we had.
Walt was in the quiet, masterful category.
He was always there when needed and ready when not.
I was so looking forward to one last class meeting this year (60 years!) still hope to be there. We will think of you and all the great times we had at M-G BB games. Thanks for being you Walt, you are already missed. 💖🙏🙏 for the family. Vicky



Vicky Dannemueller - March 26, 2024 at 11:38 AM

JH

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Walt’s death. I was lucky enough to be in his first Drivers’ Ed class when he started teaching at NHS in 1970. He was not only an excellent teacher but also a very nice man. As a cheerleader, I got to know Walt better while riding on the buses to NHS games. The coaches sat between the cheerleaders and the team members and I always enjoyed talking to the coaches, especially Walt and Fred Church, during our many trips. Whenever I would run into Walt throughout the years, he always had a smile for me and time for a chat. He was a fun, pleasant, and lovable soul. He was a friend and will be surely be missed. My sincere condolences to his family.

Janis L Huston, NHS Class of 1970

Janis L Huston - March 26, 2024 at 11:36 AM

BS

“ As a young man entering the teaching and coaching profession back in 1978, I was extremely fortunate to gain employment in the Napoleon City Schools. Two of the greatest mentors I have ever had were Coach Church and Coach Behrman. I always admired the class and the dignity Walt carried himself with as the leader of the Wildcat basketball program. I am very grateful to have been on his staff and to have had the opportunity to watch and learn from Walt how to become a leader of young people. He was a great role model for me. He will be missed and may he rest in peace.

bruce smith - March 26, 2024 at 11:05 AM

BC

“ Could not have asked for a better person to share our childhood Memories and life together.. we so enjoyed our time that we Shared with you.. rest in peace my friend...🙏
The Dimon family and the Crampton family will miss you❤️

Beverly Crampton - March 26, 2024 at 09:24 AM

DG

Thanks Bev and Dimon families

Deb Gerken - March 26, 2024 at 08:06 PM

WW

“ *What a Great Man Coach And Mentor to our Kids He always had time to say hi when you ran into him He will be missed by all that knew him !! Will and Pat*

Will and Pat Wagner - March 25, 2024 at 06:49 PM

TO

“ *Thanks Coach...you're the best*

Tim Orwig - March 25, 2024 at 06:09 PM

KL

“ *Walt was always very friendly and I spoke with him about every Sunday at church. Even had the pleasure of golfing with him. He will be missed.*

Kathleen Lieb - March 25, 2024 at 03:04 PM

TD

“ *Walt and I shared a coaching room locker. Someone wrote at the start of '81 season "beat Willard" on the inside in black marker. A week later Walt wrote " beat Bryan, Fairview, Bath, O-G, then Willard!". Walt grew up in a basketball school, Malinta, and he knew to never get ahead of the schedule. As a class of '72 member we sure did love Walt Behrman.*

*Our condolences to his cousins, nieces, and nephews!
Pam and Tim Downey*

Tim Downey - March 25, 2024 at 12:50 PM

JC

Walt was a special coach, and Mentor to so many NHS students!! RIP Walt!

Judi Cotter - March 26, 2024 at 11:32 AM

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YOU THINK
YOU CAN**
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My sincere condolences to the family of Walt Behrman. I had previously shared a story, did not see it posted, so I will briefly mention that I appreciated the part Walt played in the raising of my 4 boys. Good coaches have more impact than anyone realizes at the moment, but in reflection the realization hits that a good coach is like another parent, sharing values to be absorbed by the youth who are mentored.

MaryLou VanAusdale - March 26, 2024 at 03:51 PM

RS

To the family of Walt! I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I am from the Class of 1962 of Malinta Grelton School. My brother Bob was also a friend of Walt's. Bob passed last year; we would reminisce of our "good times" at Malinta school and Walt's name always came up. What a good friend; always remembered Bob and me! Rest in peace Walt. You were loved. Becky (Reiser) Stauffer..

Rebecca R Stauffer - April 13, 2024 at 06:08 PM