



# David (Wayne) Walker

SEP 29, 1959 - NOV 1, 2020



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## David (Wayne) Walker

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**M**r. David (Wayne) Walker, age 61, of Grand Haven passed away Sunday, November 1, 2020 at Spectrum Butterworth Hospital surrounded by his wife & children. He was born September 29, 1959 in Monette, Arkansas to Henry and Mary (Petersen) Walker. On June 13, 1981 he married his high school sweetheart Reta Van Vleet in Holland.

Wayne graduated from West Ottawa High School and retired from Hart and Cooley in Holland. After retirement he worked for Walmart for a few years where he enjoyed his time playing Santa. He had many hobbies over the years, but being an avid outdoorsman and conservationist were lifelong passions. Touching many lives and passing on his knowledge to the next generation along the way. He enjoyed countless years spending time fishing, hunting, and camping with his friends and family. Most of all he was a devoted family man and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 39 years, Reta; two children: Danielle (Jeremy) Schmidt, and Luke (Brittany) Walker; grandchildren: Madison, Athen, Emma and Anni; father, Henry D. Walker; brother, Jeff (Dana) Walker; several aunt and uncles and their families and the entire Van Vleet family. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary; in-law's, LeRoy and Lula Van Vleet.

Due to COVID 19 a private celebration will take place. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in memory of David may be given to the [Michigan United Conservation Club](#) (2101 Wood St, Lansing, MI 48912). Please sign the family's online guestbook at <http://www.sytsemafh.com>.



## Tribute Wall

**David (Wayne) Walker**

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DB

**David H Bultema** posted:

My sympathy to the Walker family. I first meant Dave at the North Ottawa gun club. We shot skeet together as we both enjoyed the sport. His son Luke was also a target puller. I had a lot of fun and conversations with Dave. A great person. He will be missed. David Bultema

November 10 at 10:53 AM

KE

**Kelli** posted:

Reta, I was so sorry to hear of David's passing. You and your family are in our prayers for a peace that passes all understanding. Please don't hesitate to let your NICU family know what we can do to ease this time of grieving - Kelli B

November 9 at 12:31 AM

GC

**Geraldine A Carmean** posted:

dear mrs.walker...my name is gerri carmean and i knew dave from hart and cooley. i am so very sorry for your loss...my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.i had talked to him a couple weeks ago at d and w and he told me all was ok. ....so very sorry.

November 7 at 1:26 PM

JP

**Jack And Chris Pelton** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. We have a lot of great memories that we will cherish of Dave along with his loving family.

November 4 at 4:49 PM



## Tribute Wall

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TW

**Thomas Dale Walker** posted:

I have left a couple of Tributes here but I don't see them. I do not want proceed without leaving another message. We were very fortunate to have been able to meet Reta at the NICU when Our extreme Premee baby granddaughter came to us much too early. Reta quickly became my daughters favorite nurse. Dave and Reta came to our place up North to celebrate Lorin's 1st birthday party. The rest is history as Dave and I quickly became friends who loved fishing and hunting. Each spring and a each winter, and a few times in between, we would hit Pickerel Lake for some Blue Gills, Rock Bass, Sunfish, Perch, Walleye and what ever Pickerel Lake would through at us. I have a nice buck mounted and hanging on my wall that I got while bow hunting with Dave at his cabin. Dave and his family became as our own family and we shared many good stories, activities, and a lot of good eats, as Dave was a super cook. We will miss Dave a ton but we will leave the lights on and the door open and welcome Reta and the family to our place anytime. Tom, Dee, Jana, Lorin, Tom jr., Tami, TJ, and Keaton Walker

November 4 at 3:11 PM

SW

**Susan Wabeke** lit a candle in honor of David.

We have many fond memories and much heart felt love for David and his family. We worked with David for many of years. May your love and great memories of Wayne comfort you all at this time and always. Our deepest sympathy Doug and Sue Wabeke.



November 4 at 12:56 PM

PB

**Paula Ten Brink** posted:

We always enjoyed spending time with all the family, especially at Christmas. Many fun memories of Heidi squeezing in between Reta and Wayne. Our prayers are with you all. Love, Gordon and Paula

November 4 at 8:44 AM



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**Thomas Dale Walker** posted:

We have been honored to have had times to visit, hunt, fish and share many memories and stories. Dave so much enjoyed catching Bluegills, Rock Bass, Sunfish, Perch, Walleye and what ever else Pickerel Lake could scare up. We Never had an issue as to who was catching more or bigger fish but we generally always caught what we wanted. I have a nice Buck mounted that I got while bow hunting with Dave at the cabin. The memories go on and on and much deeper than that. We considered Dave and Reta as family and they were always welcome to come up here. We will certainly miss Dave and the good times we had, but we will leave the light on and the door open and welcome Reta and the family anytime. Tom, Dee, Jana, Lorin, Tom jr, Tami, TJ, and Keaton Walker

November 4 at 8:07 AM



**Tom And Dort Peterson** lit a candle in honor of David.

Our sincere sympathy,prayers,thoughts,love for the whole familyDave,we always called him Wayne, He will be so missed by so many! He was such a loving and caring man, nephew to us! We have so many good memories of him! This was a shock to all of us to hear of his passing! We pray his family can find peace and strength for each new day! We love you all ! Prayers, Love and Hugs! Uncle Tom and Aunt Dort and family!



November 4 at 6:27 AM



**Sally Anderson** posted:

Went to junior high with David at E.E. Fell. Always full of fun and a joke he was a great guy back then. Gone too soon, RIP David.

November 3 at 9:44 PM



**Hope Jones** posted:

Our deepest sympathy to The Walker Family. Love, Ryan, Hope, Lily, Naomi, and Adria Jones

November 3 at 5:25 PM



**Hope Jones** lit a candle in honor of David.



November 3 at 5:21 PM



## Tribute Wall

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MK

**Michelle Reeves Karsten** posted:

Walker family - I am so sorry to hear about Dave's passing. We worked together at Hart & Cooley forever. I have so many great memories of him! May your memories comfort you at this difficult time.  
- Michelle Karsten

November 3 at 3:29 PM

MW

**Marge Westerhouse** posted:

I meant Dave several years ago he was the best neighbor anyone could ask for. You knew Dave would help when ever you needed it. Daniel and Luke were the same in age and played together a lot. Many memories . I want to give my sympathy to Reta and the family.

November 3 at 3:06 PM

BK

**Bev. Kubicki** lit a candle in honor of David.

I'm so very sorry to hear of Dave's passing, He was such a awesome person, His smile could light up your day and oh could he make you laugh, he will be missed by so many!

November 3 at 10:05 AM



TK

**Tom, Dee, Jana, Lorin, Tom Jr., Tami, Tj, & Keaton** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Walker family.

November 3 at 9:41 AM



DS

**Diana Schmidt** posted:

I always appreciated how Dave took Jeremy and Athen into his hunting and fishing fold. I know they will miss that tremendously. And any time I would happen to stop over at the house, Dave always had very interesting stories to tell. I'll never forget how he helped me out by changing the lock on my garage door so my sister-in-law could get in it while I was on vacation. Danielle asked him and he just stepped right up! He will be truly missed by all.

November 3 at 8:58 AM



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TA

**Todd Alofs** posted:

I've known Wayne since I was in 6th grade in middle school. We've hunted and fished and fought together. Never did I think I would be reading his obituary this soon. He has a couple of my duck and goose calls I make and loved that he came out to Hamilton to my shop to visit. Wayne I'm going to miss your posts of fishing and hunting with your grandson. Till we meet again my brother. RIP

November 3 at 7:24 AM

TW

**Theresa Wolf** posted:

I don't even know where to begin, first of all our thoughts go out to your family at this very difficult time. Dave, our neighbor and our protector. Our family felt safe because of him, his number posted on fridge and in our daughter's room because we knew if there was ever a problem he would handle it. We will miss our over the fence talks, sometimes could last up to an hour. We will miss your fish fries and so much more. Gone too soon Miss you neighbor!! Reta, Danielle and Luke and families we are here for all of you

November 3 at 6:52 AM

JD

**Julie Donaghey** posted:

I met Dave while working at Walmart. He was always upbeat, had something fun to joke about. He loved his outdoor hunting and fishing. Always wanted him to visit with us up here, but we never worked it out. I never got to meet Reta, but I send my deepest sympathies. He loved you and his family. We lost a good one! 😭

November 3 at 6:38 AM



## Tribute Wall

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VB

**Vicky Bleeker** posted:

Wow, we were so shocked to hear about Wayne's passing. We know 1 by 1 God is calling us home. Wayne, you will be missed! You were such a good guy, we loved that you came out for mom's 80 th birthday party (we know Rita you would of joined him, but your work schedule wouldn't allow you to join us that day!) Wayne was always there for his family that's for sure! We loved seeing all of the pictures of him and grandkids hunting and fishing. He definitely taught them well! Rita and family my heart breaks for you all, Rita you lost your best friend & husband of many years! 😞 Danielle and Luke you lost your dad, and what a great dad he was! You will need to keep his memories close in your hearts. We pray God will give you the strength to do just that! We are so sorry for your loss! We all loved Wayne, he was a great guy, a fun cousin, back in horse show days he was always there cheering us on! Now he'll be with all of the ones who went on before us, including his precious mom who I know was waiting for him to arrive! Also Harlan & Jody, Infact Harlan is probably talking about hunting & fishing with him right about now! Jeff and family you lost your big brother, we are so sorry for your loss! We know what it's like to lose a brother and sister, it hurts so much! 😞 Uncle Dee, you lost your oldest son and friend. I can't even imagine. We are so sorry, but knowing he's now with Jesus and aunt Mary helps us get through these sad times. We love you all, and pray God's peace and love will see you through this sad time. Big Hugs & Prayers, Love, Vicky & Verl & Chase & Cassie Bleeker

November 3 at 6:22 AM

JW

**Jana Walker** posted:

Words cannot express how much Uncle David means to our family. David and Reta jumped into our lives when Reta cared for my daughter Lorin in the NICU, and once they entered our lives they were never allowed to leave! Uncle David left a huge impression on our lives and we will be forever grateful to God that He saw fit to put our families together. Our lives are richer and sweeter because Uncle David loved us! He will be so greatly missed by all of us! We have loved him so much and we will always love him! Every season will find us missing Uncle David more and more and missing all of our family traditions!! Thank you, Uncle David, for loving us and investing in our lives....you have changed us forever....for the better!!Jana, Lorin, Tom Sr., Dee, Tom Jr., Tami, Keaton and TJ

November 3 at 6:21 AM

AC

**Artis Collins** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during your time of grieving. May the Lord bless you and ease your pain during this time.

November 3 at 6:11 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Jana And Lorin Paige** sent an A Tear Of Love to the Walker family.

November 3 at 6:04 AM



**Rob Buit** posted:

I never met Dave, but having spent lots of time with his son Luke, I think Dave was a great father. My sympathies to your entire family and God Bless you all.

November 3 at 5:47 AM



**Amy Nash** sent a virtual gift in honor of David.

Prayers to Dave's family. I use to work with Dave and he would come visit me in the sporting good section daily but we all know that was his favorite thing in life was hunting and fishing! He taught me a lot of things I needed to know to serve my customers. He will be missed.

November 3 at 5:42 AM



**Lorie And Steve Kiebach** lit a candle in honor of David.

November 3 at 4:25 AM





# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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