



Wallace Ray Heller

August 13, 1923 - March 29, 2018

Wallace Ray "Walt" Heller, 94, of Kalkaska, went peacefully to be with the Lord on March 29, 2018. He was born on August 13, 1923 in Lansing, Michigan to Ralph and Katherine (Kuster) Heller. Walt was a World War II veteran, he joined the Marines upon graduating from high school in 1942. After bootcamp he became a member of the Edsons's Raiders and served in active duty on Guam, Okinawa, Guadalcanal (and other Solomon Islands) and the mainland of Japan.

After the war he met the love of his life, Helen Mae Shaffer. They were married for 69 years . Helen preceded him in death in 2015. Walt worked for 7up Bottling Company for 34 years while living in the Detroit area and raising 4 children. In 1986 Walt retired from 7up, moved to the Kalkaska area and worked part time at McLeans Hardware for the next 26 years.

Walt loved doing anything with family including camping, fishing, hunting, coaching little league and playing pinochle into the wee hours of the night. Deer camp with his sons, grandsons, and nephews was a yearly high point, and he did so until the young age of 92. Walt loved people, was a master story teller and the consummate entertainer at gatherings. His big and unique personality made him unforgettable and loved by many in the community.

Walt was a member of the Kalkaska United Methodist Church and continued

to be served by the Women of Worship until his death.

Kalkaska Assisted Living has been home to Walt for the past 6 years and the family is thankful beyond measure for the love and care they have provided.

Walt was truly one of the great men of the “Greatest Generation that ever lived”

He is survived by his children Nancy (Geoff) Carter of Alpena, Tom (Melissa) Heller of Lake Leelanau, Dan (Judy) Heller of South Boardman; 9 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Helen, daughter Kathy Hanson, and sisters Ruth Grace and Mildred Miller.

A memorial celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Donations in memory of Walt may be made to Heartland Hospice, 4020 Copperview Dr. Suite 113, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Tribute Wall



“ *Wallace Ray Heller*

January 30, 2023 at 04:02 AM



“ *Wallace Ray Heller*

January 30, 2023 at 01:03 AM



“ *A thought on my “uncle Wally”, always had a story! A great story made even better by his expressions and excitement of the story! He was always great to me, Uncle Wally and Aunt Hellen! I am happy for them both they are reunited to each other and parents, ,loved ones, Sisters ,Ruth and Millie ! All up there Happy! Playing Eucher, Pinochle ! Love you Uncle Wally!*

kelly Miller - April 07, 2018 at 03:34 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers for all of you. I got to know Mr and Mrs Heller from the years I worked at the Cove. I loved to talk with Wally, he was the sweetest and he loved his family. I think of him often and will miss him. Shelly Budrow*

Shelly Budrow - April 07, 2018 at 02:04 PM

AD

“ To all of you my thoughts are with all of you. You know how much Walt meant to me at church and at Mcleans. Your Mom and him were the roll models of how a marriage should be. Always had a smile. They both loved their family more than anything in the world. That is why the families turned out so well. I enjoyed having them at our softball games, the McLeans parties at their house were always fun. I hope to see all of you along the way.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.
LOVE AL DIMON

Al Dimon - April 05, 2018 at 03:20 PM

 Wendy
Martin

“ I have known Walt since I was 2 years old. Our families moved into the neighborhood about the same time.....young families with young children. Nancy & I are only 11 days apart in age. Our parents became friends. Everyone called him Wally back then. He & my Dad had the same kind of hunting dogs...German Shorthaired Pointers. In my very early teens I developed a little crush on Wally which Nancy told him about right in front of me, causing substantial embarrassment. As everyone grew up & moved away we did not see each other very often but kept in touch by phone & cards. Later on when Helen & Wally....oops..I mean Walt..lived in Kalkaska, my sister Anni & her husband Greg would stop & see them on there way home from Traverse City. Last summer I was very drawn to go & visit Walt. My dear friend Pam & I drove up & Nancy met us there. It was so GREAT to see him! We all had lunch together & a really good visit. I met his adorable cat Brooke & I realized that I might still have that crush..just a little :-). I am so glad that I got to see him. I am so very sorry for your loss...because it always is a loss...no matter how "age appropriate" it is. I know you will all miss him very much. He was an awesome person & I am very grateful to have known him. Wendy Martin

Wendy Martin - April 05, 2018 at 10:04 AM

WM

“ *Wendy Martin lit a candle in memory of
Wallace Ray Heller*



Wendy Martin - April 03, 2018 at 03:11 PM