



Leo F. Walsh

November 11, 2013

Leo F. Walsh, 92 of Camillus died Monday at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. Born in Syracuse he served in Marine Corp from 1941 to 1945. He married Elizabeth Bankey in 1946. Leo worked at Upstate Medical Center over 30 years as a Medical electronics and computer engineer. He also retired as an Electronics repairman for the Syracuse VA. Prior to that he repaired jukeboxes and was the store manager for Firestone Tire and Rubber in Syracuse. After retirement he joined his wife as a travel writer for the Mobil Travel Guide and the Syracuse Herald Journal. He was preceded in death by his parents; Patrick Walsh and Gladys Piper and his wife of 60 years, Betty (Bankey) Walsh in 2006. Surviving are his son James (Vivian) Walsh of Manhattan, KS and his daughter Linda Carbone of Syracuse. Grandchildren include Dr. Kathleen Walsh of Champaign, Illinois and John Carbone of Bristol, Virginia and several nieces and nephews. Calling hours are 11 am to 1 pm Saturday at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 Genesee St., Camillus. Services to follow at 1 pm. Burial will be in Belle Isle Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Cardiac Care Center @ Crouse Hospital, 736 Irving Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210 or Joseph O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Solvay High School, 600 Gertrude Avenue, Solvay, NY 13209 Please sign the guestbook www.BLBUSH.com

Tribute Wall

PS

“ Dear Walsh Family, I am deeply saddened by Leo’s passing. I am in San Diego or I would be with you today. I tried to leave a phone message, but I couldn’t get the words out. Leo was a trusted colleague. But more importantly he was a dear friend. I moved to Syracuse in 1976. For 25 years Leo’s genius with electronics made my research lab work. Leo was absolutely unique in knowing both hardware and software. He could design and fabricate novel pieces of equipment, and he could fix problems when no one else could figure out what was wrong. My research depended entirely on Leo’s skills. I could dream up a crazy experiment; Leo was the person who could build the cutting-edge device that would make the experiment a reality. Let me give one example. The lab needed a special piece of electronics built to control a behavioral experiment involving a monkey. A visiting scientist from Japan was scheduled to return home; we needed to collect some critical data before he left. I contacted Leo around Thanksgiving and told him about our needs and the time problem. Even though we were deep into the Holiday Season, Leo came through— as always. He produced a unique device that was controlled by the monkey and a computer. There was one special part of the device that presented problems. The monkey had to touch a contact plate (like an elevator button) with his hands to control the behavioral task. Monkey hands tend to be dirty. Grease would build up on the contact and it would stop working. Leo solved the problem simply and quickly. He replaced the contact plate with newly-minted Canadian coins. We never had a problem with the contact ever again. We all knew that Leo was part of a team. For 60 years it was “Leo and Betty.” My wife and I never took a trip with consulting Leo about places to stay, sights to see and restaurants for meals. We and many others in Syracuse got to enjoy their travel columns in the newspaper. If Leo and Betty liked the place, then we would too. At times my wife and I have dreamed of “being like Leo and Betty.” They were always riding off some place in the big black Lincoln Town Car to review a resort area. They made it seem like the only way to travel. Leo also played a special role for my family. When my kids were young, I “acquired” a large golden retriever— “Woody.” To get the dog, I had to agree to

a written contract with my wife. As part of the contract I promised that when I left the house, the dog would leave the house. Thus, the dog went to work with me every day. This arrangement worked well until I had to go out of town to a scientific conference. Leo came to the rescue. After some negotiation with Betty, Woody went to the Walsh household for a short vacation. The Walsh household became Woody's second home. I knew Leo needed a "Woody fix" when he would ask-- "Do you have any conferences coming up?" My kids hated to see Woody leave the house, but they knew he would receive special care at Leo's. I moved from Syracuse in 2000. One of the most difficult parts of the move was leaving Leo behind. My lab lost its electronics genius. There were many times when the Syracuse folks who moved with me would say-- "Boy, do we need Leo!" or "If Leo were here, he would know how to fix this!" With the move, I lost more than someone to help the lab, I lost regular contact with a dear friend. Leo was just a wonderful human being. He was someone you could count on and trust. Despite his many accomplishments, he was one of the most down-to-earth people I have ever met. My wife, kids and I will cherish his memory. We all wish you the very best during this difficult time. Best Regards-- Peter

Peter Strick - November 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Linda...my thought and prayers are with you during this time.

Patti Whitney - November 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Sorry to hear of Leo's passing. God Bless.

Bernie Large - November 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Linda and Jimmy We are so sorry for the loss of your father. We hope your happy memories of your father will help comfort you during this time of sadness. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time. Lynda and Chuck and family*

Lynda and Chuck Bankey - November 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *God bless Uncle Red and Aunt Betty. Rob & Kristin*

Rob Kelsey - November 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ *The warm memories I have ... I remember when Uncle Red made homemade chocolate milkshakes for us kids and got down on his hand and knees and gave us pony rides around the living room. Uncle Red and Aunt Betty always had a warm welcome for us kids. We walked in as if it was our home and played. I remember the small aluminum pan that Aunt Betty used to heat her tea water (I'm sure you do, too, Linda). Uncle Red and Jay had such good conversations. We were so thrilled when Uncle Red came to visit when he turned 90. Thank you for the found memories Uncle Red and Aunt Betty.*

Bette and Jay O'Hern - November 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM