



Walter 'Wally' C. Beck

September 27, 1932 - July 7, 2023

Walter 'Wally' Beck, age 90, of Kearney, NE, passed away Friday, July 7, 2023 at Brookfield Park Nursing Home in St. Paul, NE. Funeral Services will be on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney. Pastor John Rasmussen will officiate. Burial will follow at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery near Arapahoe, NE at 2:30 p.m. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to services at the church on Thursday. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Holy Cross Lutheran Church or to the family to be designated later. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to view the full obituary or to leave a message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of the arrangements.

Wally was born on September 27, 1932 in Sauk Rapids, MN to the Rev. John and Gloria (Berwald) Beck. Most of his childhood was spent in Minnesota. He attended boarding high school at Concordia in Seward, NE graduating in 1949 and four years later earned his Bachelor's degree in education from Concordia Teachers' College. He first taught in Addison, Illinois. In college at Seward, he met Elizabeth "Betty" Hermes and in 1956 they were united in marriage at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arapahoe, NE.

He received a call to teach and coach at Concordia in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Their sons Kevin and Rick were born there. They accepted their next call to St. Paul, Minnesota where Wally taught at Jehovah Lutheran School and was the Youth Director at the church. While in St. Paul, MN, their daughter Katie was born. The Beck family moved to Grand Island, NE in 1965. There they both taught at Trinity Lutheran School during which time he earned his Master's degree in School Counseling from Kearney State College. Wally spent his last 27 years in education as a counselor at Northwest High School in GI, retiring in 1996.

In 2007, Wally and Betty moved to Hastings, NE and in 2016 they moved to Kearney, NE. Betty went to her eternal rest in 2017. Walter moved to St. Paul, NE for the last month of his life.

Wally spread joy EVERYWHERE he went. That joy came from a deep, intense love for His Savior. He had many hobbies and adventures in life, and he loved his family and friends more than life itself. He was ornery, genuine, accident-prone, loving, funny, kind, and a people-magnet. But his faith was the most important aspect of his life and he wanted everyone to know his Jesus and he'd always say, "Ya know, Jesus loves you!"

Left to cherish his memory are their Children, Kevin Beck of St. Petersburg, Florida, Rick and Valerie (Thomas) Beck of Honouliuli, Hawaii, and Katie (Beck) and Mike Mathews of St. Paul, NE; Grandchildren, Ryan and Mitsuko (Oitome) Beck of Lafayette, CO, Emily Beck of Las Vegas, NV, Mitch and Libby (Szymanski) Mathews of Kearney, NE, MacKenzie (Mathews) and Carlos Tejada of Celina, TX; and one great grandchild, Mila Tejada; his surviving siblings include Dr. William and Geri Beck, Rosemary Dietrich, Rev. John and Barbara Beck, Roger Dubbe, Maxine Beck, Gloria and Bob Becker, Alice Oelke, Charles and Margaret Hermes, Doug and Cheryl Schutz and many, many beloved nieces and nephews on each side of the family.

Wally was also considered a cherished part of an extended Dr. Maurice and Maedean Mathews/Dr. Rich and Sandy Fruehling family.

Walter is preceded in death by both of his and Betty's parents, siblings Johanna and Harlan Muehring, Glorianna Dubbe, Lowell Beck, Clifford Dietrich, William and Ruth Hermes, Charlotte and Bob Hawthorne, Victor Oelke, MaryLou and Lee Weber, nephew Jason Beck and niece Tara Knowles.

Cemetery Details

Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemeter

Arapahoe, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Cross Lutheran
3315 11th Avenue
Kearney, NE

Funeral Service

JUL 13. 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Cross Lutheran
3315 11th Avenue
Kearney, NE

Burial

JUL 13. 2:30 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery
Arapahoe, NE

Tribute Wall

KK

“ He was my 5th Grade teacher and neighbor. The neighborhood around TL Church and school was dominated by kids of teachers, pastors, and members of Trinity. Mr. Beck definitely had a profound influence on many kids who had the privilege of learning from him.

Ken Knoepfel - April 05, 2024 at 11:12 AM

VB

“ 5th Grade, with Mr. Beck as my teacher, is a great memory which includes - troll dolls, troll doll houses on the book shelf, knitting & crocheting, singing in 2 part harmony from the hymnal. He allowed his students to be creative & explore the world with God as the center. He and his family would drive out to our farm to pick sweet corn! Mr. Beck was also my high school counselor at GI Northwest. A good Christian man! May he and his family be blessed as they remember him.

Valorie Burke - July 13, 2023 at 01:33 PM

CL

“ Wally Beck was a wonderful Christian man, and a sweetheart of a neighbor. Ken and I were neighbors with Wally and Betty while they lived in Hastings... and we also belonged to the same church. Wally always had a smile on his face, a song in his heart, and a sparkle in his eye. What a wonderful human being! He loved to find wild fruit and make jelly for his friends and neighbors. I didn't have the heart to tell him that his jelly was a little thin, so Ken and I used it on ice cream! We missed his smile after he and Betty moved to Kearney, but we kept in touch at Christmas. My heart goes out to his family... Carol Laux

Carol Laux - July 11, 2023 at 11:04 AM

DT

“ Wally Beck was 5th grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran in Grand Island when i went there he was my brother Mikes 5th grade Teacher when Mike lost his life to cancer in1969 . That man was. Joy to be around he was truly a man of God.His smile will be missed. Dennis Tjaden Grand island

Dennis Tjaden - July 10, 2023 at 10:46 PM

CP

“Wally” was my high school counselor at Northwest and always made sure I was smiling. More than a few times he’d call me in just to chat and make sure I was having a good day! I appreciate him making my days there bearable. Thanks Wally!

Cindie Parker-Hostler - July 10, 2023 at 09:53 AM

MM

“Mr. Beck was my 9th grade basketball coach at Northwest. Such a remarkable man, who taught us not only basketball skills but how to play as a team and how to treat others with respect...how to treat others as you want to be treated. He always coached with clarity and a smile. I so appreciated coach Beck!

Marty Martinez - July 08, 2023 at 02:37 PM

BK

“Mr Beck was my 5th grade teacher at Trinity in Grand Island. He was always smiling and challenging us to think about God and our faith. We did a mural on the ceiling , learn geography with clay maps and learned to memorize the Bible. He was one of my favorite teachers. Barb Kreitman

Barb Kreitman - July 08, 2023 at 10:53 AM