



Lewis "Lew" R. Weick

June 18, 1931 - May 17, 2020

Lewis "Lew" R. Weick of Washington, IL died May 17, 2020 from metastatic cancer that originated in his lungs.

He was born June 18, 1931 in Sacramento, CA, and he and his mother soon after moved back to a small farm in southeastern Nebraska where he was raised by her and his grandmother until age thirteen when his mother married the man who became the only father he ever knew.

He attended a one room country school which had neither electricity nor a well. After graduating from high school where he was one of a class of about 90, he went on to Peru State Teachers College for two years before dropping out to help his dad on the farm until he was drafted into the Army Signal Corps.

After his return from the service, on February 20, 1955, he married the love of his life Darlene Wilhelm who had grown up in the same area. They rented a farm near his parents who interestingly lived two miles away in a different state – Lew in Nebraska, and they in Kansas. Their venture into farming began with five years of terrible crop prices and even worse drought, but this turned out to be a blessing in disguise. They burned their bridges and he returned to school for what became one of the most satisfying times of his life.

Despite having been a college drop out earlier, he graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the top of his class and graduated second in his class with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

They moved from Nebraska to Illinois to begin work at Caterpillar, a company of which he was always proud, and where for 32 years he did satisfying and meaningful work among good friends and colleagues. While at Caterpillar, he earned his master's degree from Bradley University and was a registered professional engineer.

Lew retired in 1996 and enjoyed retirement immensely. He kept a large vegetable and flower garden, operated their small community's water system for many years, and sometimes to his wife's chagrin, seemed able to keep household appliances running forever.

He was a volunteer tax preparer for elderly and low-income clients for 20 years. He continued to donate blood well into his eighties, having neared the 30-gallon mark before stopping at age 87.

He was baptized into the Christian faith as a teenager and was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Washington for many years where he served on several councils and committees.

He is survived by his wife and best friend Darlene; wonderful children, Dan (Susan) Weick of Morton, Amy (Carl) Gibbs of North Pekin, and Chris Weick of East Peoria; grandchildren, Brian (Kerilyn) Weick of Morton and Shannon Weick of Savoy; and his great-granddaughter Ruth of Morton.

He was preceded in death by his parents Roy and Ruth Glathar of Falls City, Nebraska. He donated his body to the Anatomical Board of Nebraska for the advancement of medical education and he will be interred at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Faith Lutheran Church or Methodist Hospice.

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery

Camp Butler National Cemetery

Springfield, IL,

Comments



“ CheriAdams lit a candle in memory of Lewis "Lew" R. Weick



CheriAdams - May 28 at 01:26 AM



“ Darlene and Family,

My sympathies and most sincere condolences are sent to you on your lost.

I first met Lew in Tax-aide training about 2005. Two years later I joined him in preparing tax returns at Washington District Library. A few years later I joined him in doing tax returns at Metamora Library also. We also worked together doing tax returns in Morton Public Library for a few years. Lew was always curious, friendly, outgoing, and enjoyed talking with people. He liked the idea he was volunteering in a “Taxes for the Elderly” program and the majority of taxpayers he helped were younger than he was. When he prepared a person’s taxes they got their taxes done and a visit with Lew. People appreciated what he did. He was my good friend. He will be missed.

God Bless,
Walt Klypchak

Walter Klypchak - May 22 at 05:22 PM



“ Darlene and Family,

I am very sad to read of Lew’s passing. Lew was in Caterpillar’s Building W, near IL Rt. 29, when I came to Caterpillar’s Basic Engines in Mossville, IL in March 1976. As an Electrical Engineer, I was placed in the Plant Engineering Group in Building BB mezzanine. My primary responsibility was the diesel engine test cells. If my memory is correct, that is where I met Lew. In a few years, Lew went to Building L at the Research Technical Center. Side note: I was hired for Caterpillar’s Research Department. After a year in the College Graduate Training Program, I stated in Building W in East Peoria, IL in June 1964. Went to the new Building E at the Tech Center in September 1966. Left there in March 1973 for Production Technology Inc. (Inertia Welders).

I have really enjoyed Lew’s letters to the editor over the years. Lew had good

common sense!

I hope your many happy memories will help you get through this most difficult time.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

With Deepest Sympathy,

Ed Johnson (Cat MEC Retired)

Peoria, IL



Edward L Johnson - May 21 at 03:09 PM



“ During the period 1967-70 I had the good fortune of being associated with Lew at Caterpillar. Lew was a test engineer in Engine Test & Evaluation at the Technical Center and had responsibility for the test development of electrical components for Caterpillar diesel engines. He was one of the most common-sense engineers I met in 33 years at Cat. His technical knowledge was excellent and he used it to great effect in a low-key friendly manner that everyone appreciated. I always enjoyed being around Lew and I learned a lot from him. Rest in Peace, Lew.

Wade Martin - May 20 at 04:37 PM



“ For Many years I was privileged to be Lew Weick's pastor. From the day Peggy and I met him, we liked him. He had a twinkle in his eye and a unique sense of humor. Through the years I saw a loving husband and father and a committed Christian. Although we did not always agree we respected each other. Peggy and I will cherish the memories we have of Lew and Darlene.

Karl A Otto - May 20 at 01:09 PM



“ Darla, I am so sorry to hear about Lew's passing. I remember a few years serving on the Faith Lutheran church council with him. He was a smart man, and I could always count on him for good advice and common sense. He was a man with both feet on the ground and his heart with God.

CHUCK JONES - May 20 at 08:50 AM



“ From the kingsland and spinelli family.



Ryan Spinelli - May 19 at 09:55 PM



“ Ryan Spinelli lit a candle in memory of Lewis "Lew" R. Weick



Ryan Spinelli - May 19 at 09:54 PM



“ Remember him fondly from Faith Lutheran church. Met his son at St. Peter's Lutheran church.



Karen Visocky - May 19 at 07:15 PM



“ Doris (Glathar) Badberg lit a candle in memory of Lewis "Lew" R. Weick



Doris (Glathar) Badberg - May 19 at 05:03 PM



“ I attended Faith Lutheran with the Weicks and St Peters's with Dan. . I want to send my sympathy to the family. Darlene, it has been a long time. I still remember reading Lew's letters to the JR.Star.I am so sorry. Mary Jones

Mary Jones - May 20 at 09:48 AM



“ Darlene, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I remember your visits to Falls City in Room 10.

Cheri Adams (former manager at Check-In Motel)

CheriAdams - May 28 at 01:25 AM