



## Walt Jaderlund

July 29, 1926 - September 11, 2014

W. Walter Jaderlund passed away at the age of 88 on Thursday, September 11, 2014, due to complications arising from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. He was born July 29, 1926, to John Arthur Jaderlund and Emma Meyer Jaderlund in Mt. Vernon, NY. He had a loving sister, Mildred, who predeceased him.

Walt was a voracious student, graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with an Aeronautical Engineering degree at the age of 24, after serving in the U.S. Army Air Force. He later earned an MBA at U of CO, Boulder.

He left New York to take a position in Ft. Worth, TX at Convair, which became General Dynamics and is now Lockheed, where he worked passionately in the design and testing of jet engines.

It was in Ft. Worth where Walt met the love of his life, Moddy, whom he would marry and raise two sons, John and David, who have always been his pride and joy.

Walt heard the call of the space race in 1961, and accepted an engineering position at NASA, near Houston, TX where he would spend the next 30 years devoted to designing and testing spacecraft for the Gemini, Apollo, Spacelab, and Shuttle programs, which required extensive travel.

As much as he loved his work at NASA, Walt loved the outdoors, and spent as much time as he could on his boat fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, snow skiing in Colorado, hunting at the ranch in Dripping Springs, and leading Boy Scout troops as Scoutmaster.

Always very devoted to his church, St. Christopher's in League City, TX, Walt was active as a Vestryman, Jr. Warden, Sr. Warden, Usher, Greeter, Director of Acolyte Training, and numerous repairs/maintenance.

Walt retired from NASA in 1993, and moved with Moddy to Granbury, TX where they built

a home, and enjoyed fishing Lake Granbury together, along with Moddy's sister and brother-in-law. They moved to Arlington, then Flower Mound, where he would live until his health issues worsened.

Walt is survived by his loving and tirelessly dedicated wife, Moddy; their two loving sons, Dr. John Jaderlund of Denton, TX and David Jaderlund of Santa Fe, NM; an adoring granddaughter, Sarah Jaderlund who is an engineering student at Purdue; also by Mildred's sons, Gary and Steve, and her daughter, Joyce. Walt will also remain in the hearts of Moddy's family who loved and admired him as their own.

There will be a memorial service at Chinn's Chapel, 100 Chinn's Chapel Lane, Copper Canyon, TX on September 20, at 1:00 p.m.

You are invited to sign the Guestbook at [www.dentonfuneralhome.net](http://www.dentonfuneralhome.net)

For those wishing to make a donation in memory of Walt, the family requests that memorial gifts be made to Alzheimer's Association, 4144 N. Central Expressway, Suite 750, Dallas, TX 75204; or a charity of your choice, in lieu of flowers.

# Comments

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“ Ed Wemer lit a candle in memory of Walt Jaderlund



Ed Wemer - September 20, 2014 at 01:08 PM

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“ My mom was his sister Mildred, and she always called him our Uncle 'Buddy', although I later preferred to call him Uncle Walt. Because we lived in New Jersey, we did not get to see him nearly enough. Every time he visited, I was always impressed with his knowledge and energy. I can recall one time when he was visiting his parents (my grandparents) in Delaware by himself without his family, and he said that he would spend the next day rebuilding the engine in my grandparents car! This really personified him and is something that I have always remembered. The man really understood machines and was a true engineer. I am sad that he is gone, but happy for the memories that I have of him.  
Love, Steve, Kathy and family.

Steve Wemer - September 18, 2014 at 08:01 PM

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“ Uncle 'Buddy' moved west when I was a young boy and therefore I didn't to get spend nearly enough time with him and his wonderful family. I remember him as a brilliant, caring, generous man who had a wealth of knowledge on a great variety of subjects. Our family totally enjoyed his visits to California and New Jersey. It was always a pleasure to have him around and he never wanted to leave without tackling a project around the house. A truly great man. He will be sorely missed.

Love,  
Gary, Char and Family

Gary Wemer - September 18, 2014 at 03:36 PM

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Marilyn Jaderlund - September 16, 2014 at 03:32 PM

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“ Dear David, John, and Mrs. Jaderlund,  
Thinking of you as you celebrate the life of your father/husband, and friend. He was SMART, FUNNY, KIND, and CARING. I pray that your memories of time with him will bring you comfort and joy. Much love, Mary Liz Curtner-Smith

Mary Curtner-Smith - September 16, 2014 at 06:17 AM

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“ Walt was so kind hearted and always thinking of others. He especially wanted to go fishing with his friends. He will be missed by so many here at Autumn Leaves for his quick whit.

Joanne Conaway - September 15, 2014 at 04:15 PM

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david jaderlund - September 13, 2014 at 11:56 AM

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david jaderlund - September 13, 2014 at 11:24 AM

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david jaderlund - September 13, 2014 at 11:05 AM

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david jaderlund - September 13, 2014 at 11:04 AM

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“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Walt and Moddy. However, I felt as though I knew them from all the heartwarming stories of them from their son David, who is a dear friend. Anyone who has raised such a loving, caring, and considerate son has left a great and rare legacy. Walt must have been a truly special person. Love, Lori Absher

Lori Absher - September 13, 2014 at 10:58 AM

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“ I remember Uncle Walt as a high energy individual with a very positive approach to life. He was somebody you liked to be around because he was always going to have a funny or interesting story to tell but always wanted to know what was happening in your life as well. I am saddened by his passing but the fond memories of fishing and hunting trips with him are what I will remember. To Aunt Moddy, John and David may your many loving memories of Walt as husband and father help get you through the loss of this wonderful man. Love, Dennis Modisett

Dennis Modisett - September 13, 2014 at 07:51 AM

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“ Walt Jaderlund - The Perfect Gentleman. Wow! What a great man. Walt and Moddy lived up the street from my Parents in Pecan Plantation Granbury Texas for many years. I remember Walt walking his dog Moose. He even let my Daughter paint Moose's toe nails one time. Walt actually understood my Dad's long engineering stories too. Walt loved new Suburbans and when he bought a new one we bought his old one. I'm confident there is a really special place in Heaven for a man like Walt. He must be walking with Kings! My thoughts and heart go out to Moddy a most WONDERFUL lady. Big hugs to you Moddy. Best wishes to David and John and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you and my family is thinking of you all as well Love, Paula Buchholz Radvansky

Paula Buchholz Radvansky - September 12, 2014 at 09:57 PM

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“ I am the "Yankee" niece and didn't get to see our Uncle "Buddy" nearly as often as I would have liked. As a child, I anxiously awaited his family's visits to Delaware and New Jersey, at least once, and sometimes twice a year. I also have proudly told whoever would listen all my life about how my uncle was an engineer for NASA and lived in the same neighborhood as astronauts. Thanks to Uncle Walt, I had a love and fascination with space and the space program and own multiple astronaut photos with autographs, including Neil Armstrong, which I will always treasure. He was my one and only uncle for my entire life, and I will miss him. Love, Joyce

Joyce Wemer - September 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

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“ Being the "Yankee" brother in-law, Uncle Walt was dealt more than his fair share of teasing and kidding by the rest of our southern brood. But it was only because Moddy's siblings and their extended families loved him so much. This niece remembers a very intelligent engineer who I was so proud to tell my friends worked for NASA and lived across the street from real astronauts, a strong man who was always physically active and worked at staying fit, and a man who doted on and cherished his beautiful wife and sons. A gentleman and a scholar, with a big smile, warm heart and open arms. We will miss him on this earth but know that he has

found peace. With loving thoughts, Linda

**Linda Laurents** - September 11, 2014 at 06:54 PM