



## Earl L. Walden

July 14, 1937 - August 11, 2021

Earl Lee Walden, age 84 of Mattoon, IL passed away at 2:05 AM, Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Mattoon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 10:30 AM, Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at First Baptist Church, 1804 S. 9th Street, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Dennis Strawn will officiate. The visitation will be held Monday evening, August 16, 2021, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM at the church. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is in charge of services.

Earl was born on July 14, 1937, the son of the late Lawrence L. and Virginia R. (Madlem) Walden in Jasper County, IL where he grew up on a farm near rural Rose Hill. Class of 1955, Earl graduated from Newton Highschool. He married his sweetheart, Sarah "Sue" Stanley on November 30, 1957. He is survived by his loving wife, Sue Walden of Mattoon, IL; two devoted daughters, Kimberly Lane and husband Randy of Savoy, IL, Kristi Thornhill and husband Eric of Mattoon, IL; three grandchildren, Kaleb, Kalei, and Keila Thornhill, all of Mattoon, IL; brother, Orval L. Walden and wife Rosie of Rose Hill, IL; two sisters, Shirley Sanders and husband Duane of Colorado Springs, CO, Kay McCartney of Sun City, AZ; brother-in-law, Michael Stanley of Newton, IL; three sisters-in-law, Beth Shadley of Champaign, IL, Dr. Mary Parker and husband Jerry, and Marianne Stanley of Newton, IL. He is preceded in death by four brothers-in-law, Chuck McCartney, Paul Stanley, Pat Stanley, Charles Shadley: and nephew, Randy Walden.

Earl was the owner and operator of Walden's TV and Appliance in Mattoon, IL for fifty-two years, selling the business and retiring in 2019. With his charismatic smile, straight-shooter personality, and remarkable handshake, the customers soon became life-long friends. Earl loved the people and people loved him.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Mattoon, IL and enjoyed singing in the chancel choir on Sunday mornings. Earl also attended his family church, the Church of Christ. He was a past member of Mattoon Chamber of Commerce and Elks Club.

Sports was Earl's hobby, he loved them all. He served on Eastern Illinois University Panther Club Board of Directors and Mattoon Lake Land College Athletic Board. As a dedicated basketball fan, Lake Land honored Mr. Walden's years of enthusiastically cheering on the team by dedicating a room in his honor. He was inducted into three Softball Hall of Fames and pitched in the World Tournament, an accomplishment he was quite proud of. An avid golfer, Earl was a member of Mattoon Golf and Country Club, playing in many events and tournaments. He enjoyed hunting, boating, bowling, and much more.

Above all things, Earl was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He and Sue were fortunate to spend time together traveling all over. He treasured the times spent with his daughters and savored the moments with his grandchildren. Earl made every event feel like a special occasion.

Earl leaves a legacy of being a true gentleman with a heart of gold and smile that lit up the room. He was loved greatly and will be deeply missed.

Memorials in his honor may be made to First Baptist Church or South Side Church of Christ, 1100 S. 17th Street, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **16**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
1804 S 9th Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

## Service

AUG **17**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
1804 S 9th Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Tribute Wall



“ *Earl L. Walden*

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October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Deepest sympathies. I purchased many appliances from him over the years. Enjoyed many conversations with him. Always smiling, great service. He will be missed by this community.*

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**Jodi Sparks** - August 17, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ *What a great guy Earl was. Christian, husband, father. Great great softball player. My best memories are of a group of men who reinacted the Lord's supper at First Baptist. Great group of men. My greatest sympathies. Jeff Gates*

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**Jeff Gates** - August 17, 2021 at 02:06 PM



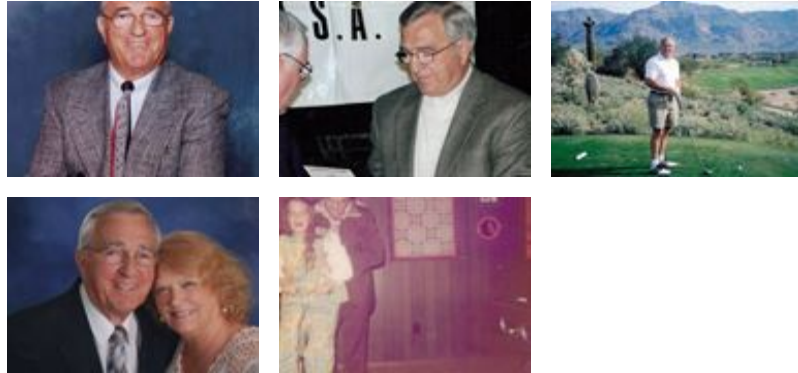
“ *Earl was always such a nice man. I worked at Knowles Cafeteria (years ago) and he used to come in with Bill Hamel for lunch all the time. He will be missed in the community*

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**Bonnie Miller** - August 15, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ 82 files added to the album Life Tributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - August 13, 2021 at 03:15 PM

GW

“ Very sorry to hear of Earls passing. When I think of Earl, I think of nothing but class. What a genuine person. I think I last visited with him at a Newton homecoming football game. Always enjoyed seeing his smiling face. Was too young to remember his softball pitching but Dad says he was a great one. One time we asked for assistance from Earl on an EIU matter. It was no time and Earl had taken care of it. We have lost a very special Rose Hill fellow but God has gained a special angel. May God comfort the family with your loss.

Greg White - August 13, 2021 at 11:43 AM

AS

“ Aron Summar lit a candle in memory of Earl L. Walden



aron summar - August 13, 2021 at 09:38 AM

KC

“ *Kathi Cobble lit a candle in memory of Earl L. Walden*



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**kathi cobble** - August 12, 2021 at 09:30 PM

SS

“ *My sincere condolences to Kristi, Kimberly, and Mrs Walden. Hoping that your happy memories ease your sorrow.*

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**Scott Strater-Tafolla** - August 12, 2021 at 03:00 PM

JH

“ *My prayers and sincere sympathy to all the family. Janet Homann*

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**Janet Homann** - August 12, 2021 at 02:10 PM

MD

“ *To the family:  
The friendship of the Walden family goes back many years. Through Lawrence and Virginia, Earl and his siblings became fast friends of mine! The many meals we shared from Virginia's table; the times we'd meet with Orval and just laugh; the times I'd just walk into his store during a week when I was preaching somewhere in Illinois and would ask, "Is Earl here?" and hear a loud, "Absolutely not!!" from his office -- those and so many other GREAT memories flood my mind! He was and remains a treasured friend! Mike Davis*

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**Michael Davis** - August 12, 2021 at 02:08 PM

DH

“ *Denise Henry lit a candle in memory of Earl L. Walden*



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**Denise Henry** - August 12, 2021 at 01:47 PM