



Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.

June 23, 1928 - March 29, 2018

Walter Bernard Purcell, Jr., 89 passed away peacefully in his sleep at Rolling Green Village in Greenville, SC.

Walt Purcell was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. He attended Taylor-Alderice High School, where he excelled in boxing and football. At the age of 16, he lied about his age to enlist in the military. In 1945, Walt joined the Army's 11th Airborne, and although trained as a paratrooper, was assigned to ride horseback for mountain patrol as part of the occupation forces in Japan at the end of World War II. After the war, Walt returned to Pittsburgh, where he met and married fellow Pittsburgh native, Mary Louise Adams. As the young family grew, Walt went on to serve in the Military Police, the Criminal Investigation Division, and the Signal Corps in a career that spanned World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. He was stationed in many parts of the world including Pittsburgh, PA, Clemson College (with the ROTC Dept.), Germany (Munich, Stuttgart, and Heidelberg), Vietnam, Thailand, Oregon, and Georgia.

Walt, Mary and their children returned to the Clemson area when Walt retired from the Military in 1973, with the rank of First Sergeant. He then went on to serve for 13 years as the Emergency Preparedness Director for Oconee County. His responsibilities covered everything from coordinating search and rescue in the surrounding lakes, rivers, and mountainous terrain, to

emergency planning for the nuclear power plant in the county.

The family loved the area when Walt had been stationed there in the early sixties, and they were thrilled to reconnect with lifelong friends, Jack and Ruth Clemens. Walt and Mary were avid fans and supporters of Clemson football, and enjoyed acting as traveling chaperones for the Clemson University Band for several years. Walt was recognized for leadership in Boy Scouts, Sertoma Club, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Walt and the family also continued to be ardent fans of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Walt and Mary never lost the travel bug and enjoyed many ocean and river cruises around the world during their retirement years. As Mary's health declined, Walt turned his every attention to her care. Sadly, he lost his beloved wife in 2015. He spent the years since surrounded by children, grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, his greatest joys.

Walt was preceded in death by Mary, his wife of 64 years, and his parents Walter B Purcell, Sr. and Josephine Majkowski Purcell. He is survived by his sister Betty Dabeco, sons Michael P Purcell and Mark S Purcell (Lisa), daughter Kathleen Ann Purcell Delumyea, grandchildren Connie Purcell, Joseph Purcell, Mary Ashley Purcell, and Caroline Purcell; two great grandchildren Logan and Jordan, nieces Nancy Marx, Margaret Dabeco Fencik (Albert), and nephews Frank Dabeco Jr., Rocky Dabeco, Douglas Dabeco, and Jeffrey Dabeco.

The family wishes to thank the administration and staff at Rolling Green Village, notably Ryan Toerner, Amy Abercrombie, Christie Smith, Abbie Slater, the entire nursing staff, Chaplain David Newton, and all the sitters, especially Tiffany Smith, Gina Vance, Barbara Jones, Billie Williams, and Annette Jeter.

A memorial service will be held at Rolling Green Village in Greenville, SC on April 28, 2018 at 3:30 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Oconee Humane Society, PO Box 966, West Union, SC 29696 or Army Emergency Relief (AER), on their web site AERHQ.org.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **28**. 3:30 PM (ET)

Rolling Green Village
1 Hoke Smith Blvd.
Greenville, SC 29615

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Perhaps you visited this site and shared your sympathies or sent a lovely card,
Perhaps you sat quietly with one of his loved ones or spoke the kindest words as any friend could say,
Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers or made a donation in his memory,
Perhaps you came to his memorial service or if you were not there, you thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much, whatever the part.
From the family of Walter B. Purcell, Jr.*

Kathe Delumyea - May 06, 2018 at 10:44 AM



“ *It was a pleasure to know Mr. Purcell. I thank him for his servive to the country and the community. He always greeted me with a smile. He will be missed. You have my condolences.*

Sincerely, Billie Williams

Billie Williams - April 26, 2018 at 07:20 AM

JP

“ Jean Payne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



Jean Payne - April 25, 2018 at 07:13 PM

PB

“ Praying for God's comfort, love and peace to all the family.
Tim and Pam Bowen



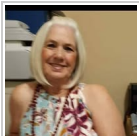
Pam Bowen - April 24, 2018 at 11:47 AM

DE

“ Don Evett sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



Don Evett - April 06, 2018 at 12:45 PM



“ Kathy Addis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



Kathy Addis - April 06, 2018 at 08:54 AM

JP

“ *Joyce Moore Parker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.*



Joyce Moore Parker - April 04, 2018 at 02:51 PM



“ *Kathy Lusk sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.*



Kathy Lusk - April 04, 2018 at 11:44 AM

CB

“ *Carmelita Baumgarner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.*



Carmelita Baumgarner - April 03, 2018 at 07:52 PM

WB

“ *Wayne Barton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.*



Wayne Barton - April 03, 2018 at 02:44 PM

LA

“ LC Alexander sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



LC Alexander - April 02, 2018 at 09:17 PM

DA

“ Don And Darlene Albertson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



Don and Darlene Albertson - April 02, 2018 at 07:24 PM

RA

“ Rod & Katherine Albertson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



Rod & Katherine Albertson - April 02, 2018 at 06:28 PM

DN

“ Doug And Linda Reese Nix sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Walter Bernard Purcell Jr.



Doug and Linda Reese Nix - April 02, 2018 at 05:49 PM