



## Walter G. Erchinger

March 19, 1936 - August 18, 2020

Walter George Erchinger, 84, of Petersburg Illinois died on Tuesday August 18th peacefully at home after a brave struggle with Parkinson's disease. He never questioned the quality and completeness of his life and appreciated the opportunities found in life's challenges. Walt was born March 19, 1936 in Calumet City, IL to Christian and Marie (Hauser) Erchinger. He married Sandra Quellmalz in 1992 and she preceded him in death in 2016.

Walt is survived by five children, Karen (Bruce Waide) Erchinger of Petersburg, Illinois, Keith (Linda) Erchinger of Minooka, Illinois, Kristin Erchinger of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Kurt (Heidi) Erchinger of Vernon Hills, Illinois, and Joslyn (Jonathon) Osten of Annandale, Virginia; 12 grandchildren, Nicole and Shelly Waide, Garrett and Rachel May, Kassandra (Brian) Mayhall, Dylan Marshall, Alexander, Erica, Kyle and Ryan Erchinger, Elijah and Peter Osten; two great grandchildren, Mackenzie Waide and Austin Woolman; and one great great grandson, Gage Connor. He is also survived by one brother, Ralph (Eleanor) Erchinger of Austin, Texas. Walt was preceded in death by his parents.

Beginning his 55-year career as a lineman for Illinois Bell Telephone, Walt finished his career consulting for the State of Illinois in network development and maintenance. He proudly served his country as an airplane mechanic for the Air National Guard.

Walt was a member of Petersburg Central Presbyterian Church and was active in church stewardship through most of his life. He nourished his love of the outdoors by being active in boy scouts with his sons, trailblazing hiking and fitness trails in the historic flora and fauna areas of New Salem State Park, and adding dozens of ornamental trees in the common area of Lake Petersburg. During his thirty year residency in Petersburg, Walt was an active contributor to Kiwanis, Menard County Trails and Greenways, mentoring and other community improvement groups. He was also an avid boater/water ski instructor for his children and anyone he could convince to get behind his boat.

Living by the words of the founding father of Boy Scouts, Baden-Powell, to “try and leave this world a little better than you found it”, Walt has instilled these morals within his children and everyone he touched.

He and his family are very thankful for the love and care he received from his caregivers, Mackenzie Waide, Michelle Petersen, Kristin Hardy, and Michelle Waide.

Walt, dearly loved, will be missed by his family and friends. A private gathering will be held in his memory. Memorials may be made to the Menard County Food Pantry.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com)

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, Illinois is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Comments

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“ Sincere condolences.

I first met Walt in Springfield in 1989. He soon became a good friend and mentor as I settled into new surroundings and a new job. He was always patient and a good listener.

I will miss you Walt.

Grady Cole  
South Carolina

**grady cole** - August 29, 2020 at 10:09 AM

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“ Larry And Mary Hundt lit a candle in memory of Walter G. Erchinger



**Larry and Mary Hundt** - August 26, 2020 at 07:06 AM

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“ Richard and I send our sincere condolences on the loss on earth of Walt  
He was such a sweet sharing and caring individual  
Diana and Richard Boyer

**Diana Boyer** - August 24, 2020 at 07:22 PM

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“ My blessing to the family. He will be missed by everybody. May He Rest In Peace.  
Dina Jones

**Dona Jones** - August 24, 2020 at 12:57 PM

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“ It is with sincere sadness that we learned of Walt's passing. But neither could we have asked that he be allowed to live without his illness much longer. Walt did so very much for Central Presbyterian Church. He was a friend to everyone. Multi-talented, kind, generous and humble are only a few of many adjectives That could be applied to Walt. We are grateful to have known him and have missed him very much in our congregation. You have our sincere sympathy. Jerry and Janene Tice

**Jerry and Janene Tice** - August 23, 2020 at 06:25 PM

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“ I'll never meet another man like Walt! He was so loving and caring, and he liked his Budweiser and ice cream, at the same time! I wish I could spend lots more time with him, but he was ready to be with Sandy. I just hope and pray I will get to see him again someday!

**Michelle Petersen** - August 23, 2020 at 09:16 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you.  
John and Sandra Colavecchi

**Sandra Colavecchi** - August 22, 2020 at 07:33 PM

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“ So sorry to learn of Walt's passing. I worked for him at CMS and he was a wonderful mentor. I often recall things he said or taught me. He was a great man.

**Alice Engle** - August 22, 2020 at 06:58 PM

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“ So sorry to hear this our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Rick, Karen and Wes Boensel and family

**Karen Boensel** - August 22, 2020 at 06:36 PM

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“ He is missed and loved! I will always be grateful to him and his family for showing me my calling and for making us feel like family. He was such an amazing guy! Truly one of a kind

**Kristin Hardy** - August 22, 2020 at 05:24 PM

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“ I WORKED WITH WALT IN GETTING THE NEW STATECOMPUTER NETWORK UP. WITH MY JOB AT IDOC,I GOT TO WORK WITH WALT DIRECTLY AT TIMES AS WELL AS HIS FINE STAFF. WHEN WE MET, WE ALWAYS HAD TIME TO TALK AIRPLANES. WALT WAS A GOOD MAN AND I FEEL THAT I AM A BETTER PERSON FROM KNOWING HIM. REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND.

**LARRY LICHTENBERGER** - August 22, 2020 at 04:53 PM

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“ So sad to see if Walt's passing. I worked for him at CMS and he was always positive in his attitude. He brought out the best in us as one his staff. At the end of the day, he made all of us better persons. RIP

**Steve Hayden** - August 22, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ Thank you Steve. Your words are much appreciated and shared by everyone whom he worked with over the years.

**Kristin Erchinger** - August 22, 2020 at 01:36 PM

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“ To Family of Walt, I worked for Walt for several years and he was the best boss I ever had. He gave me opportunities that no one else would. He was the most fair, kind and generous man I have ever know as a boss. I am an african american woman and he treated me like a human being and for that I will be forever grateful. W e had a trio and I am the last one left. Please be blessed and my prayers are with you. MY HERO WALT!!!

My heart if heavy because I have been trying to find him for several years and everyone I talk with said he was in Florida and if I had know he was in Petersburg I would have been there. God bless

LaVerne Butler  
Springfield, IL

**LAVERNE BUTLER** - August 21, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ LaVerne your kind words are so touching and heartfelt, much appreciate. I can feel Dad smiling in heaven. Would have loved to have met you and talked with Walt. All our best to you and your family. Will keep you in our prayers.

**Kristin Erchinger** - August 22, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Walt's passing. Mike & Pat Vig

**pat vig** - August 26, 2020 at 09:00 PM