



Walt Benzinger

January 23, 1941 - January 19, 2023

Walter Benzinger, 81, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2023, after living with pancreatic cancer for over 4 years.

Walt is survived by his wife of 42 years, Sheryl, his children Shawn (Mark) Whitney, Debra Woyce, Craig (Vicki) Benzinger, Chris (Katie) Benzinger, Shannon

(Michael Partain) Benzinger, Brian (Kathryn Gauthreaux) Benzinger, and Andrew

Benzinger, his grandchildren CJ and Jake Benzinger, and Ethan, Sydney, and Morgan Woyce, his brothers Skip Benzinger and Tim (Harriet) Benzinger, and many nieces and nephews. Special thanks to Inspire Hospice nurses Brennan, Christy, and Michael and the MeSun Hospice Facility for their care and compassion during his final months of life.

Walt was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on January 23, 1941. He grew up on the Benzinger family farm, graduating from Mishicot High School in 1959. He joined the US Air Force in 1961 and was stationed in Florida working as an astronomic surveyor for the US missile program until 1965. Upon his return to Wisconsin, he was approached by a family friend, who asked if he would be interested in selling insurance, initiating what would become a lifelong career. He began by initially contacting returning Vietnam veterans to assist them with their insurance needs.

Walt worked with Association Life Insurance Company in Milwaukee for 5 years before he transferred to Atlanta, Georgia in 1970 as the Southeast Regional Sales Manager. He went on to lead the region in sales for multiple years running, even earning him a feature in the Atlanta Journal Constitution. In 1978 he started his own independent insurance agency, Association Benefits and Services, and continued selling medical, life, and property insurance for over 40 more years. He primarily worked with small groups and associations, including the Georgia Funeral Directors, Georgia Land Surveyors, and the Southern Peanut Warehousemen Association. One of the earliest groups he wrote in South Georgia was the peanut warehouse owned and operated by Jimmy Carter's family. Walt treated all his clients as close friends and in doing so established lifelong multi-generational relationships which were truly valuable to him and others.

Walt was a mechanic and builder at heart. He owned numerous rental houses over the years and enjoyed taking care of any maintenance problems that came up. He built a house in the mountains of North Georgia, where he designed the architecture and installed all plumbing and electrical by hand. He loved getting out on the tractor or his 4-wheeler and enjoying the mountain air. He created a relaxing mountain getaway appreciated by his entire family. Walt was a storyteller, and an amazing listener. He could talk to anyone and would have them telling their life story in a matter of minutes. His personality welcomed people to him, allowing them to feel listened to and appreciated. He especially loved telling people about all 7 of his children and their accomplishments. He considered his kids to be one of his greatest achievements in life and wouldn't hesitate to share how proud he was and that he loved them.

Walt was a world traveler, and especially enjoyed seeing the National Parks across the country. He visited Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Rocky Mountains, Yosemite, Smoky Mountains, North Cascades, Crater Lake, and Redwood National Park. He also traveled to England, Scotland, Italy, and a tour through

Europe.

Walt placed emphasis on staying fit, active, and healthy his entire life. He believed that while you couldn't help getting older, you never had to get old, and was always proud to defy people's expectations of his age. Walt and Sheryl shared a love of tennis and played several times a week for over 40 years, still playing up until months before his death.

Walt's Christian faith was a very personal and important part of his life, stemming from his early Catholic upbringing to his participation as a member of Celebration Church in Hoschton. Walt's celebration of life service will be on February 18th in the chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Rd, SW, Lawrenceville Georgia, 30046 at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Mike Day officiating. Visitation with the family will be from 11 – 2 before the service. In lieu of flowers, you can donate to Yellowstone Forever, P.O. Box 1856, Bozeman, MT 59771, Celebration Church, 5560 Thompson Mill Rd, Hoschton, Ga 30548, Georgia Funeral Directors Association, P.O. Box 1865, Roswell, Ga 30077, or a charity of your choice in Walt's name.

Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road, SW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. 770-962-3100. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville
300 Simonton Road SW
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Celebration of Life

FEB 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville
300 Simonton Road, S.W.
Lawrenceville, GA

Tribute Wall



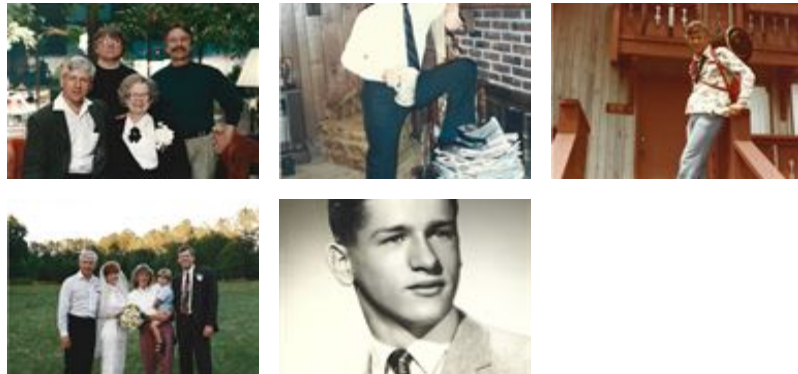
“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Walt Benzinger*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - February 17, 2023 at 05:40 PM



“ *70 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - February 17, 2023 at 05:38 PM



“ *Pam and Gary Hyer purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walt Benzinger.*



Pam and Gary Hyer - January 31, 2023 at 03:04 PM

RI

“ The Rinehart Family (Rinehart and Sons Funeral Home in Jesup) always enjoyed our friendship with Walt. He always had stories to tell and trips to brag about to us! We laughed and tried to always get a "one up on him". Walt will be missed! Sheryl, we know he loved you immensely along with his beloved children! Linda, William and Leslie

Rinehart - January 23, 2023 at 01:47 PM

DW

“ Sheryl & family...we were so saddened to hear of Walt’s passing. 😞 We have such fond memories of him and his “always positive attitude!” We were blessed to have you both serve us in our business faithfully for many years as well as being fortunate to have you as friends. Our prayers will continue daily for you and your children. May you find comfort in knowing he was a believer and is with his Heavenly Father now. Much love...Daphene & Richard Ward

daphene and richard ward - January 22, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ 32 files added to the album Early Years



Brian Benzinger - January 21, 2023 at 11:57 AM