



## Walter R Hyma

December 26, 1923 - November 28, 2020

Walter R. Hyma, age 96, of Kankakee, passed away peacefully Saturday, November 28, 2020 at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno.

Walter was awarded a basketball scholarship to Bowling Green State University in Ohio after his graduation from Findlay Ohio Senior High School. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II as a first sergeant in the Battery F 53rd Coast Artillery Regiment in the Philippines. After his discharge, he attended the University of Colorado in Boulder graduating summa cum laude. After several years working as a civil engineer, he began his life career at the Santa Fe Railroad based in Chicago. In 1970 he was promoted to Bridge Engineer System and retired from that position in 1982. He was an officer in several professional engineering organizations and a pioneer in the use of pre-cast concrete in bridges. After Walter's retirement, he and his wife traveled extensively throughout all the United States. He was a brilliant thinker and his life inspired many. Walter was a devout Catholic.

Surviving are his children, Kathleen (Michael) Stanfa of Kankakee; Steven Hyma of Potter Valley, California; Thomas (Melanie Allen) Hyma of Beaverton, Oregon; Daniel (Karen) Hyma of New Lenox; seven grandchildren, Anthony (Julia) Stanfa, Marie (David) Stover, Robert (Katie) Hyma, Philip (Becky) Hyma, Rachel (Josh) Maluta, Christopher (Becca) Allen-Hyma, Alexander (Ashley) Allen-Hyma; five great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Yvonne Hyma of Sylvania, Ohio; godchildren, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 69 years, Marie Hartl Hyma who passed away August 10, 2016; his parents Walter Rhyne and Della (Trap) Hyma; older sister Betty Riess; younger brother J. Timothy Hyma; two sisters-in-law, Irene Boardman and Helen Martinek; and one brother-in-law, Edward Hartl.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, private family services will be held. Private interment will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood.

Memorials may be made to Uplifted Care (formerly known as Hospice of Kankakee Valley) or the Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

# Cemetery Details

## **Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**

20953 Hoff Road  
Elwood, IL 60421

# Tribute Wall

TC

“ Lord, what can I say?

*Walter & Marie are wonderful, as evidenced by the wonderful family that God created through their love for one another.*

*Their love and kindness was shared with all they met.*

*Their kind consideration for all they encountered.*

*We shall see them again at the appointed time.*

*For we have hope for the future yet to come, in time will understand the mystery of His plan.*

*For "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what the Lord has prepared, that by His Spirit He has revealed His love for those who love him."*

*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*Tom.croteau @ gmail.com*

---

**Tom Croteau** - April 22, 2021 at 03:33 PM

KC

“ *In memorial of Walter Hyma, my husband's brother. Walt and his wife Marie have been a part of our lives for a long time, starting when they moved upstairs to the flat in my family's home. They invited Tim a high school senior to visit them there in Chicago area and got tickets to see Grand Old Opry and invited me to go too. Tim and I ended up writing letters to each other, and 5 years later we got married and had families. Two of Walt and Marie's boys ended up in California as did 3 of our kids. Tim and I decided to drive our new 2000 Honda Odyssey to California for our oldest granddaughter's graduation. Walt and Marie were visiting their boys so we asked them if they would like to drive back East with us for 2 or 3 weeks. They did and we had a wonderful trip, stopping at Yellowstone and other sights. That began many visits to their homes and our kids got to know each other a bit too. Walt was a special person and will be missed Our thoughts and sympathy are with you.*  
*Yvonne Hyma and family*

---

**Kimberly Hyma Cashman** - December 05, 2020 at 03:46 PM

KC

*I posted the above for my mother, Yvonne❤️*

---

**Kimberly Hyma Cashman** - December 05, 2020 at 03:53 PM

AP

“ *We met Walter while we were volunteering at the veteran's home. He was always pleasant and appreciative of help. He had a wonderful smile. We also enjoyed when his son and daughter came to visit him. They were clearly a close and loving family. We will say a prayer for all of them.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Alan and Pam Pickett*

---

**Alan and Pam Pickett** - December 03, 2020 at 09:40 PM

ET

“ *Kathy and Mike, I am so sorry to hear about Walt's passing. He was a joy to know and I will cherish his memory as well as Marie's. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*  
*Sincerely, Ellen Tierney*

---

**Ellen Tierney** - December 03, 2020 at 07:21 PM

YH

*Dear Kathy and Mike Walt as my husband's brother along with his wife Marie have been a part of our lives for a long time starting when they moved to the upstairs flat in n my family's home in Chicago area They invited Tim to visit them and had tickets for the Grand Old Oprey and invited me to go too. Tim and I met and started writing letters and getting married 5 years later. Later 2of their boys moved to CA as did 3of our kids. Tim and I took our new 2000 Honda Odyssey to CA for our oldest granddaughter's hs graduation. Luckily Walt and Marie were visiting their boys and so we asked them if they wanted to drive back East with us for a 2 or 3 week trip home. They did and we stopped at Yellowstone and other places. We had a wonderful time and got to visit them in Homewood and Park Forest and meeting them in Indiana sometimes. Walt and Marie were very special people and I know Walt is missed by all n*

---

**Yvonne Hyma** - December 05, 2020 at 10:18 AM

BW

“ *I was privileged to know, as well as be related to, Walt and Marie and have every letter I ever received from them. Condolences and prayers for your family.*  
*Sincerely, Barbara Wiersema*

---

**Barbara Wiersema** - December 03, 2020 at 12:15 PM

Gisele Knopf

“ *Gisele Knopf lit a candle in memory of Walter R Hyma*



Gisele Knopf - December 02, 2020 at 03:55 PM

Gisele Knopf

*And James Drabek sends his condolences as well. Prayers and love to everyone in this big Walt and Marie Hyma family!*

Gisele Knopf - December 02, 2020 at 03:57 PM

MM

“ *Walt was my Uncle and Godfather. I was doubly blessed. I was always excited to see him whea he visited. He was the epitome of love. I will miss him.*

*Maureen*

Maureen Martinek - December 02, 2020 at 12:51 PM

J3

“ *I worked in the Operating Dept of Santa Fe in Chicago handling oversized and excessively heavy loads. Walt was always so helpful and explicit in his advise for movement of the loads over the bridges. A real gentleman and for so many years I never knew of his military service. To that end many the family find peace and fond memories in their hearts as I slowly hand salute a final tribute to a fellow comrade and veteran. Thank you for you service and friendship.*

Joseph L Raftery 3 - December 02, 2020 at 01:22 AM

BS

“ Rest in peace Uncle Walt. Though we lived many miles apart, you always made us feel a part of you lives, whether it be sharing your travel stories, visiting us when you could or making sure our birthdays were always remembered. We will miss you and treasure our memories of you and your family. All our love, Joe and Barb (Boardman) Saya

Barbara Saya - December 01, 2020 at 09:22 PM

AB

“ Ashley B. lit a candle in memory of Walter R Hyma



Ashley B. - December 01, 2020 at 07:48 PM

RB

“ Walt was one of the kindest people I've ever known. He was always interested in everything that went on and above all he was a gentleman at all times. He was my godfather and he and aunt Marie never failed to send birthday cards to me my entire life, they would Never forget! WE had the opportunity to visit with Walt and Marie in the past few years and they were always such gracious hosts and fun to be around. Even though we didn't see them often they will be sorely missed. Roger & Judy Boardman

roger w boardman - December 01, 2020 at 07:38 PM

MO

“ *Mollie lit a candle in memory of Walter R Hyma*



---

**Mollie** - November 30, 2020 at 05:10 PM

DB

“ Mom's Sisters, Marie, Helen and Brother Edward all lived near Chicago. Several times Georgene, Mom and I took the train from Omaha to visit them. The train trip was a very exciting experience for us. Once we visited Walt and Marie and the cousins and I got to stay with Walt and Marie. Two things happened that week I will never forget. The first was the Clay-Liston heavyweight bout that brought Clay to the top of the boxing world. Feb 25th of 1964

The other, and most touching memory came on Friday evening after supper when it was time for Kathy, Steve, Tom and Dan to get their weekly allowance. Uncle Walt pressed a quarter into MY hand as well! It showed me just what a Gem was Walt. As a father many years later, when my girls had friends over on allowance day, I always gave the visiting friend an allowance just as Walt had given me.

Even though our visits to and from them were relatively few, I always felt close to them.

Getting Walt & Marie's annual Christmas letter, in which they outlined all the family news and all the states they had visited that year was eagerly anticipated.

There's no way to overemphasize just how much Walt and Marie helped me become the gentle man I am. Thank you Walt and may you now celebrate this new stage with the love of your life, Aunt Marie. Please say Hi from all of us to Mom, Helen and Edward. Please help guide us all through these uncertain times. In God's name I pray. Amen.

---

**Dennis Boardman** - November 30, 2020 at 04:37 PM

MO

Dear Dennis, this is beautiful. Thank you for those memories about Uncle Walt. Love, Mollie

---

**Mollie** - November 30, 2020 at 05:09 PM

MA

*This brought me to tears! What great memories! Love, Marie (Kathy's daughter)*

---

**Marie** - November 30, 2020 at 10:20 PM

AD

*Walt was a gentleman with a brilliant mind. Sending hugs to all his family. Marie and Walt were wonderful cousins and I always enjoyed their visits to Minneapolis. Remarkable Walt has passed and is with Marie.*

---

**Arlene Drabek** - December 11, 2020 at 04:10 PM

GG

*“ Uncle Walt was my Godfather. I will remember him as a kind, loving , brilliant guy who gave the best hugs and had a beautiful baritone voice. He was amazing at playing Jeopardy on TV. I always joked with him that I wanted him to be my “phone a friend” . Both Walt and his wife Marie visited us often here in Nebraska and we always looked forward to their visits. He will be missed!*

---

**Georgene Gottsch** - November 30, 2020 at 02:39 PM

JG

*“ Sorry Kathy and Mike. I enjoyed seeing you three on Sunday's at the Veterans Home.*

*Your friend,*

*Joe*

---

**Joseph Giacchino** - November 30, 2020 at 01:29 PM