



Walter "Walt" Hatz

JAN 27, 1931 - FEB 9, 2015



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Walter "Walt" Hatz

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Walter "Walt" Hatz, age 84, of Rehoboth Beach, DE died peacefully on Monday, February 9, 2015 at his residence. He was born in Wilmington, DE, on January 27, 1931, son of the late Nicholas and Tillie Hatz.

He graduated from Brown Vocational High School in 1948. He was employed by Atlas Powder Co. and associated companies, retiring from ICI Americas, now Astra Zeneca, in 1989 after 40 years of service as Mgr. of Telecommunications.

Walt was a well-known athlete in the Delaware area. He played basketball and was captain of his high school baseball team. Walt also played basketball in the CYO League, helping St. Mary's to win the Delaware CYO Championship and helped St. Hedwig's to win both the Delaware and Regional Championship in Harrisburg, PA. He also served two years in the Delaware Air National Guard, helping their team to win the Dover Basketball Tournament. He played baseball in the Delaware Semi-Pro League with a number of teams and in 1955 hit .340. After being activated into the U.S. Air Force he was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, DC and played with the Andrews Field Rockets. After being transferred to the New Castle Air Base, he continued to play baseball and basketball until his honorable discharge in 1952. He always joked that he was guarding the east coast and keeping up the morale of the troops. After his honorable discharge from the service, he signed a minor league contract with the Chicago White Sox.

One of Walt's proudest achievements was playing in the popular annual YMCA Junior Basketball Tournament (18 year olds) and being selected as the outstanding player. One week later, Walt played in the Senior Division and was selected to the All-Tourney Team.

While employed at Atlas Powder and playing basketball on the company team in the Industrial League, he met his future wife Florence who played on the women's team. Florence led her league in scoring for six years. Walt was inducted into the Delaware Legends Basketball Hall of Fame as one of the first members in 2010. Florence was also inducted in 2012 to the Delaware



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Legends Basketball Hall of Fame as one of its first female members. Walt also bowled in several leagues.

He found time to coach his son's Little League teams and was a member of IAABO and also was a referee for high school and college basketball.

Retiring in 1989 at the age of 58 Walt enjoyed 26 years of retirement. He and Florence lived a very active life style in retirement. They moved to the Rehoboth Beach area and they enjoyed boating, fishing, crabbing, gardening, traveling abroad, taking many cruises and spending a few months annually in Florida. He was always proud of the flowers that he grew. After joining the Rehoboth Beach Country Club, they started playing golf and bridge.

On February 28, 2012, Walt was a pioneer in the Delaware area by having a heart procedure where the team at Kentucky hospital implanted an LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device). At the time, he was one of the few people having this assistance in Sussex County, DE.

A special thanks to Dr. Saltzberg and his staff at Christiana Hospital, especially Dr. Bhalla, Susan Felicia, Cathy and good friend Deb Dougherty for their support and assistance during his long journey. Also, even though he was under Delaware Hospice for a short time their help was exceptional.

In addition to his parents Walt was preceded in death by siblings Michael and Nicholas, Jr., Anna Tysowsky (Michael), Mary Schapazian (Charles), and Olga Pusey (Chas.). He is survived by his loving wife of 59+ years Florence, sons Bruce (Debbie) of Gilroy, CA, David (Doni) of Loveland, OH and daughter Diane of NYC and her adopted children Ngawang Palbar and Sonam Lhamo in Nepal, as well as several nieces and nephews, sisters-in-law Rose Hatz and Lorraine Hand and brother-in-law Frank (Dallas) Andrusko. His children were not only his pride and joy but he was their mentor, advisor and good friend.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 AM on Friday, February 13, 2015 at St. Edmond Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, where friends may call beginning at 10 AM. Interment will be at 11 AM on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at All Saints Cemetery, 6001 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19808.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Walt's memory to The Salvation Army, P. O. Box 310, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 or the Food Bank of Delaware, 1040 Mattlink Way, Milford, DE



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19963.

Please sign Walt's online guestbook at this site.

[PDF Printable Version](#)





Events


Walter "Walt" Hatz

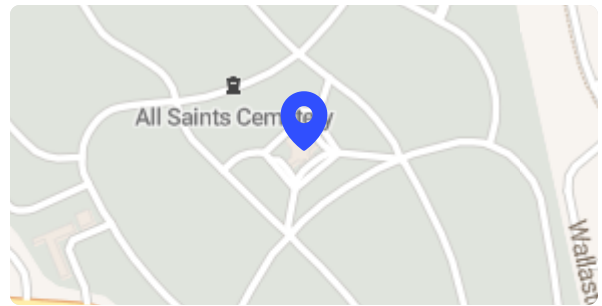
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Interment

 **Saturday**, February 14, 2015

 11:00 AM ET

 **All Saints Cemetery Chapel**
6001 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington DE





Tribute Wall

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ZS

Zebley's posted:

Florence, So sorry for your lose, Are prayers are with you and the family.Carolyn

February 12 at 8:00 PM

MG

Mercina And Jim Gant posted:

Dear Florence, Jim and I were shocked to hear the sad news. We send our condolences and our hope that all happy memories willl surface and help you through this very difficult time.Mercina and Jim

February 12 at 8:00 PM

DH

Don & Anne Hutton posted:

Dear Florence,Anne and I are out of state and have just learned about the passing of Walt.I always respected Walt as a person and basketball player.Our prayers are with you and your family. He will be missed.Love,Don and Anne Hutton

February 12 at 8:00 PM

JR

John & Joanne Roslan posted:

Florence,we are mom sorry to hear about Walt's passing . We are in Florida and will not be able to attend his services at St Edmonds church.We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers .

February 11 at 8:00 PM

KL

Kenny Lagowski posted:

Florence and Family:So sorry to read of Walt's passing. Believe it or not you guys are still thought of from time to time. Wonderful times in the old neighbor. I happened to mention Walt to Bill D'Onofrio once and Walt played for him. Bill said, "hell of a baseball player." Which, of course, made his stock go up even further in my book. We certainly would have attended the services at the cemetery but Mary and I made reservations and will be away for the weekend. I'll make a point of stopping by to offer a prayer though the next time I'm there. I'll find out the resting place. Anyway, you hang in there and just revel in the nearly 60 years you two were together. Say hi to Lorraine for us too.In Thoughts and Prayers,Kenny and Mary Lagowski

February 11 at 8:00 PM



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Larry Shaffer posted:

Sorry to hear of Walt's passing. He was one of a kind, meant in the kindest way.

February 11 at 8:00 PM



Ellen Hamby posted:

Florence -I worked with you at ICI in Public Affairs many years ago. I'm so sorry to hear of Walt's passing. My condolences to you and your family.

February 11 at 8:00 PM



Marilee Mullett posted:

Dear Florence, My deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of dear Walt. You are in my prayers and thoughts. Love, Lee

February 11 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Walter by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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