



Edward Lee Walls, Sr.

September 28, 1936 - September 20, 2011

Edward L. Walls, Sr. CWO4 (Ret.) U.S. Army, a lifelong resident of Centreville, Maryland passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at Easton Memorial Hospital on Tuesday September 20, 2011 at the age of 74. Ed was born in Roberts, near Price, MD. He spent his childhood hunting, building furniture, and working on farms. In his teens he learned to play fiddle, influenced by his great grandfather, Frank McGinnis, who also played fiddle. He met his wife, Lois McGuire, in second grade and they attended school together, both graduating from Centreville High School in 1954. At the time of Ed's death, he and his wife had been married for 56 years.

Ed attended college at the University of Maryland, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Management. He completed all levels of Engineer Warrant Officer Career Development and attended various specialized training courses such as middle management, refrigeration, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, power generation, grader, and bulldozer operations. He often used his technical training to aid family, friends and neighbors with water and heating-related home emergencies.

Ed spent 30 years in the service of his country as a soldier and officer with the United States Army. During this time he served three tours of duty in Viet Nam, two in Korea, and five years at the Pentagon. He was awarded three Bronze Stars and five Commendation Medals. He also taught Military Science

at Penn State University in State College, PA. Prior to retiring from the Army, Ed earned the highest peace time medal, The Legion of Merit. He was later employed as the Cecil County Roads Superintendent for three years and the State Park Manager for Fair Hill Natural Resources area for nine years. A building at Fair Hill State Park, "Ed Walls Hall" is named in his honor due to his outstanding record of performance as the park manager.

In addition to hunting, Ed's favorite pastime was playing bluegrass music. Although he could play four different instruments, he most enjoyed playing the banjo. In Viet Nam, he was often called upon to entertain his fellow soldiers and visiting celebrities. He occasionally wrote music and lyrics and composed a song called "Freedom's Homecoming" that became a family favorite. Locally, Ed founded "The Bay Country Gentleman" 44 years ago with his three sons and a close friend. He performed in venues across the Mid-Atlantic on weekends at festivals, fairs, political events, and fund-raisers. Most of all, he enjoyed picking his banjo and singing with his sons and other local musicians.

Ed is survived by his wife, Lois Walls, his children Julia Koenig of Berlin, Linda Roy Walls of Galestown, MD, Ed Walls, Jr. of Cambridge, MD, Mike Walls of Federalsburg, MD and Chris Walls of Catonsville, MD. In addition, he is survived by his son-in-law Henry A. Koenig IV, and his daughters-in-law, Amy, Sue, and Karen Walls, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. He is preceded in death by parents, William and Amy Walls. Ed enjoyed treasured friendships with many people including his classmates from the Centreville High School class of 1954, his Army buddies, retired law enforcement colleagues, country and bluegrass musicians, Centreville area neighbors, and several protégées. Ed is also survived by many close friends including Scotty MacGlashan, Harold Reece, Mel Adam, Sveinn Storm, Jim Dunmyer, Kurt Babe, Randy House, Bob Sietz, Tommy Neil, Joe Edwards, Bob Faul, Bill Satterfield, Bob Manso, Buddy Mullikin, and his brother-in-law, Billy McGuire.

Ed was passionate about community service and volunteered for numerous organizations over the years including the Jaycees, University of Maryland Board of Regents, Queen Anne's County Fair Committee, Centreville High School Alumni Association, Friends for the Preservation of Church Hill Theater, Kent Youth, and the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves. While in Viet Nam, Ed volunteered to be Santa Claus at local orphanages. He was a past member of the University of Maryland Academic Council and was listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities." In his final decade, Ed tutored several individuals in banjo playing, assisted 13 disabled veterans in earning benefits, and volunteered hundreds of hours at Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area in Cecil County. Ed was a quiet hero preferring not to be recognized for the numerous times he came to the aid of his fellow soldiers or his friends and Centreville neighbors.

The visitation and funeral of Ed Walls will be held at the Fellows, Helfenbein Funeral Home, Centreville, MD on Monday, September 26, 2011 at 11:00 AM. Friends and family may call at the funeral home on Sunday from 6 – 8 PM.

He will be interred at the Maryland Veteran Cemetery, Hurlock, MD with full military honors at 2:00 PM on Monday, September 26, 2011.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Hospice of Queen Anne's Inc., 205 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD.

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward Lee Walls, Sr.*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Edward Lee Walls, Sr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Edward Lee Walls, Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Edward Lee Walls, Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

JS

“ In the mid-1960s there was a thriving folk music community amongst the UK military people serving there. Ed was a visitor to on leave from Vietnam and amazed us all with his banjo playing. Some of those who knew him then were honoured to play with him and, when trying to re-establish contact, were devatated to hear that he had passed away. We were also heartened to hear a radio interview with Ed that was posted on YouTube by Chris and surprised when a photo popped up (at about 24 minutes in) of Ed with a trio known as The Outcasts. Two of the trio have sadly passed away and the third, Bill Halliday, would still love to make contact with his family. If anyone would like to get in touch they can do so through me, John Seaton, at dj.seaton@btinternet.com.

John Seaton - October 23, 2017 at 01:13 PM



“ Dear Linda,
We were all saddened to hear about the loss of your Dad. Our thoughts are with you and your family. His obituary was a great tribute to the wonderful life he lived.##imported-begin##The Spencer Family##imported-end##

September 29, 2011 at 12:24 PM



“ Sending love & prayers for all.##imported-begin##Laura 'Kim' Wolff Maurey##imported-end##

September 29, 2011 at 11:21 AM



“ to all the family and friends!
so sorry to hear of mr. ed's passing! how proud you all must be of his many, many accomplishments! i am honored to have known him and priviledged to have heard him and "the sons" play great music together! may knowing that he is without pain and suffering give you all a special peace! my prayers go out to you all! love,
val###imported-begin##VAL WHALEY IVINS###imported-end##

September 26, 2011 at 04:00 PM



“ Our prayers and condolences go out to Ed's family - his loss will be felt by many.###imported-begin##Mike & Nancy Koval###imported-end##

September 26, 2011 at 12:54 PM



“ Lois and family,
We are so sorry to learn of Eddie's death.
What a wonderful man and loyal friend with a big, big heart.
God bless you guys.
Jack and Liz###imported-begin##Jack and Liz Broderick###imported-end##

September 25, 2011 at 09:37 PM



“ To Ed's Family. We are sorry for your loss. Ed brought alot of joy into peoples lives with his music. He will be missed.###imported-begin##Al Abend and Meg Founds###imported-end##

September 25, 2011 at 01:45 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Ed's passing. He was a true "Country Gentleman". Our sincere sympathy to his family.
Wheeler and Holly##imported-begin##Wheeler and Holly
Baker##imported-end##

September 25, 2011 at 09:50 AM



“ To the entire Walls' Family, you have my sincere condolences on the loss of “Big Ed”.

I remember the very first time I met Mr. Walls ...his sheer size, bald head and presence left a formidable impression on me as a naïve long haired skinny teenager. I was truly in “awe” of his commanding presence. I can still recall the tone of his voice when he told us “Crumpton Boys” it was time for us to head down the road and say “goodnight”. These memories are still vivid to me...even now...as a 55 year old man.

Although, I did not have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Walls through the years, I recognize and appreciate the many contributions of this good man for his sacrifice and service to our country and his community. I admire him for his passions and pleasures of music and hunting, and the respect and love of his neighbors and friends. Ultimately I want to “thank” Big Ed for the legacy of what he valued most....his wonderful familyparticularly my friends, his two lovely, smart and beautiful daughters, Julie and Linda... his talented sons Chris, Mike and Ed; and especially, his charming, kind, caring and eloquent wife, Mrs. Lois Walls. I'll always remember “Big Ed” and hope that I've become (or will become) half the man that Mr. Walls became.

I pray that God will continue to bless all of us who were touched by the spirit and presence of his life.

Sincerely, Dr. Robert D. Pratt##imported-begin##Dr. Robert D. Pratt##imported-end##

September 24, 2011 at 06:29 PM



“ *Lois & family,
So sorry to hear about Eddie. He went to school with my brother,
Billy and was also in Viet Nam with him. Also, he told me, that he
was with my brother, when he was killed in Viet Nam. Hoping the
good memories will comfort you at this difficult time. With deepest
sympathy.##imported-begin##Dottie (Rose) Tarbuton##imported-
end##*

September 24, 2011 at 03:35 PM



“ *As I watch the celebration of your life, the memories flooded back in
my heart of when we were children, you were my hero as you have
become the hero of many others. I'm sure your crown in heaven will
contain many jewels. One of them came from your protection of me
in our youth, how can I ever thank you, but to say I love you, and I
never forgot you are my sunshine.##imported-begin##Nancy Walls
Blank##imported-end##*

September 23, 2011 at 10:19 PM



“ *Am a long-time friend of Mr. Walls' daughter Julie. My deepest
regards to her and her family at this time.##imported-begin##Lynn
Elliott##imported-end##*

September 23, 2011 at 10:09 PM



“ I am sorry to hear of Ed's passing. I worked with Ed at DNR and always enjoyed seeing him. When I would show up at Fairhill Ed would insist that he buy me lunch at a little diner uo the street. We would talk about work, hunting or just our life in general. He was a really nice man.##imported-begin##Ed Dunn##imported-end##

September 23, 2011 at 09:50 PM



“ Mrs. Lois and family.....Mr. Ed is an Eastern Shore good ole' boy and he and his generosity will be missed by all who knew him. The bluegrass community will never be the same without him. We pray you have peace in your memories. May you keep the music in your hearts. God Bless you Billy and Terri Schelhouse##imported-begin##Billy and Terri Schelhouse##imported-end##

September 23, 2011 at 09:24 PM



“ Ed was a wonderful person I got to know him when we both worked for the DNR. Deepest sympathy to his family and friends.##imported-begin##Marilyn Mause##imported-end##

September 23, 2011 at 05:59 PM



“ I was privileged to work with Ed in the Central Region of the MD Park Service. I will always remember his broad smile and warm, friendly spirit. When he hosted regional staff meetings, the lunches he served were always fantastic and he made sure his dear wife got the credit. He was respected by all who knew him and will be missed. May God sustain you in the days ahead.##imported-begin##Earl Copenhaver##imported-end##

September 23, 2011 at 03:18 PM



“ *The Walls family made me a part of their family while I was in high school. I spent many hours in their home playing pool, watching TV, and listening to Bluegrass music. Big Ed at times seemed harsh but now as a father of my own 2 daughters I can understand the need to be ever vigilant. I always respected Mr. Walls and pray that the "peace that passes all understanding" rest in the family's heart during their sorrow.*
God Bless you.##imported-begin##Bob Nafzinger##imported-end##

September 23, 2011 at 10:45 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Walls family. Ed will always be remembered as a good friend and colleague.*
Rest in Peace, Ed.##imported-begin##Dave Davis##imported-end##

September 23, 2011 at 09:13 AM



“ *I treasured my friendship with Ed. He worked for the agency I managed, the Maryland Park Service. Remarkable, humble, pleasant, tough when he had to be, a mentor, a devoted servant, a wonderful family man....none of these are enough to describe Ed. He helped me be a better person, as he did for so many people. My deepest sincere warmth goes to his family. You should always be proud of him. I am proud to have known him.##imported-begin##Rick Barton##imported-end##*

September 22, 2011 at 04:47 PM



“ Dear Mrs Lois and family I was so saddened to hear of Mr Eddie's passing. The memories of my childhood all came flooding back to me in a instant. I have so many memories growing up next to you all I could probely write a book, those were the good old day's wish we could go back to those happy carefree times we used to have. I'm sure Denny, dad and him are already playing music together. Think about the good times and the lessons he taught us to get you through this difficult time of saddness ,our thoughts and prayers are with you all. He will be terribly missed by all that knew him and the community has lost another great soul. Glad I got to see him at Moms b-day party a couple years ago it had been a long time and he made me promise if he hugged me I would'nt bite him Love to you all Shelley###imported-begin## Shelley Wheatman (Ervin)###imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 02:25 PM



“ Lois and family: Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you during your loss. May you find strength, love and peace from God at this time. He is surely by your side and so are many friends and family members. God Bless you and your family and hold onto the memories that you have of Eddie. Gene and Lynda Palmatary###imported-begin## Lynda Palmatary###imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 01:23 PM



“ Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. I was saddened to learn of my cousin's passing. Since I moved from Maryland to Oklahoma, it is with great joy, I remember our last time together at a submarine shop, where we laughed and caught up on memories and our lives. It was a good time, and one I will treasure. May God comfort you, and give you peace in your time of loss.
Marty###imported-begin##Marty (Walls) Monjay###imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 12:26 PM



“ Lois and family members,
My wife-Patti-and I send our condolences to you and your family members. Eddie and I had some great memories together at Fair Hill during his 9 year tenure and developed a phenomenal relationship. As the Cecil County Agricultural Ext. Agent and residing on the Fair Hill property for nearly 25 years, I can say without question that Ed Walls managed the 5700 acre natural resource area with great care and expertise. A feat all Maryland citizens should be proud to acknowledge! Ted Haas###imported-begin##Ted Haas###imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 10:49 AM



“ I have many fond memories of Ed and all the children outside the gate at Aberdeen with the produce. I also have fond memories of Ed when in I was in High School in St Michaels where I first came to know him. Ed was a GREAT friend and Pal, I will truly miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.###imported-begin##SMG (Retired) Jack Andrew###imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 10:23 AM



“ Chris, Karen and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Your Father was an accomplished and caring person. The great love for your family is a wonderful legacy of his character and love.

Debi##imported-begin##Debi Drake##imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 09:30 AM



“ Many people lost a wonderful friend this week. I had the honor and privilege to work with Eddie his years at DNR. I'm sure the good Lord has a very special place for him in Heaven. God bless you Eddie.##imported-begin##Jean Lipphard##imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 09:12 AM



“ Chris & Family,
I am so sorry to learn of your father's passing. I just read his obituary and was truly touched by what a full life he lived and what a remarkable man he was. He obviously left a lot of wonderful memories for you all to cherish. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family at this difficult time.

Cathy Crouse##imported-begin##Cathy Crouse##imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 08:18 AM



“ Dear Chris & Family,
What a wonderful life your father enjoyed. Thank you to him for the service to his country and the passionate service to his community. The next time I pass Fair Hills we're going to stop. Your Dad is going to be be truly missed by your family, the many friends he shared his music with, and the many community organizations he touched. I'm so sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Marcie Forster##imported-end##

September 22, 2011 at 07:32 AM



“ Brother...Rest in peace..Your sister Charlotte##imported-begin##Charlotte Walls Dukes##imported-end##

September 21, 2011 at 09:04 PM



“ Eddie was a man who built strong ties and memories. He will never be forgotten by those who had the fortune to know him. He had a way of making you feel special when actually it was he who was the special one.
We love you Eddie,
Thresa and Bob##imported-begin##Thresa and Bob Allen##imported-end##

September 21, 2011 at 05:57 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Mr. Walls' passing. He was one of our favorite patients. Dr. Cordero and staff##imported-begin##Dr. Cordero##imported-end##

September 21, 2011 at 04:08 PM



“ Rest in peace Mr. Walls. Your friends in South Jersey (Exit 4)##imported-begin##Owen O'Malley##imported-end##

September 21, 2011 at 02:55 PM