

Walter Charles Ewald

March 4, 1936 - December 27, 2018

Walter Charles Ewald, 82, of Mooresville NC and Centereach, NY, passed away at peace on Thursday, December 27, 2018.

He was born on March 4, 1936, in Brooklyn NY to Charles Ewald and Emma Dangler (from Germany).

He was baptized Lutheran and became Catholic at 13. He attended St. Rose of Lima Church in Brooklyn with what later became his brother-in-law, Edward Brennan, when he married Martha Brennan on December 26, 1965.

He loved baseball as he thought there is nothing anyone can do to stop you from hitting the ball. He would say: "It's just between you and the ball. It's that simple." If you saw him hit, you would be impressed. He helped others.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Ewald; Dorothy O'Shaughnessy, Walter Ewald, Daniel Ewald, Jonathan Ewald and Jerome Brennan, as well as five grandchildren, Kevin Ewald, Ryan Ewald, Dylan Ewald, Danielle Brennan and Michael O'Shaughnessy.

Services will be held at Cavin-Cook Funeral home in Mooresville, on Saturday, January 5th from 7-9 PM with burial in Glenwood Memorial Park at 2:30 pm on Sunday January 6th.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Memorial Park

Glenwood Drive
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 5. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home

Rosary

JAN 5. 8:00 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home

Graveside Service

JAN 6. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Glenwood Memorial Park
Glenwood Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Charles Ewald*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Walter Charles Ewald*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Walter Charles Ewald*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Charles Ewald.*



January 05, 2019 at 06:39 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter Charles Ewald.*



January 03, 2019 at 02:25 PM



“ 1947 Baseball Fan

Although his baseball team, the NY Giants, struggled in 1947, he liked to talk about in 1947 how he got to see the most exciting player in baseball, rookie Jackie Robinson. At the same game he attended, he also saw Babe Ruth, a fellow fan. Wow.

The Giants provided him great memories from 1951 Bobby Thomson's "Shot heard round the world" to win the National League Pennant, to his favorite player, Willie Mays who made a legendary deep centerfield over his head catch in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series which the Giants went on to win.

Walter Ewald - January 02, 2019 at 04:31 PM

“ When I first met Mr. Ewald I was 12 playing with his son's Walter and Danny's baseball team he was a cheerful man looking to encourage our teammates anyway he could.

I liked hearing what he had to say about my pitching, hitting, etc because he spoke with enthusiasm and energy about what was going on in my game and by taking that interest it made the season more upbeat for our team.

One of the first times I went to the Ewald's house he took me downstairs to show me a go cart he built with his kids. It had an unusual design having a 5th wheel coming off the side of the cart to prevent it from rolling. We brought it outside and he showed me that when you go down this hill, which was a steep hill good for sledding in the winter just as well, you have to make a hard left. The wheels were tall so it sped up quickly and kept going, was intimidating at first, like skiing down a big hill the first time. A spotter was needed at the base to give the green light, so we switched places all day and had fun thanks to Ewald engineering.

Mr. Ewald enjoyed spending his summers swimming with his kids in the backyard. I remember he was a strong swimmer made it look easy going back and forth in the pool. I remember if we got too loud in the pool he would slide open a window in the house and let us know.

He will be missed

Chris Hanley - January 01, 2019 at 12:53 PM



“ 1940-2018 Friend Bob Lavner

"Summing up nearly eight decades in a few words is, as the cute analogy has it, like describing an elephant to a blind man.

For about that long, Walt has been my close friend, my kindergarten playmate, my Parade Grounds teammate, my camping companion—two guys to a canoe—my high school classmate, my virtual neighbor—five minutes down MacDonald Avenue—the other half of the world’s best pepper game, and my sworn enemy at a thousand Dodger-Giant baseball games, both at Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds. Walt and Charlie, and God knows how many Ewalds before them, loved the New York Giants.

So when it comes to particular moments, I’m at a loss. Was it picking thorns for our bows and arrows and nearly killing some of our little neighbors? Or dinning holes in local streets, some of which were “dirt roads” still unpaved? Or washing away the older kid’s stickball bases—by methods un-repeatable? Or undermining the war effort by ignoring orders from air-raid wardens (loved those white helmets)? Or simply getting history first-hand from Grandma Ewald whose own grandfather served in the Union Army, “General Grant’s Army” she called it, returning with dreadful wounds? Or my personal favorite, accidentally (so help me) blundering into the girls’ locker room while skipping out of dancing class, an infraction punishable by death we feared!

So many memories and so little space: the seven-and-a-half card games in Walt’s apartment, the Gragnano’s pizzas and pitchers of beer, the last-minute hunting for cut-rate Christmas trees on Dayhill Road, the crates of dishes we humped into the Culver Theater (Wednesday was ladies gift night) in exchange for free admission. Not much of a deal considering the twenty-cent admission fee. And not least, our first look at a “live” World Series game—through the window of a TV repair shop diagonally across MacDonald and 18th in October 1947.

Better than the events, of course, was Walt himself, a great friend, a true "natural" as a ballplayer, and as through-and-through a gentleman—in every sense of the word—as the great Christie Mathewson of the N.Y. Giants himself, not easy for a Dodger fan to say. Walt's sterling character spoke for itself and we'll miss him."



Walter Ewald - December 31, 2018 at 11:13 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Walter Charles Ewald.



December 30, 2018 at 12:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Walter Charles Ewald.



December 28, 2018 at 08:01 PM



Jonathan
Ewald

“ 1983

Living in a tough neighborhood, people rarely got involved with any of the “bad” characters unless they absolutely had no choice. You knew who they were and you just hoped they stayed away. One evening, a serious fight between one of these guys and a real tough neighborhood guy on Walter’s side lawn. A crowd surrounded them with people trying to kick the other guy whenever they could. Walter wasn’t a fighter but he heard the commotion and without delay shoved his way through, broke up the fight, and told everyone “That’s it, it’s over. Time to go home.”

His good heart needed to shine through.

Jonathan Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 07:53 PM



“ 1979 Coach

He coached a baseball team for St Gerard's church for 11-12 year olds. The team was strong in talent, lead by his two sons Walter and Danny, a fantastic shortstop in Mike Fiacco, and a stellar second baseman named Mike Bonura. The team also had more than their share of players that would struggle to get any hits including two kids with severe ADD Chris and Joey, a dwarf named Teddy, and a mentally disabled boy named Scott McCrate.

The team hopped out to an 8-0 start via a culture of everyone learning how to field a ground ball so even when the ball went to the outfield it came right back. Scott's mom offered to keep Scott home when they played the 8-0 Mets but our Coach would have none of that as they were a team and needed Scott to know how to behave as a team. The lead-off star for the Mets hit a hard grounder to left but Joey fielded it, through to Fiacco who relayed it to Walter at first to tag out the runner who was used to getting an extra base. It was Joey who got the accolades as the team got to the dugout.

With some kids arguing about their batting average, our Coach agreed to list the batting averages before each game. Later realizing he did not want to publish a zero batting average for our team members who were just learning to put the bat on the ball, he invented a statistic called "hitting average" which he defined as the percent of time you put the ball in play. Although Scott wasn't fast enough and could not hit the ball far enough to get a hit, he was learning to put the ball in play which was getting him some RBIs and he felt great about contributing. At the last game of the season, Scott needed to put the ball in place twice to reach his goal of "hitting" 300 as Fiacco told him that's a bar for the great major league players and everyone looked up to Mike. Scott put the ball in play on his first at bat so he needed one more. The whole team was shaking the fence cheering for Scott. He wanted it and sure enough he put the ball in play. As he crossed first, he raised his hands in celebration followed by the whole team jumping on him on the field

like they just won the World Series.

Two years later, Scott's mom saw the Coach in the Supermarket and when asked how Scott was doing she replied "He still loves to tell people about how he hit 300. It was the most remarkable day of his life."

Walter Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 06:21 PM

ME

“ 1960 Hobbies

One memory I have of Walter is his joy and excitement of telescopes. He built his own telescope by grinding a forty pound glass plate by hand into a curved precision lens. The precision had to be finer than the finest sand paper or you would not get a clear view of the stars. He was so excited to use the telescope and it worked great! As he get familiar with an astronomy blog in the 1990s, he helped a young man from Sweden follow in his footsteps and achieve the same joy. In 2000, we visited the club that authored the book, which he used in 1960 and they loved to hear how he built a telescope that large by hand. This club was in Springfield, Vermont and Walter got to see the stars through multiple telescopes in the beautiful clear Vermont skies.

Marie Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 04:41 PM

TK

“ The Sorvillo Family, Ed, Val, Jackie & Kaitlyn purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Walter Charles Ewald.



The Sorvillo Family, Ed, Val, Jackie & Kaitlyn - December 28, 2018 at 04:23 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Album1



Walter Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ 1980 Dad

Dad(i.e., Walter Charles Ewald)'s oldest child Dorothy, was getting picked on in 9th grade by a big bully named Michael. Michael was relentless and extended his bullying to Dorothy's younger brother Walter. Dad told Walter, I don't see any choice you have but to stand up to this guy despite Walter being too scared of the large bully to consider that an option. Dad, having been picked on as a kid and having no experience with fighting himself, took Walter to the basement to learn how to hit the punching bag. Hours later Walter had some confidence but was still scared of the bully. The next day, Walter tried to avoid the bully but he was cornered and then just let loose. He was lifted by Dorothy's Spanish teacher clean off his feet even though he was still swinging. The Spanish teacher who was aware of the bullying had Dorothy in his next class and let her know that he had just broken up a fight between Walter and Michael. Dorothy became frightened that her brother had been hurt to which the teacher replied, Michael is the only one in the nurse's office. Dorothy did not get picked on again.

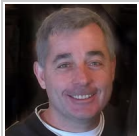
Walter Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 11:41 AM



“ 1977 Volunteer

He volunteered to help the Cub Scouts. One of the boys, Ed Sorvillo seemed to be getting a lot out of it but then stopped attending. Walter racked his brain to identify whether it was something he did or did not do, to cause Ed to no longer find this experience rewarding. He humbly visited Ed who was surprised he took the time and humbly approached him and was moved by the gesture as they worked to resolve the unrelated schedule conflicts. Years later, Ed happened to work with Jonathan Ewald and maybe partially due to Ed's appreciation for the way Walter approached life, he and Jonathan became lifelong great friends.

Walter Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ 1948 Friend

The social workers came for his friend and fellow 11 year old Edward Brennan as his parents had passed away. Walter hid Edward in his closet that day, and then convinced his parents to adopt him which is where Edward stayed until he joined the Marine Corp five years later. Edward Brennan later became his brother-in-law as Walter married younger sister Martha Brennan on 12/26/1965.

Walter Ewald - December 28, 2018 at 11:39 AM