



Walter Schawiak

August 13, 2017

Walter Schawiak, 66, of Bloomfield, CT passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, August 13, 2017. Born in Lea Lancashire, England on October 11, 1950, and raised in Rochester, NY, he was the son of Maria Woodstra and the late Myron Schawiak.

Walter is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Maria (Benzi), daughter Veronica, son and daughter-in-law Alexander and Hilary, mother Maria Woodstra and brother Bohdan Dejneka. Also mourning his loss are Tom Benzi, Rob and Debbie Benzi, Scott and Liz (Benzi) Bochenek and their children as well as many wonderful friends. He was predeceased by his daughter Kara, step-father Jan Woodstra and beloved grandparents, Alexander and Anna Dejneka.

Walter had a long successful career in the insurance industry. Forever a champion of the underdog, he felt fortunate to support those in need in a later career serving Mercy Housing & Shelter Corp. and Immaculate Conception Shelter before retiring. He was an avid reader and amazed family and friends with his knowledge on many subjects. Nicknamed "Sweet Swingin'," he loved the game of golf. Although he enjoyed playing golf anytime he could, he always looked forward to his annual Caribbean golf trip. He was a kind person and inspired his children to be loyal; to live life honorably and ethically with compassion for others. A wanderlust at heart, it was a quality he bestowed upon his daughter, Veronica, who took it to a new level. He enjoyed listening to her stories and giving her encouragement to always follow the adventure of

life and to fill it with imagination and ideas. Walter, along with his son Alex and brother Bo, was a diehard Buffalo Sabres fan. The only time he missed a game was when his wife dragged him to something social. One of his greatest pleasures was taking trips to Buffalo with Alex and seeing the games live. He leaves behind his most cherished teammate, his wife, Maria. He felt so lucky to have had her by his side for almost 36 years. They experienced many wonderful times as well as many difficult times, all of which Walter said made their love deeper and stronger. In his little red book that never left his pocket, we find a quote from the Wizard to the Tin Man, "And remember my sentimental friend that a heart is not judged by how much you love but by how much you are loved by others". Walter was all heart. We will miss you. The funeral will be on Friday, August 18th, 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery, 200 Whitman Ave., West Hartford. Calling hours are on Thursday, August 17th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the MDS Foundation at www.MDS-Foundation.org , Mercy Housing & Shelter Corporation at www.mercyhousingct.org , Immaculate Conception Shelter at 168 Hungerford St. Hartford, CT 06106 or your favorite charity. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

AUG 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church
47 Pleasant St
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Today I learned of Walt's passing from our fellow Aetna colleague Allan Polak. I could hardly believe this sad news. Walt was a caring and compassionate human being, and I am sure he will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. I hope your family experiences the strength of faith, and trusts our dear Lord to reunite you all in eternity, to experience unbounded happiness. Debra Castelluccio

Debra Castelluccio - August 18, 2017 at 07:17 PM

AP

“ When I saw the news of Walt's passing, I was so saddened. I had a real "goodness gracious" reaction.....Then I paused and realized how well those 2 words capture the essence of Walt. Walt was always about enabling and sharing goodness, and nobody did so in any way more graciously. Cherish his love and your memories - Allan Polak

Allan Polak - August 18, 2017 at 11:49 AM

YO

“ My family and I would like to extend our deepest condolences for the loss of your loved one. May the true God mend your family crushed and broken hearts, and may your family be comforted by God's promise of the resurrection. (John 6:40) Which assures us that we will see our loved ones again.

Young - August 18, 2017 at 10:26 AM

SM

“ Maria and family, I am so sorry to learn of Walter’s passing. Maria, I worked with you and Walter at AEtna in Rochester and later in the Hartford. I remember Walter as a very caring person and always ready to help others in need. Reading about his later career roles in shelters for the homeless in the paper today reinforced this memory of him. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Sue Moran, Tolland, CT

Sue Moran - August 17, 2017 at 03:27 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Schawiak.



August 17, 2017 at 02:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Schawiak.



August 17, 2017 at 11:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Schawiak.



August 17, 2017 at 11:01 AM

LV

“ *Maria, Veronica, and Alex,
I'm so very sorry to hear of the passing of
Walter. There are no words that can
adequately express my sorrow. I knew Walter
well enough to know how much he loved you
all. I know we will all miss him very much. Hugs to you all.*



Lois Voisine - August 16, 2017 at 11:29 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the
family of Walter Schawiak.*



August 16, 2017 at 12:47 PM

JL

“ *On behalf of the Christian Cashman, President and Head of School,
I offer my deepest sympathy on the passing of Walter Schawiak.
Walter's son Alex Schawiak '05 is a valued member of the
Northwest Catholic community, so we mourn Walter's loss along
with all who love him. Please know that we will remember Walter
and his entire family in a special way at our next school-wide Mass.
We are very sorry for your loss. ~ Jane Leary, Director of
Constituent Relations.*

Jane Leary - August 16, 2017 at 09:34 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Walter Schawiak.*



August 16, 2017 at 09:32 AM



“ *Such a sad day. I met Walt and Maria at Aetna and our friendship lasted decades even when our paths went in other directions. What a lovely couple, everyone would comment. Walt was such a nice nice man.*

Gary Mann

Gary Mann - August 15, 2017 at 03:24 PM



Maria and family I am sorry for your loss prayers and thoughts are you during this difficult time. May the wonderful memories and hos love for each of you guide through. Hugs from Terri Sparveri

Terri Sparveri - August 16, 2017 at 05:12 AM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Schawiak.*



August 15, 2017 at 12:19 PM



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



August 15, 2017 at 10:41 AM