



## Dr. Philip A. Walker

November 16, 1919 - May 31, 2016

Dr. Philip Alfred Walker, 96, of Asheville died Tuesday, May 31, 2016. He was born in 1919 in Winston-Salem, NC to the late Robert B. and Naomi W. Walker. He was also preceded in death by his wife of over 50 years, Grace E. Walker; his son, Philip A. "Pete" Walker, Jr.; his sisters, Josephine W. Shaffner and Nancy W. Wooten and brothers, Robert H., David R. and John Seth Walker. He is survived by his children, Kelly Paul (Bryson), Elaine Potter (Annika) and Jenny Louise Davids (Scott); his grandchildren, Taylor, Betty, Maggie and Wesley Walker. John, Robert and Peter Davids and William and Nate Potter. He often said his family was his greatest treasure and this certainly would include his in-laws, nieces and nephews.

His formal education includes A.B. at Chapel Hill as Phi Beta Kappa student, an M. A. from Emory University, a Ph.D. from Chapel Hill, and a year at the University of Paris as a Fullbright Scholar.

Serving in the military four years during World War II, he was fortunate in not having been called for combat duty. The closest he came to combat was when he was sent to the Philippines in 1945 to the Division Artillery of the 6th Infantry, which was scheduled to play a major part in the invasion of Japan, with estimates of 30% casualties – (which, as you know, never took place). The troops were used instead to occupy the cities in Korea from which the Japanese had been evicted. His last military assignment was active mayor of

a small seaport in southeast Korea.

Dr. Walker was a professor at UNCA for 30 years, where he helped establish the much admired liberal arts curriculum and played a major role in organizing interdisciplinary Humanities Court which has come to have nationwide recognition. Serving for many years as Division chairman and Department head (history), Dr. Walker also played a major role in advocating for a colleague in a sex discriminations suit which was a turning point for better pay and equal opportunities for women throughout the UNC system.

An active member of Grace Episcopal church, Dr. Walker served as Senior Warden, vestry member and Lay reader – among other things.

As a lifelong music lover, he was a founding member (and baritone horn player) in the Asheville Community Band. He also served many years as board member and former president of the Asheville Chamber Music Series.

He would certainly have wanted mention made here of his affection for and appreciation of the group of close friends, called the Sweat Hogs, who played handball together three times a week over the course of many, many years. Dr. Walker played his last game shortly after turning 90.

A memorial service will be held 1:00 PM, Saturday, July 23, 2016 at Grace Episcopal Church, 871 Merrimon Avenue with The Reverend Gary Coffey officiating.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Previous Events

## **Memorial Service**

JUL **23**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church  
871 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28804  
graceparish@bellsouth.net  
<http://graceepiscopalchurch.us/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Philip A. Walker*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Condolences to Elaine Potter and all of Dr. Walkers family. Let us celebrate his life and rejoice in his new journey.*

*Lauretta Warlick*

*Billy Warlick*

**billy warlick** - July 28, 2016 at 01:07 PM



“ *I am from the Class of '68 at UNC-A, was a History major, and had Dr. Walker for several classes as well as being a close advisor. I was fortunate to bump into Dr. Walker several times over the years at Eckerds in north Asheville and talk about old times. That was a treat, indeed. Dr. Walker's influence at UNC-A has carried through life with me, both personally and professionally. The Humanities program exposed me to so many phases of life. I would not trade the Liberal Arts experience for anything. I owe much of my success in life to Dr. Walker. He challenged me to do my best. I have carried these objectives through life. As I have said many times, UNC-A prepared me for life and fattened my wallet in the process. Thank you Dr. Walker. You will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy to his family.*



**Gerry Huntley** - July 22, 2016 at 04:57 AM

DM

“ Phil was a gentleman, a friend, and an "inspiration" to me. Having first met him on the handball court (with the Sweat Hogs), I became a friend of both Phil and his lovely wife, Grace. I was impressed when Phil, then well into his eighties, had to leave handball early on Mondays --- because he had Monday evening band practice.

*My condolences to his family.*

*Dan M. Manning*

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**Dan M. Manning** - July 19, 2016 at 08:05 PM

LS

“ What wonderful memories the Walker family can share about their Dr. Philip Walker. I majored in history and had the opportunity to take several courses with him at UNC-A. He was not only erudite, he was such a southern gentleman. I can remember how deliberate and calibrated he was in our discussions during class, always taking his sweet time to provide the most thoughtful answers. What a man! He will be missed.

*Lisa Matthews Stroud*

*Class of '70*

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**Lisa Matthews Stroud** - July 17, 2016 at 01:15 PM

DF

“ I was fortunate to have Dr. Walker as my history professor at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. He was a serious scholar and consummate gentleman. I appreciated his kindness and dedication to the teaching profession. I also had the opportunity to teach his kids in the Asheville City Schools. They were a delight! My condolences to you all. Your dad was a member of the greatest generation and will be missed ! Deborah Y. Fields Class of '74 Classics & History Major

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**Deborah Y. Fields** - July 12, 2016 at 06:05 PM

CS

“ Cyndi (Cunningham) Schachter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip A. Walker



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**Cyndi (Cunningham) Schachter** - June 26, 2016 at 02:48 PM

EF

“ To Kelly, Elaine, Jenny.....This has been a time of remembrance since I heard about your Dad. What good friends, and many happy memories. If I had your addresses, I would remind you of some(please get those to me sometime later, Thanks), but I will just say, I count the years spent with your Mom and Dad an you all, as some of the best. I knew Phil was a special person , but didn't know about ALL of those accomplishments ! Thank you for telling about them. Bill was on his way to Japan to almost certain demise, too. - So we were all lucky to have been able to enjoy many years of their company. I would love to be with you July 23rd, but I WILL be in spirit and thought. Love and thoughts too you all and addresses please.  
Love to all, Emily

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**Emily Fisk** - June 24, 2016 at 01:43 PM

CB

“ I took several history classes with Dr. Walker in 1968-70 at UNC-A. He was intellectual and kind, and the courses he taught were always interesting. I know he helped a lot of undergraduate students prepare for graduate school, as well as careers in teaching and other occupational fields. His dedicated spirit made UNC-A a better university. May he now rest in the heavenly arms of God's angels.  
Dr. Charlie Bradford

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**Charlie Bradford** - June 11, 2016 at 07:48 PM

FW

“ I only got to meet Dr. Walker once, just days before he died. Even during that brief meeting, he made an impression on me. We were looking forward for him to come and live with us. Sympathy to his caring family. Freda Woody, RN, DON, Brooks-Howell Home.

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**Freda Woody** - June 07, 2016 at 05:51 AM

DL

“ *Dr. Walker was one of my heroes...  
I just knew him for a few months, in 1970, as I was enrolled in a  
Humanities Class, at  
UNC/A, for a couple of evenings each week. I was working full-time,  
ten plus hours  
per day, and was in the Army Reserve, and our new daughter due  
with-in weeks.  
I had just made an "F" in my previous class and was very  
discouraged with school.  
Dr. Walker encouraged me to continue with earning my degree and  
he is the one who  
made me feel confident enough to finish college.  
I was Blessed to see him again, about three years ago, at our eye  
doctor's office.  
And, I took the opportunity to tell Dr. Walker what a Blessing he had  
been to me, and  
how much I appreciated him. I did not know about his WW II  
service, but , now that  
makes him that much more special to me. Thank the Good Lord for  
Dr. Walker.*

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**David Lankford** - June 06, 2016 at 11:15 AM

WG

“ *OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY & LOVE TO STICK & ALL THE REST.  
NANCY & Wm (WILLIE) GREENE.*

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**William E. Greene** - June 04, 2016 at 08:50 PM

MC

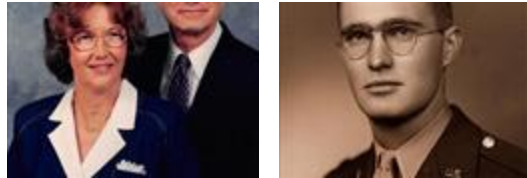
“ *The first to welcome us when we came  
Friend & Colleague, ever the same  
From that first day till the day we left  
So many years later . . . never bereft  
Of wisdom, affection, good counsel--Good Name!  
In loving memory  
Philip and Mechthild Cranston*

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**Mechthild Cranston** - June 02, 2016 at 11:41 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Walker Family*



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**Morris Funeral Home** - June 02, 2016 at 03:10 PM



*Phil and Lois were ray's of sunshine for our family, they will be missed.  
Steve, Anita and Rusk*

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**Stephen Henry** - June 03, 2016 at 02:16 PM

JR

*I remember Dr. Walker and the Sweathogs very well from the Circuit  
Courts/Sports Club. Prayers for you, Elaine, and your family*

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**Jay Roberson** - June 03, 2016 at 08:25 PM

JB

*Dr. Walker was a class act, a quiet and dignified scholar who radiated kindness in every word and deed. His lectures were things of intellectual elegance: thorough, thoughtful, orderly, and delivered without reference to notes! I took every course he taught during my four years at UNCA. He was generous with his students, devoting time and attention to our academic work and to the extracurricular and social activities of the History department. I often think of Dr. Walker, in fact I think of him almost every week of my life. This Wednesday I will go to a college classroom, as I have done for the past ten years, and I will teach World History I to undergraduates, just as he taught the same course to me twenty-three years ago. Some of the notes from which I regularly speak were taken from his lectures long ago. The pages even have his name at the top. The physical decays, and the soul is mere speculation, but the legacy is very, very real. This week, when I speak on ancient Greece, there will be a lot of me in the lecture, but there will also be a great deal of Dr. Walker. To almost no one who has walked this earth do I owe a greater debt of gratitude than to him. Requiescat in pace. Jim Blynt, UNCA History Department, class of 1986.*

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**Jim Blynt** - June 05, 2016 at 09:22 AM

CS

*I was lucky enough to get to know Dr. Walker as an undergrad history major at UNC-A class of 1980. The rumor was his classes were "boring", his lecture delivery stiff (he was aware of this and it amused him!) Nothing could have been further from the truth. He was one of the most intelligent people I have ever met and his classes were instrumental in cultivating and deepening my love not just of History, but of Academia. I still have my notes from his classes. Ironically, he has been in my thoughts for about a month. I don't know what led me to look for his obituary (I now live on the coast) today, which is causing me some goosebumps, but Asheville is still my hometown and I hope to get to the memorial service. My deepest condolences to the family of this truly remarkable man.*

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**Cyndi (Cunningham) Schachter** - June 26, 2016 at 02:46 PM