



Walter Thomas Bradford Jr

May 31, 1932 - November 17, 2021

Walter Thomas Bradford Jr

Born May 31, 1932 in Evanston, Illinois

Cherished husband to Joan Ziolkowski Bradford

Beloved Father of Dan and Teresa Hasak (Aaron)

Deeply loved and admired Grandfather to Ryan and Matthew Matisko

Fond sibling to Barbara Latini, the late Charlie Bradford (Rita), the late James Bradford (Pam), the late Betty Mahony (Joe), and Lawrence Bradford (Karen)

Adored Uncle to over 25 nieces and nephews

Life long active and involved parishioner at St. Gertrude Church in Edgewater Glen.

Veteran of the United States Army

President of the YCW and active board member to countless community organizations.

For over 35 years he served the youth of Cook County Juvenile Court as a Juvenile Probation Officer and unit Probation Officer Supervisor in Uptown, Chicago.

Wally lived a life of service. He loved the Lord and helping others.

He had an infamous smile, infectious laugh, and strong quick "Bradford wit"

He loved life and his family

He was a living example of "sharing and caring"

His legacy is long and inspirational.

He will never be forgotten by those who knew and loved him.

Cemetery Details

Maryhill Cemetery

8600 N Milwaukee
Niles, IL 60714
(847) 823-0982

Previous Events

Visitation in Church

NOV 27. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St Gertrude Catholic Church
1420 W Granville Ave
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 764-3621

Funeral Mass

NOV 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Gertrude Catholic Church
1420 W Granville Ave
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 764-3621

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Thomas Bradford Jr*

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM

SM

“ *WALLY WILL TRULY BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW AND LOVED HIM. HE WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE KINDEST PEOPLE I KNEW. I'M SURE HE IS HAPPY TO BE REUNITED WITH HIS DEAR JOAN. MY SYMPATHY TO DAN AND TERESA AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY. SHEILA MCGUIRE WITH KATHLEEN DAWSON*

SHEILA MCGUIRE - February 02, 2022 at 05:39 PM

ND

“ *My deepest sympathies go out to the Bradford family. Joan and Wally trusted me to babysit their beloved children when I was in middle school. I saw them over the years at St Gert's at mass, pancake breakfasts, holiday bazaars, parish plays. They were the kindest people. We stood in line together once at my alma mater, Mundelein College, for a book signing.*

My heart goes out to you all. I will keep you in my prayers.

Nancy E Degnan

Nancy E Degnan - November 26, 2021 at 07:10 PM

NR

“ *The words “goodness” and “laughter” come to mind as I recall friend Wally Bradford.*

My memories start with YCW in Chicago in the 60s, include their generosity housing me on visits to Chicago over the years, their visit to Oakland, but also some beautiful phone conversations after Joanie passed. I wrote notes on a few of those conversations. Wally repeated numerous times – on God, and love of Joanie. Variations on speaking about Joanie were always on how she took care of him, “Joanie made my life complete...made me believe I could be a man, a kind, gentle man, which is what Jesus wanted.” On Jesus, he said, “I got this dementia, ...I expect the Lord to make sure we keep our memory straight when we die...” :) His soul shined amidst his memory loss.

Nancy [Delaney] River

Nancy River - November 26, 2021 at 03:14 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Walter Thomas Bradford Jr.



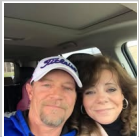
November 25, 2021 at 01:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Thomas Bradford Jr.



November 24, 2021 at 09:35 PM



“ Uncle Wally's laughter and strong hugs at fun holiday get togethers. He always listened intently to whatever story was being told. Ann Mahony-Moore.

Ann Mahony-Moore - November 24, 2021 at 07:39 PM



Thank you, Ann! He simply adored all of you! Thank you for sharing such lovely memories!

Teresa - November 25, 2021 at 01:03 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Thomas Bradford Jr.



November 24, 2021 at 07:32 PM

SD

“ In the early ‘60s, Wally and I were roommates. Backed then, we both worked for the Chicago Federation YCW. As President, Wally was a skilled leader and deeply committed to the Apostolic Goals of the YCW. He had a gift of bringing people together, building relationships and enlisting the talents of others. He accomplished this by his persuasive personality aided by his infamous smile, quick wit and laughter. His Catholic faith was deep and strong. He was educated by the Jesuits at Loyola University, well versed in the Church’s Social Doctrine, and he attended Mass daily. We had many discussions often late into the night over beers, ice cubes in Wally’s of course. As a result, we developed a great and lifelong friendship. He was a great example of Catholic manliness to me and many others. My wife, Claire, and I always enjoyed the company of Wally and Joan. Now they are together again, but both will be greatly missed.

Sam Deane - November 24, 2021 at 02:12 PM

TE

Thank you so much for such a lovely tribute! It brought a huge smile to my face as I recalled many stories of you and my Dad from back in the day!

Teresa - November 25, 2021 at 01:02 PM

GS

“ I went to movies occasionally with Wally and the infamous Jim Cronin at historic places such as the Devon theater and theRidge--home of three movies some times a day and it was always fun. Additionally, my sister Trudy Sullivan taught two of the Bradfords and I knew Joe Mahoney. With respect to all the Bradfords.Gene Sullivan

Gene Sullivan - November 23, 2021 at 01:14 PM

TE

Thank you so much, Mr. Sullivan! Wonderful memories indeed and your sister was one of my favorite teachers!

Teresa

Teresa - November 23, 2021 at 03:47 PM

KR

“ Karen & David Reilly purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Walter Thomas Bradford Jr.



Karen & David Reilly - November 23, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Thomas Bradford Jr.* ”



November 22, 2021 at 06:10 AM