



## Rev. Ronald Eugene Walker

November 22, 1942 - January 19, 2021

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God,” Matthew 5:9. These words of Jesus Christ described the nature and spirit of the Rev. Ronald Eugene Walker.

Ron was born on November 22, 1942, and was adopted at birth by Roy Emerson and Ruth Olive Walker. He and his sister Sylvia (Savage) were raised in a loving, godly home near Dodds Bridge, Indiana. They attended the Dodds Bridge Methodist Church, and he was saved by faith in Jesus at an early age. He graduated from Graysville High School in 1960, and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served on the USS Holder (DD 819), a Destroyer which inspected some of the Russian ships removing missiles from Cuba in 1962. He also served a short time on the USS Haynsworth (DD 700).

Ron was wholly sanctified at the age of 26, having married Mary Ann Land on June 19, 1964. In 1972 God called both Ron and Mary Ann to be missionaries. He graduated with honors from Vincennes University with an A.S. in aviation maintenance. They both studied for ministry at Vennard College, in University Park, Iowa, graduating in 1976 with A.A. degrees in Missions and Bible. Together they served the Lord as Evangelical Methodist Church missionaries in Bolivia from 1979 – 1991. Ron used his flight and aviation maintenance training to build relationships in the aviation community of Riberalta, Bolivia (South America), and gained unparalleled respect by local

pilots and authorities alike. He was awarded a certificate of accomplishment by the local Civil Aeronautics director for his contributions to aviation in northeastern Bolivia. Ron and Mary Ann ministered the Gospel in the town of Riberalta and through aviation in the ranch country of northern Bolivia. He was a skilled pilot and excellent mechanic. He flew for some 50 years (over 7,000 hours) without incident. He also received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the Federal Aviation Administration.

When they returned to the United States, they co-managed the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Shelbyville Indiana, where they attended the local Evangelical Methodist Church, and occasionally filled the pulpit of The Salvation Army of Shelbyville. In 1994, they moved to Flora, Illinois and pastored the Emory Street Evangelical Methodist Church for fourteen years. In 2008 they returned to their hometown of Sullivan, Indiana where Ron managed the Sullivan Country Airport for ten years, earning the respect of all who knew him. Ron simultaneously served as the pastor of Howesville Community Church in Howesville, Indiana, and operated his own aviation maintenance and flight training business.

In 2018, Ron and Mary Ann retired to Hull, Georgia, where they lived with their son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Lisa Walker. They were active in the prayer ministry of Cornerstone Church of Athens, Georgia. In October 2020, Ron was diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma. He fought to stay with his family as long as he could, but God called him home on January 19, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Roy Emerson Walker and Ruth Olive Walker Burke; half-sister, Manonia Ely and sister, Sylvia Savage of Ogden, Utah. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Ann (married for 56 years) of Hull, Georgia; devoted son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Lisa Walker of Hull, Georgia; grandsons Donovan and Josiah Walker (Brianna); great grandchildren, Javier, Tiella, and Braelyn; unofficially adopted daughter,

Bonnie Ochs Siner, of Farmersburg, Indiana; his half-sisters, Carmen McKee of Kissimmee, Florida, Florence (Gary) Shattuck of Lakeland, Florida, Rose Winn of Terre Haute, Indiana, Terrie Weise of Terre Haute, Indiana; nieces, Tammy Haefner of Tampa, Florida and Jada Katia of Valrico, Florida (daughters of Manonia);and his half-brother, Raymond Goss (Terry)of Randleman, North Carolina.

“He was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God,” Hebrews 11:10. Well done, good and faithful servant. You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Thank God for your life and sacrificial love of family. We will miss you all the days of our lives, but we will meet again in Heaven!

In lieu of flowers; memorial gifts can be made to the Illiana Youth Camp, c/o Tammy Bell, Treasurer at 317 East Jackson Street Sullivan, Indiana 47882.

The memorial service will be held online Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. EST at <https://www.facebook.com/billwalkeremc>.

Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston, GA is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 24. 4:00 PM (ET)

Via Zoom

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ Rick Barre sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Ronald Eugene Walker



Rick Barre - January 24, 2021 at 05:08 PM

RB

*I am sorry for the passing of Ron..Prayers to the Family*

Rick Barre - January 24, 2021 at 05:12 PM

EG

*Ron and Mary Ann visited in our home when in the Marshfield, Missouri, area. We so enjoyed his stories and friendship. He was a great ambassador of Jesus Christ. He will be missed by many.*

Edna Greer - January 27, 2021 at 05:45 PM

DS

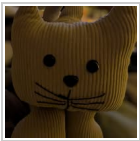
“ Mary Ann, Karen and I are so sorry for your loss but we know you will be reunited one day. Our love and prayers. David Simpson

David Simpson - January 23, 2021 at 02:52 PM

JC

“ I have so many memories of Ron but I cannot mention them all. He became my friend in Iowa where he patiently tried to teach me how to fly. We visited next in Bolivia where Mary Ann and he were gracious hosts and where together we experienced some of the strange customs of those who needed the gospel there, tried to make sense of an early computer system, flew a “ tail dragger” over the jungle with terrified passengers screaming at full volume, spent the night in a tent in a Bolivian jungle after conducting services sharing Jesus to those who were daily working in a cocaine processing plant. Through it all and thereafter, Ron was my brother; patient, friendly, consistent, kind, the sort of fellow it was easy to become friends with. I’m going to miss him greatly. —Jack Conner

Jack Conner - January 23, 2021 at 10:44 AM



“ Love my adopted Dad. Wonderful God fearing man and can't wait the day when I will see him again.



Bonnie Siner - January 21, 2021 at 06:19 PM

VA

“ I am glad God put you in our lives to share the word of God in our Bible study. Sending prayers and virtual hugs to Marianne, Bill, Lisa and other family members.

Vanessa - January 21, 2021 at 05:37 PM

DM

“ Many memories of good friends. We will cherish them in our hearts. We are praying for your family.

Debra Miller - January 21, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Rev. Ronald Eugene Walker.*



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January 21, 2021 at 05:06 PM



“ *Diane and I send our prayers and love for you all. Ike and Diane Cowell*

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**Ike Cowell** - January 21, 2021 at 04:35 PM



“ *Praying for his loved ones.*



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**Vince Mary Ann Brothers** - January 21, 2021 at 11:57 AM