



George Dale Waldo

October 13, 1939 - March 17, 2024

Lt. Colonel George D. Waldo (United States Air Force, Retired) of East Lansing, MI passed away at his home from cancer on March 17, 2024, surrounded by his sons before reuniting with the love of his life, Helen Waldo.

Born in Kalamazoo Michigan to George L. & May (Wilkinson) Waldo on October 13, 1939, Dale, as everyone knew, him grew up in the beautiful city of Grand Haven, Michigan. As a young man, Dale loved Grand Haven and played both basketball and football at Grand Haven High School. After graduating in 1958, Dale completed a year at Kalamazoo College and then joined the United States Air Force as an aviation cadet in 1960. During his Air Force career, he completed his BA at Chapman University and an MBA through USC.

In 1961, while stationed at Mather Air Force Base, in Sacramento, CA, Dale met and fell in love with Helen Preciado. On January 20, 1962, after driving through a snowstorm they were married in Reno, Nevada. In August 1962, Dale and Helen were blessed with twin boys, Dale and Michael.

Dale was stationed at several bases in the US and southeast Asia. He received a rating of Master Radar Navigator in the B-52 Bomber. He was also qualified as a Navigator in KC-135s and B-58s. He did several tours of duty during the Vietnam conflict with over 400 combat missions and thousands of flight hours and was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses. He was last stationed at Castle Air Force base in Atwater, California where he started as a flight crew instructor and advanced to Director of Academics and Deputy Commander of that Combat Crew Training Squadron. In 1982, he retired after 23 years of service as a Lt. Colonel and returned to his beautiful Great Lake State home of Michigan.

In Michigan, he started working for Consumers Energy and retired after 22 years of service. Dale was a true Michigan State University Spartans fan, he stayed very active by being a season ticket holder for both football and basketball and was an active supporter of The Spartan Fund and The Ralph Young funds for over 37 seasons.

In early 2000's Dale (and Helen) welcomed a beautiful daughter in-law, Sherry (after she married Michael). They soon became proud grandparents of three remarkable granddaughters which they started spoiling immediately. They loved spending time with them and whenever their granddaughters came to visit, Poppy, as the girls called him, would always make his famous corn fritters, take them to visit the MSU horse barns, shop at the local mall, and always sing funny songs that made the girls laugh. They never had a dull moment with Poppy.

He was always proud of his two sons. His oldest son, Dale earned his BA at UCLA and a MS at MSU and dedicated his career to law enforcement and public safety. His youngest son, Michael graduated with a BS and an MS at MSU and is working in the pharmaceutical industry.

Dale is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen who passed away in September 2023 after 61 years of marriage; parents, George L. Waldo and May McAllister; sisters, Patricia Batta, Sandra Hallenbeck, and Elaine La France. He is survived by his sons, Dale and Michael (Sherry); granddaughters, Cassidy, Ashley, and Delaney; sisters, Jackelyn Dupuis (Rick), Laura Bledsoe, Jean Norg and Sharon McAllister; and brothers, Michael Collet (Deb), Mark Densford (Susan) and Gorden McAllister (Stephanie).

A Funeral Service will be held, Monday, March 25, 2024, 11:00 AM at the Palmer, Bush & Jensen Family Funeral Home, Lansing Chapel with Deacon Phil Guyeskey officiating. Interment will follow at 2:00 PM in Great Lakes National Cemetery where he will join his beloved wife, Helen. The family will receive relatives and friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in memory of George.

Cemetery



GREAT LAKES NATIONAL
CEMETERY

4200 Belford Rd,
Holly, MI 48442, Holly,
MI 48442

Tribute Wall
