



Walter S. Low PhD

June 19, 1951 - March 3, 2013

Walter Steven Low, age 61, passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2013. He was born June 19, 1951 in Nashville, Tennessee to his father Kirk Low Sr. and mother Emmy Butikofer Low. He graduated from Hillsboro High School in Nashville, TN in 1969. His life-long love of photography began during a mission trip to Haiti while in high school. He fostered that passion during his time at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he met his future wife Russelle on the college yearbook staff. The two left their mark on the college yearbook in both their strong work ethic and conspiring senses of humor. Walter earned his first undergraduate degree in Business Economics from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1974, and a second bachelor's in Mass Communication from Middle Tennessee State University in 1975. Walter began working as a photojournalist and spent 20 years at WSMV, the NBC affiliate in Nashville. During his time at WSMV, he covered Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, interviewed three sitting presidents, and won the DuPont-Columbia Award for his photo essay work. His passion for news ethics and keen awareness of the role of journalism in society led him to pursue doctoral work in Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. He successfully defended his dissertation, "Collective Bargaining and News Report Framing: The Interaction of Social Movements and News Organizations," during his professorship at Eastern Michigan University in 2004. Never satisfied with the status quo and always wanting to challenge himself with something new, Walt developed his passion for the culinary arts,

perfecting his recipes for his famous cookies, breads, and other culinary delicacies. Cooking was one of Walt's favorite ways to express his care for others, whether it was serving veterans each day at the Veteran's Administration Canteen Service or spending many late nights baking bread for the church youth group fundraiser. Walter's love of adventure led him to complete the Outward Bound Wilderness Program, hike the Himalayas, the Andes, and an Alaskan glacier, and to visit five of the seven continents during his lifetime. His love of service was seen in his quiet, sacrificial giving and devotion to others. A devoted husband and loving father, Walt will always be remembered as a life-long learner, lover of adventure, and passionate giver. He is survived by his wife Russelle, daughter Elise, and brothers Kirk (Carol) Low, and David (Kim) Low.

Two memorial services will be held to honor Walter: one in Saline, Michigan, and the other in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Michigan service will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at Saline First United Methodist Church, with visitation from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., and the memorial service beginning at 12 noon.

The Nashville service will be held Saturday, March 16, 2013 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in Calvary's Masters Commons, with the service beginning at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made either to the Saline United Methodist Church Kitchen Fund, where he spent hours upon hours cooking for others, or to Mountain T.O.P., a rural outreach ministry where he hoped to continue his service this summer.

Saline United Methodist Church

Walter Low Kitchen Fund
1200 N. Ann Arbor St.
Saline, MI 48176

Mountain T.O.P.
Walter Low Memorial
P.O. Box 128
Altamont, TN 37301

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Saline
1200 North Ann Arbor Street
Saline, MI
<http://www.fumc-saline.org/>

Service

MAR 9. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Saline
1200 North Ann Arbor Street
Saline, MI
<http://www.fumc-saline.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter S. Low PhD*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Sorry to see this, so many years later ! I worked with Walt in the early 90's at Channel 4 in Nashville. I was 26 and mostly clueless, Walter might have been the smartest guy I've ever met. He knew something about everything. Sounds right I bet. But he never showed that off.*

I was the feature reporter back then, still am today. Some of his peers might have looked at Walter as a little odd, I found him to be ready and willing on every story we did together, that to me back then was a needed breath of fresh air. 15-430-01

I write this only because I came across it, and thought somebody out there who knew him might care. I certainly do!

*Terry Bulger
615-430-0764
tbulger@wsmv.com*

Terry Bulger - March 29, 2022 at 08:08 PM

DH

“ I knew Walt 30 years ago when I worked in the WSM Channel 4 newsroom. For many years, I had framed photographs from his trek to Nepal prominently displayed in my home. These were 3 beautiful, awe inspiring images that were greatly admired by me and many of my family and friends. I could never forget Walt, his generous heart and spirit of adventure! He was a good man, which is the highest compliment I can offer.

Dara Vaughn Howe
dvhowe@aol.com

Dara Vaughn Howe - March 13, 2013 at 03:32 PM

RL

“ Dear Russelle and Elise,

I learned recently of Walt's passing and want to let you know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Ron Luce

Ron Luce - March 12, 2013 at 04:03 AM

JM

“ Dear Russ and Elise,
Mine and Michael's prayers are with you both. Walt was truly a great man.

Our love,
Jodi and Michael

Jodi McDaniel - March 10, 2013 at 04:22 PM

HS

“ Walt set a very high standard when it came to photography. I was blessed to work with him for a few years at UTM, schlepping around multiple cameras and lens everywhere we went and putting in the long hours in the photo lab many a night. Walt was everywhere at UTM (and some places he shouldn't have been!)...and got some tremendous photos of the lives of college students and the goings on around campus. And, man, he knew how to laugh and have a good time along the way. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. He will be missed by all that knew him.

H. David Spikes - March 08, 2013 at 08:17 PM

TB

“ I worked with Walter 23 years ago, for three straight months, in the Channel 4 News Car putting together TV Feature stories. His ambition, attitude and curiosity were unmatched. He knew something about everything, I was smart enough often to just shut up and listen. On one shoot, we were outside a building of some sort, and I couldn't figure out where Walter had gone...then I heard his voice, he was up on the roof getting an aerial view shot. He had climbed the side of the building in his street shoes to do it. He was an Alumni of those Outward Bound Programs and he liked to show his ability to make things happen. I was the new guy then, Walt the old Pro. His respectful treatment and eagerness every day is something I've never forgotten. Quite a Guy!

Terry Bulger

Terry Bulger - March 08, 2013 at 04:53 PM

DK

“ Russ and Elise,
My prayers are with you. Walt was a terrific co worker and just a
stitch to be around. I will always remember his basket weaving
phase...he'd edit marvelous video while making sure his egg
baskets were perfectly even on both sides. He was also the first to
wear the tuxedo T shirt if I recall. May he rest in peace. We will miss
him and make sure the WSM WSMV family remembers him for the
talent he was.

Demetria

Demetria Kalodimos - March 07, 2013 at 10:33 PM

MF

“ Dear Russelle and Elise - I am so very sorry for your loss. Walt was
a wonderful, wonderful man - always so willing to help others. I will
be praying for you during this difficult time.

Love, Mary Fallon

Mary Fallon - March 06, 2013 at 04:57 PM

JC

“ Walter was my office mate during his years at EMU. He was a most
affable and caring colleague. I am saddened to hear of his passing
and certainly hold his family in my prayers.

John Cooper

John Cooper - March 06, 2013 at 03:48 PM

PT

“ Dear Russelle and Elise,
Our hearts are pained for our family's loss of Walt so suddenly. He was original and intriguing to all of his cousins, growing up. Walt was the first to explore photography and he gave everyone wonderful slices of real life, as he saw it, with his candid photographs taken at the annual Beach Parties, catching everyone by surprise.

My fondest memories from our childhood summers at the Beach, are the calculated battles we had on heavy duty canvas rafts that would leave our skin raw from playing for hours every day in the surf, "Conchs vs. Greeks", based on 50's movies, riding 3 per raft to attack & sink our opponents. Then there was the wet sand & gooey sea weed slinging...

The children slept on those same dried rafts on the floor of the living room of the single pre AC rented house at night, as the adults rocked on the porch chatting with the sea breeze and surf in the background.

Who does not taste Walt's famous "Girdle Buster Ice Cream Pie" an annual favorite on his cooking night that we all looked forward to.

Walt will truly be missed. We send our thoughts and prayers to help you through this tragic time.

Our Love, Prissy & Jim Troy

Prissy & Jim Troy - March 06, 2013 at 01:04 PM

HL

Dear Russelle and Elise,

We are thinking of you and lifting you up in our prayers.

Hall and Karen Low

Hall low - March 08, 2013 at 08:44 AM