

Walter R. Ostrom, 72

Walter R. Ostrom, 72, retired Air Force and Civil Servant, was a 31-year resident of Wichita Falls, passed away on February 18, 2006.

Walter was born in Brooklyn, on December 9, 1933. He is the son of Percy and Florence Ostrom. Walter attended elementary and high schools in Brooklyn.

He joined the Air Force in 1953. The first year was spent in Beginner's Russian at the Russian Language School in Syracuse, New York. After graduation he was assigned to an 18-month tour of duty at Shiroy AB, Japan. He was then assigned to the Security Service Command at Kelly AFB, San Antonio, Texas. A second overseas tour was in Bremerhaven, Germany. He then returned to Kelly AFB back to the Security Service Command. The Air Force assigned him to a third overseas tour, on a mountaintop in Trabzon, Turkey, just off the Black Sea for 15 months, with a follow-on two-year assignment to Iraklion, Crete, Greece, and again another follow-on assignment for three years to Darmstadt, Germany. During the overseas assignments he worked as a Communications Analysis Specialist.

During the later tour, he earned a Baccalaureate degree in Sociology from the University of Maryland followed by a Master of Science degree in Education from the University of Southern California.

He returned to the states to Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas where he was an instructor in the Technical Instructor's course. He retired from the military in 1973.

Walter worked for Civil Service at Sheppard AFB, first as an instructor in the telephone inside plant; was promoted to GS-11 position in 1980 as a training manager, then promoted to GS-12 in 1983 as Chief of Training Development in Transportation Training. He retired from government service in 1993.

Walter was active as a volunteer in Adult Literacy teaching adult reading. He was a member of the downtown YMCA where he swam a mile everyday. He served as a member of the YMCA Advisory Committee. He also was a member of the Sheppard Rod and Gun Club holding three different club offices over the years along with shooting skeet and trap. He earned the much coveted silver buckle for shooting 100 straight clays. Besides his love of skeet, he fished, hunted dove and deer, did wood-working in his shop, gardening, water skiing, had a loft full of pigeons and absolutely loved bird watching. A big football fan, he loved watching TV football, especially his favorite team the Dallas Cowboys.

Walter is survived by his wife, JoAnn; a son, Jeffrey, an Operating Room Technician, Shannon Hospital in San Angelo; along with a granddaughter, Ashley and fiancé Joshua Ferguson; and grandson, Chase; a daughter, Kelly of Long Eddy, New York, who is a nursing student at Sullivan Junior College; along with a grandson, Phillippe, who is also a student at Sullivan training in Culinary Arts; a sister, Dorothy Channel of Ogden, Utah; and assorted sisters and brothers-in-law; nieces; nephews; and cousins.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Marjorie Doonan. He will be greatly missed by his loving family and skeet shooting friends.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the chapel of Hampton Vaughan, with friend, Father David Nyberg, officiating. Interment followed at Crestview Memorial Park. Arrangements have been entrusted to Hampton Vaughan Crestview.

