

Lyman L. Walter

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4-1-2021

Lyman L. Walter, 87, of Inverness, Illinois, passed away on February 9, 2021, at his home with his wife, Jan, by his side.

A graveside and burial with military rites, performed by members of the Victor American Legion, will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 10, at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell, with the Rev. Jim Dotson officiating.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the University of Iowa Foundation.

Lyman was born on February 23, 1933, in Grinnell, the son of Marvin William and Lona Ballard Walter. He grew up in Grinnell, and as a teenager, he worked at United Grocery, Bartlings Sellery Store and at J.C. Penney's. He was a 1951 graduate of Grinnell High School where he played football, basketball and track. He played trombone until his junior year and also sang in the high school chorus.

In the fall of 1951, he attended the University of Iowa and graduated from there with a BSC degree in marketing; he also was commissioned as 2d Lt. in the United States Air Force. In the spring of 1955, he worked for Cargill's Nutrena Feed Division, and entered the USAF on February 28, 1955, at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, for pre-flight training. His primary and flight training were completed in Moore AB in Mission, Texas, Webb AFB in Big Springs, Texas, and Craig AFB in Selma, Alabama. In September of 1957, he was assigned as a flight instructor in T-33 Jet Trainer at Vance AFB in Enid, Oklahoma.

He left active duty on February 28, 1959, and returned to work for Nutrena for a year. He was hired by Northwest Airlines in January of 1960, but furloughed right away. He sold Yellow Page advertising from January 1960 through February 1961, and then began his career with United Airlines on February 20, 1961. In May of 1961, he was assigned to Chicago ORD/MDW airports. In June of 1961, he joined 64 Troop Carrier at ORD and in 1968, he joined 170 TFS in Springfield, Illinois, and flew F84Fs. He joined 183 TAC Fighter Squadron in Peoria in 1972, flying F84F and later O-2s.

While on active duty, June 1957, he made 1st Lt; 1962 he made Captain, just before being recalled for the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1969, he made Major and in 1976, he became a Lt/Col. He retired from the Air Force in 1980. He retired from United Airlines, after 32 years, in 1993. While at United, he flew the DC-6, DC-7, Viscount, Boeing 720, 737, DC-8 and the DC-10.

Lyman is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Janet Walter (Nee Templeton); loving sons, John (Jennifer), Bill (Susan), and Jim; his cherished grandchildren, Eleanor and Henry; and one sister, Anita Conway. He was preceded in death by his parents.