



## Walter A Trommenlen Jr.

June 27, 2019

Walter (Walt) Anthony Trommelen, Jr. died peacefully in Moorestown, NJ on June 27 at the age of 82 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Walt is survived by his wife of 42 years, Karen, his sons Robert (Catherine), David (Maria), Paul (Katie), and daughter, Rachel Wellons (Brad).. He also leaves nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Bernadine Trommelen, and by his sister, Marie Swakopf (Donald) and brothers, Roger Trommelen (Barbara), and Gary Trommelen.

Walt was born on September 20, 1936 at home in Prospect Park, NJ. Walt spent his youth in Nutley, NJ where he worked alongside his father in the family business, Homestead Dairy. After graduating from Rutgers University College of Agriculture, New Brunswick, NJ with a B.S. Dairy Administration 1958, Walt began his professional life with Sealtest Foods and Millside Farms. But longevity in the milk industry was not to be. Walt began his public health career by joining the NJ State Department of Health in 1963. The next logical step was to attend the University of Pittsburgh, graduating with his MPH (Master in Public Health) in 1967. In 1971, Walt made the move to the Burlington County Health Department where he served as the County's Public Health Coordinator for 31 years. As Chief county health administrator, Walt was responsible for planning, development, and management of public health activities consisting of human services, substance abuse services, planning and administration; a broad range of environmental health services; health promotion; maternal and child health services; communicable and chronic disease control services. Over his long career in Public Health, Walt served as President of the NJ Public Health Association, President of the NJ Health Officers Association, and as a frequent advocate of public health funding at NJ State budgetary hearings. In 1993, Walt was recognized by the NJ Health Officers Association with the Frank J. Osborne Memorial Award for exemplary service in the Public Health arena.

Walt was extremely proud of his military service, having joined ROTC while at Rutgers and serving in the Army National Guard from 1958 - 1969 when Walt reluctantly resigned his commission as Captain.

Never one to sit still, Walt served as an active volunteer both while working full time (American Red Cross, Philadelphia EMA/HIV Commission, Local Advisory Board South

Central Health Planning Council, Health Visions), and upon his retirement from the Health Department (Board of Trustees Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey, Chairman STEM (Save the Environment of Moorestown) among many other volunteer activities. Walt was generous and hospitable. Once you walked in his home, he couldn't wait to offer you something to drink or some ice cream. Walt enjoyed traveling, working outdoors, and collecting milk bottles. Walt was able to be the first one to laugh at himself and would happily repeat stories of his "incompetence". His infectious laugh was a pure delight to hear. Walt seldom had a bad thing to say about anyone and as one of his friends opined, "Walt was just about the most perfect person I know". Even after Walt's dementia started to rob him of memories and abilities, Walt participated in a drug study to help others who had been similarly diagnosed.

All are welcome to share in the celebration of his life 10:00 am on Monday, July 1st at Lewis Funeral Home, 78 East Main St., Moorestown. Visitation 9 – 10 am at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Walt's memory to the Walter A. Trommelen Scholarship Endowment at Rowan College at Burlington County, 900 College Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, New Jersey Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, 3 Eves Drive, Suite 310 Marlton, NJ 08053, or to Planned Parenthood of Northern Central and Southern New Jersey, 196 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960.

# Cemetery

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PRIVATE INTERMENT

NJ,

# Events

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**JUL** **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

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Lewis Funeral Home

78 East Main St., Moorestown, NJ, US, 08057

**JUL** **Memorial Service** 10:00AM

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Lewis Funeral Home

78 East Main St., Moorestown, NJ, US, 08057

# Comments

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“ Very sorry to hear of Walt’s passing. He was a wonderful man who shared a great deal with STEM . Always cheerful. Condolences to the family, I know the last years were difficult.

Kathy Huffman

**Kathy Huffman** - July 01, 2019 at 01:53 PM

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“ To the Trommelen Family:  
We are sincerely sorry for your loss.  
Please accept our deepest sympathy.  
Warren and Roberta Kepner

**Warren & Roberta Kepner** - June 30, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ Sending my condolences and sympathy to the Trommelen family. So sorry to hear about your loss. Keeping the family in my prayers.

**Kwanita** - June 30, 2019 at 10:43 PM

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“ I was only 19 years old and working at the Burlington County Health Department in 1971 when Walt came on board as Public Health Coordinator. I had the privilege to work as his secretary until 1977, during which time I saw him spearhead and facilitate the growth of many needed programs to serve the public. Through these many years, I have often looked back on his outstanding professionalism at the BCHD, and thought of him fondly. Offering his wife, Karen, who I also knew personally, and his children, my sincerest condolences.

Terry Osborne (Sousa) Murphy

**Terry Murphy** - June 30, 2019 at 10:07 AM

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“ As the former Administrator of Bordentown Township, I had the opportunity to work with Walt. He was an outstanding public servant. He was knowledgeable, polite, professional. Perhaps Walt's greatest achievement was developing a competent staff at the Burlington County Health Department.

My sincere condolences to his wife, Karen, and children. Thank you for sharing your husband and father with the residents of Burlington County. May he rest in peace.

**Matthew J. Ernandes, Jr.** - June 30, 2019 at 02:22 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter A Trommenlen Jr..



June 29, 2019 at 02:55 PM

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“ Walt is my best friend's dad. He was such a great guy! The first time I met him, he showed me his milk bottle collection and had "live, paint or die, written on the calender to make sure he painted that day! He made an excellent Tom Collins when I turned 21 and was always so hospitable and generous. Many condolences to this wonderful family who welcomed me as one of their own!

**Kelly Conway** - June 29, 2019 at 02:45 PM

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“ Walt was my father in law and the most caring loving sweet man! He lead an exemplary life for all who knew him to follow! He loved his family and was always there for them. He was lucky to have his wife Karen by side till the end. Walt loved to eat and being Italian I was always happy to oblige! He had the best smile and laugh even though the last few years were tough I will never forget the light he brought to a room!! You are now in Heaven no doubt since you lead the kind of life we all strive to achieve! You will always be loved and remembered

**Maria Ciocca Trommelen** - June 29, 2019 at 10:04 AM

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“ How sad. My heart goes out to all of Walt's family, friends and colleagues. He will be sorely missed. He leaves this world a richer place for his being who he was. He had this gentle way about him, that we always sought out his company..  
I first met Walt when I started as a State Sanitarian somewhere around 1965-6, I was always in awe of his knowledge and skill, and particularly his common sense approach to public health. Needless to say, he was a true role model. Walt spoke so highly of his experience obtaining his Masters degree, he definitely was the primary impetus for me to pursue my MPH. Thank you Walt. I am indeed grateful.  
We celebrate a wonderful life and a genuinely nice person in Walt Trommenlen.

**Bob Powitz, PhD, MPH, RS** - June 28, 2019 at 04:27 PM

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“ Walt is going to be missed by many for his warm smiles, his wisdom, his temperament of a true gentleman, and his lifelong contributions to the community. For me and my family, he was even more than that. Walt was the neighbor who brought pie on the day we moved in to our house (although he did not baked it); he was the one who taught our then preteen-age son to use gardening tools correctly; he would have the patience to listen to my kids attentively and nod in approval, and tell them about his own humble beginning ... Walt was part of our family away from home.  
We want to celebrate Walt's successful and happy life. He is staying in our hearts.

**Sharon** - June 27, 2019 at 06:13 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter A Trommenlen Jr..



June 27, 2019 at 03:51 PM