



## Walter W. Spain

July 15, 1938 - October 15, 2020

Walter Spain of Blackwood, New Jersey, born July 15, 1938, passed away peacefully October 15, 2020 at the age of 82 years. He is predeceased by his parents, Marvin and Elizabeth Spain, several cats and cherished hunting dogs.

Walter enjoyed a long career as a middle school social studies teacher in the Washington Township School District from 1961 to 2002. He was an avid hunter and canoe enthusiast who enjoyed many trips to Maine and Canada.

In addition, Walter joined the Blackwood Fire Company in 1965 and served 55 years with the company, including serving as Chief in 1980 and President of the company from 1986-1987. He shared his passion of fire science and service with many generations throughout the decades.

Viewing will be Wednesday, October 21st, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM at the Earle Funeral Home, 122 W. Church St., Blackwood, NJ 08012, where a ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at St. John's Methodist Church Cemetery, Turnersville, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory would be appreciated to the Blackwood Fire Company Auxiliary, 14 W. Central Ave., Blackwood, NJ 08012.

# Cemetery

---

## St. John's United Methodist Cemetery

Route 42 AT Greentree Rd  
Turnersville, NJ,

# Events

---

**OCT** **Visitation** 09:30AM - 11:00AM

**21**

---

Earle Funeral Home

122 West Church Street, Blackwood, NJ, US,  
08012

**OCT** **Service** 11:00AM

**21**

---

Earle Funeral Home

122 West Church Street, Blackwood, NJ, US,  
08012

# Comments

---



“ Rest in Peace Walt. Your sense of community and your willingness to share your knowledge and memories, are what makes a collection of buildings, a town. Thanks for the stories. Thank you so much for the years you spent serving Blackwood. Stuart Field & Terri Chalmers. And the Field Family.

**Stuart Field** - October 20, 2020 at 10:23 PM

---



“ My deepest condolences to Walt's family at the Blackwood Fire Company. Walt was a dear friend of my husband and we always enjoyed his visits. Rest In Peace Walt.

**Nancy Helverson** - October 19, 2020 at 06:46 PM

---



“ Thank you Mr. Spain for your opening up the world to me. You weren't only a teacher to me, you were a friend also. So many times you gave me a ride home to Grenloch after school. You taught me where all these countries were and I used that later in my work. I could tell that you loved teaching, and it showed. I have thought about many times and I wondered where you were living at. I am so sad to find out where you were , only to find out you have passed. The world is a sadder place without you. God Bless you Mr. Spain! and I hope to sit in your classroom in Heaven.  
Steve Sonnon, Class of 1970. WTHS

**Steve Sonnon** - October 19, 2020 at 06:39 PM

---



“ Rest in Peace Sir.

**Kimberly (Reid) Suarez** - October 19, 2020 at 04:44 PM

---



“ Thank you Mr. Spain for your be guidance and patience. God bless, Rest In Peace. Donald King, Washington Twp. 5th grade class 1962/63.

**Donald A. King** - October 19, 2020 at 04:04 PM

---



“ Walt was one of my many mentors at WT. A very special man who loved both professions.  
Always a special place in my heart for him.

**Donna Costa** - October 19, 2020 at 03:10 PM

---



“ The ties that bind...Storytelling is an effective way to teach and inspire civic engagement. As an educator, Walt Spain was the master of this technique. Not only in the classroom, but in all areas of his life, Walt was an inspiration. Each of us is a better person for having had that connection with him.

Expressing gratitude for all the lessons learned,  
Delores Atkinson

**Delores Atkinson** - October 18, 2020 at 01:26 PM

---



“ I shared many years with Walt at the Blackwood Fire Company. He always was a pleasure to talk to, a mentor and excellent fireman. What a great man. Gerry Shute

**Gerry Shute** - October 17, 2020 at 04:38 PM

---



“ "Mr. Spain" was my 7th grade social studies teacher back when there was only one middle school. He knew I was more interested in him being a Blackwood Firefighter than being my social studies teacher. I'd see him every so often at fire company cover or mutual aid assignments. We would chat for hours. I'll miss his "war stories" and brotherhood. Rest in Peace "Mr. Spain", you will be missed by all of us.

Gary Sklar  
Grenloch Fire Company

**Gary Sklar** - October 17, 2020 at 02:19 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



**Bob** - October 17, 2020 at 11:27 AM

---



“ Dear Walt my beloved Blackwood childhood friend. Remembering many great memories of times we shared. May you rest in the arms of the Lord and I will see you again my friend.

Bob Alles

**Bob & Marilyn Alles** - October 17, 2020 at 11:22 AM

---



“ Walt was a great friend of mine at chestnutridge middle school who kept everybody on there toes I will miss you Walt Rest In Peace

**marc bozzelli** - October 17, 2020 at 11:06 AM

---



“ Walt was a wonderful colleague of mine at Chestnut Ridge Middle School. He always had time to talk and shared great stories. He was a compassionate man who cared for both his students and colleagues. He was a legend. He will be missed. Rest in Peace Walt.

**Joe Petrone** - October 16, 2020 at 09:37 PM

---



“ 6 files added to the album Chestnut Ridge Middle School



**Joe Petrone** - October 16, 2020 at 09:29 PM

---



“ Walt, as a former player, I will always remember the days you spent helping with the first ever football team at Washington Township High School, 1963-64-65.  
Don Kirk class of 1966.

**Don Kirk** - October 16, 2020 at 09:02 PM

---



“ Walt was a wonderful positive caring co-worker and friend. He had energy personified and the first to help anyone in need with suggestions and donations when appropriate. He was down to earth and his volunteer participation was valued and well respected.

**Bruce and Maureen Mercogliano**  
Haddonfield, New Jersey

**Bruce Mercogliano** - October 16, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ Walter, my buddy. We have been friends since the Seventh Grade students were in the Birches School. He was generous in donating to charitable events. Often I needed a good laugh to pickup my spirits. Walter was always there for me. It is a rainy day today and Walter knows there are my tears mingled with the raindrops. Rest In Peace, my friend, Rita

**Rita DeWilliams** - October 16, 2020 at 09:47 PM

---



“ Walt, I’ve shared many meals at the Meadows Diner with you over the years. My biggest take away from those moments is that you truly cared about your community and its members.

Thank you for your decades of service to Gloucester Township’s 4th Fire District.  
Rest Peacefully Chief

Bob Stavola  
Fire District 4 Commissioner

**Bob Stavola, Jr.** - October 16, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ You were so nice to me and a very nice man.

**Christine Knopka** - October 27, 2020 at 03:13 PM