



Mr. Walter Martin Craft

June 7, 1935 - July 24, 2025

Funeral services for Mr. Walter M. Craft of Gary will be 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 31, 2025 in the Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Dale Walker and the Gary Masonic Lodge officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Gary Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Visitation will be Wednesday evening from 6 – 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Walter Martin Craft, 90 years old, passed away peacefully at his home in Gary, Texas, on July 24th, 2025. He was born on June 7th, 1935, in Manchester, KY, to the late John Henderson Craft and Mattie Lewis Craft. He was the tender age of 16 when he joined the Air Force so he could go defend his country. He met the love of his life, Helen Whiddon, in 1952 on a blind date. They were married two weeks later, on December 13, 1952, and celebrated almost 72 years of marriage before she passed away on July 26th, 2024. They were stationed in Houston, Texas; Sacramento, California; Bryan, Texas; Sculthorpe, England; Smyrna, Tennessee; Lakenheath, England; and Orlando, Florida. He served his country for 20 years, 4 months, and 14 days. He was a member of Eastside Baptist Church and served as the sound coordinator and helped cook Brotherhood breakfast for many years. He was a member of the Gary, Carthage, Timpson, Tenaha and Beckville Masonic lodges and had 67+ years in service. He was also a member of the Eastern Star and Shriners. He was Justice of the Peace for precinct 1 and Mayor of Gary. He was also president of the Gary Water Board from 1973-2018. He was hardworking and loyal...the BEST husband, daddy, grandfather, great and

great-great grandfather, brother and friend you could ever have.

Mr. Craft is survived by his son, Marty Craft and wife Marla; daughters, Yvonne Murray and Gerald, Phyllis Ritter and Michael, and Angelia Odom. Grandchildren Holly Baker and Phillip, Claire Craft Hiatt and Jake, Matt Ritter and Cayla, Caroline Craft Brandon and Eric, Chelsea Ritter Murphy and Matt, Brittany Odom, Landon Odom, Aaron Murray, Brooke Murray Smyre and Johnathan. Great-grandchildren Colby Baker and Haley, Hailey Baker Tanner and Dalton, Trinity Baker. Zoë and Sloane Hiatt, Parker Ritter, Cecilia and Lewis Brandon, Gatlin and Griffin Murphy, Taylor Starr Murray, Tanner, Tatum, and Tillie Smyre. Great-great-grandchildren Azalea, Sawyer, Sybil Tanner, and Olivia Baker later this year. Precious sisters Ann Craft Bowling and Billy, and Sharon Craft Loomis and DJ; Sister in laws, Elsie Craft, Linda Vickery, Brenda Sears and Robert, and Yvonne Whiddon.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Callie Sibert, Marietta Wilson, Louise James, Lorraine Craft; brothers, Cecil Craft, Tom Craft, Johnny Craft; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Whiddon, Royce (Man) Whiddon; sisters-in-law, Doris Swanzy, Retha Whiddon; brothers-in-law, Sonny Swanzy and David Vickery, Roy Sibert, Bruce James, Junior Wilson; great-great-grandson, Ryder Tanner, and great-granddaughter, Gentry Murphy; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

We would like to give a special thank you to Gail Matlock with Caring Hearts Caregivers and the Hospices CNA 's Tiwanek and Tantra Davis for the care they provided our Dad.

Memorials in his name can be made to Shriners Children's Hospital or Eastside Baptist Church
1996 FM 999 Gary, TX

Cemetery Details

Gary Cemetery

176 Bobcat Trail
Gary, TX 75643

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home
307 West Wellington Street
P.O. Box 188
Carthage, TX 75633
(903) 693-3816
info@hawthornfuneralhome.com
<https://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel
307 W Wellington St.
Carthage, Tx

Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Walter Martin Craft



Hawthorn Funeral Home - July 30, 2025 at 05:05 PM



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Walter Martin Craft



Hawthorn Funeral Home - July 28, 2025 at 11:28 AM



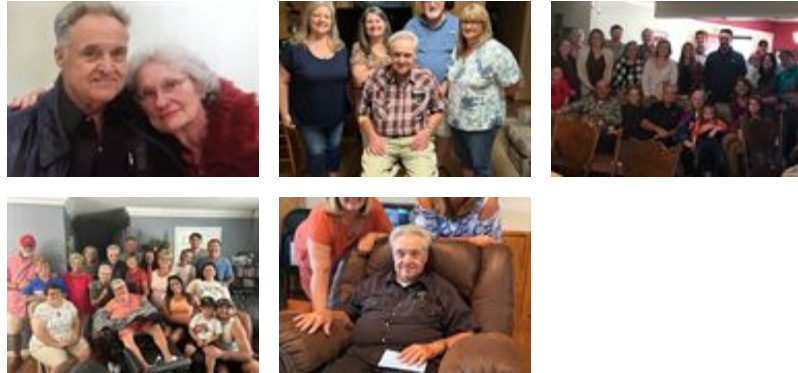
“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - July 30, 2025 at 02:27 PM



“ 218 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - July 30, 2025 at 11:48 AM

TC

“ I will always remember Uncle Bud saying the prayer at our family reunion before we ate. I always enjoyed that one of the most soft spoken men I know , unless he was arguing with me, saying grace. It was always great to have Aunt Helen bang the pan with the spoon to get everyone’s attention then Uncle Bud was on with the prayer. Uncle Bud was a great man and role model to us Craft men. I will miss you and hope that you are sitting with those that have gone before you. My thoughts and prayers are with my cousins. I love you all and sorry I won’t be there .

Tommy Craft - July 29, 2025 at 07:37 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Walter Martin Craft.



July 28, 2025 at 10:06 PM

DS

“ I have known Walter most of my life. He was always a sweet, funny man! He loved his wife Helen & all of his children & grandchildren. My dad, Warren, was in the Air Force when Walter was. It didn't matter if they spoke on the phone once a month or once a year, they were 2 peas in a pod. I grew close to Marty & Yvonne when we were just small kids. There was never any question about his friendship with my dad & mom & their love for him was real! Our friendship has only grown through the years. Everyone is trying to keep up with our aging parents & our own family but about once every couple of months I always got a call from Helen asking how our family was & how is your sister & your girls. Walter & Helen never forgot us & I appreciated it so much. Unfortunately my dad passed in 1997 when my youngest was only 17 months old & then we lost our mom in 2003. Helen just wanted to make sure all her "other" kids were doing ok!
Walter, I know you are happy to be with your sweet wife because her loss was unimaginable. But now you can visit with Warren & Chris & maybe play dominoes up there in Heaven!

Love to the family,
Donna Omberg Smith

Donna Smith - July 28, 2025 at 09:58 PM

DE

“ Mr. Walter was always a friend to me since 1976...Rest in Peace Mr. Walter.

Dean Evans - July 28, 2025 at 10:31 AM

FF

“ From The William "Bubba Swanzy " Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mr. Walter Martin Craft.



From The William "Bubba Swanzy " Family - July 27, 2025 at 09:09 AM

FF

“ From The William "Bubba Swanzy " Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Walter Martin Craft.

From The William "Bubba Swanzy " Family - July 27, 2025 at 09:09 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Walter Martin Craft.



July 26, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Walter Martin Craft.

July 26, 2025 at 09:44 PM