



Wallace F. Waits Jr

November 28, 1945 - April 9, 2023

Wallace F. Waits, Jr. passed away at home on April 9, 2023. He was 77 years old.

He was born to Nina and Wallace Francis Waits, Sr. in Chickasha, Oklahoma on November 28, 1945. Later they moved to Magnolia, Arkansas. Three brothers completed the family: Jim, Larry, and Tom.

While attending the University of Arkansas, Wally married Deborah Arnold. His son Wallace Francis Waits was born on August 1, 1976. His daughter, Misty Lea Waits was born on May 18, 1979. He also has seven grandchildren: six girls: Amanda, Jessica, Kaylee, Adeline, Savanna, and Eleanor, and one boy: Dakota.

Wally received his BS in history and later attended the University of North Texas where he received a master's degree in library science.

In June of 1991 he moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma to begin a job as the Local History and Genealogy Librarian at the Muskogee Public Library. He met his future wife, Faye Goff, two weeks later in Sunday school class at St. Paul Methodist Church. He really loved telling the story of how they met, some people have heard it many times.

During Wally's tenure at the library, he expanded the genealogy holdings to among the largest in the state. In addition to using up his book budget, he was

skilled at finding books for free at other libraries. He liked both helping people research their family history and hearing their stories.

Things Wally loved: Talking to his children and grandchildren, extended family members, and everybody else, bread and butter pickles and all types of sweets, researching his family history, the drum solo in “Wipe Out”, and collecting an assortment of books and papers. His favorite ancestor was his three great-grandmother Rhonda Cope – born in 1800 and died in 1868. She was buried without a headstone. He was so happy when he bought the monument for her grave.

Wally’s flaws: being very reluctant to part with those books and papers (and other things as well.). The strategy that worked best with this: “We will donate them!”. He left the cabinet drawers and doors wide open. Whenever he found an open spot on a table or counter, he promptly covered it with books and papers.

Living with Wally for thirty-one years was like having a full-time cheerleader. He will live on in the hearts and minds of many. If desired, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul UMC, 2130 W Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 7401, Three Rivers Museum, 220 Elgin Street, Muskogee, OK 74401, or Old State House Museum, 300 W Markham St, Little Rock, AR 72201.

A celebration of Wally’s life will be 2PM, Friday, April 14, 2023 at Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Linda Morgan Clark officiating. Interment will follow at Greenhill Cemetery with Bennett Waits, Seth Waits, Tom Waits, Wallace Waits, James Goff and Barry Wells officiating.

Cemetery Details

Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N. York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel
1830 N. York St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Family to greet friends

APR 13. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel
1830 N. York St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Service

APR 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel
1830 N. York St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall



“ Wallace F. Waits Jr

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ I was saddened to learn of Wally's passing and now find myself remembering fondly much about this remarkable man. Even though I did not see him that often, whenever I did, he was always so warm, welcoming, validating, full of interesting stories and incredibly kind. Muskogee has sadly lost a valuable treasure of a man who shared much about the history surrounding us and was always eager to help and encourage others to research their own family and community roots. I was raised in a home where historical and genealogical items were bountiful. My mother Belle Cahoon, who shared in Wally's love of history, genealogy, old papers, artifacts and any documents pertaining to good story telling of all kinds, also fostered within me a love of learning and curiosity. May all who knew and loved him be comforted that much was given to our city and state from Wally Wallis. His deep devotion and endless commitment in sharing of his countless hours of research will forever remain available for generations to enjoy and a beautiful testament to such an inspirational, well-lived life. With much heartfelt sympathy, Carolyn Cahoon Watts

Carolyn Watts - April 14, 2023 at 08:49 AM

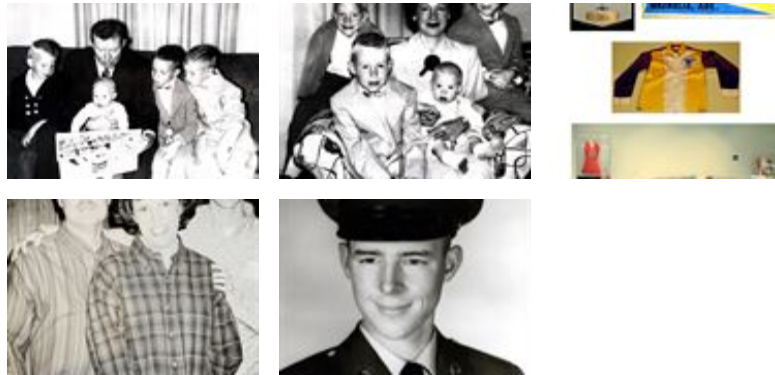


“ R.I.P. Wally.
Loved growing up on East Parkway with you and your entire family.... Good times and good memories.....

Emily (Thomas) Van Orden - April 13, 2023 at 08:40 PM



“ 59 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - April 12, 2023 at 06:01 PM

KS

“ Wally was a member of the MHS class of 64 and will be missed.

Ken Sibley - April 11, 2023 at 10:47 PM

TF

“ The Goff and Sedeyn Families purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Wallace F. Waits Jr.



The Goff and Sedeyn Families - April 11, 2023 at 05:40 PM

BL

“ So sorry about Wally. I have vague memories of childhood days on Parkway in Magmolia.
Barbara Grimes Lewis

Barbara Lewis - April 11, 2023 at 02:08 PM