



Walter Robert Kessler

May 5, 1932 - January 24, 2017

Walter Robert Kessler, of Roswell, New Mexico, passed away January 24, 2017, at his home surrounded by his family. Cremation has taken place with a Celebration of life to be held Saturday 2:00 pm, February 11, 2017, at Assumption Catholic Church, Roswell, NM.

Walt was born on May 5, 1932, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Walter Michael Kessler and Catherine Ann (Reeves) Kessler. He received his education in Philadelphia. After graduating High School, Walt was drafted in the Army and discharged to assist in the care of his mother, whom he provided for until her death. Walt began his career in the automotive industry in Philadelphia.

It was in 1961 when he married Nikki Jeanne Roschella, and to this union brought three sons. Walt's career in Philadelphia was beginning to excel to great opportunities. During this time, he was employed at Reedman Chevrolet in Langhorn, Pennsylvania, as Director of Service Operations. He proceeded to work in the auto industry at Milex Complete Auto Care Headquarters in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, as Technical Director. He finished his career in Pennsylvania at Liberty AMC Jeep as Director of Service Operations before moving to California. In California, Walt took a position at Tradeway Chevrolet as Service Manager. In 1979, Walt decided to set his stake in New Mexico with his boys and mother. He moved to Roswell and became Service Manager at Jerry Pritchard Chevrolet and other dealerships in Roswell before his health required him to retire while at Walker Chevrolet.

Walt was an avid gunsmith and skilled marksman. His talent and knowledge with guns made him a legend amongst the shooting community. He was a longtime member of the Roswell Gun Club in which he held office of President for several years. Walt was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He was an implemental force in the Roswell Gun Club Land purchase for the current location of the shooting range. He spent many a day at the shooting range either sighting in a gun or running a match. He had a love for Cowboy movies and his all time cowboy hero was, John Wayne. Walt was known for quoting John Wayne by saying, "A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do." With that love of westerns produced his many days of being at the gun range participating in Cowboy Action matches where he was known as the New Mexico Yankee.

Walt was united in marriage to Lois Rook on January 21, 1989, in Roswell, NM. Walt would tell you that his wife Lois was his rock that gave his life the foundation for true love. Lois and his family were extremely important to him. Walt will be remembered as a mentor by many, whether it be for his vast mechanical knowledge or of his skill to work the trigger of a gun like no other. Walt is preceded in death by his father, Walter Michael Kessler; mother, Catherine Ann (Reeves) Kessler; dogs: BoBo, Misty, Maggie, Winston, and Daisy.

His survivors include his wife, Lois Rook Kessler, sons: W. Michael Kessler (Mary Coleman) of Denver City, TX, Lawrence J. Kessler (Marian) of Scottsbluff, NE, and Daniel Kessler (Tami) of Alto, NM; step-son, Jerry Brooks of Roswell, NM; grandchildren: Chelsea K. Kessler, Logan J. Kessler, Dr. Courtney A. Kessler, Paige Kessler, Marcus Kessler, Gregory Brooks and Aaron Brooks.

Obituary was lovingly written by Walter's family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Robert Kessler*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Walter Robert Kessler.*



February 10, 2017 at 04:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Robert Kessler.*



February 10, 2017 at 11:28 AM



“ *I drank a lot of whiskey with Walt, he was a good man, he knew the taste of good whiskey! Walt knew what it was to have a good woman!!! He liked Weatherby Rifles, Leupold Scopes, Colt Pistols, Chevy Pickups and the best of everything! I will miss him and I love him dearly!*

Jim Chastain

James Marcus Chastain - January 29, 2017 at 08:39 PM

LC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Linda Couty - January 28, 2017 at 09:56 AM

LC

My favorite memory of Walt will always be the times he , Lois and I played "Rummy". he would always accuse Lois and I of teaming up and try as he might could never beat either of us at calling a " Rummy" !! Then one day he saw one and in his hurry to get it he yelled " Grundy " ! ha ha We all three laughed so hard , (and yes we gave him the Rummy) i made him a " Grundy Bear " to mark the occasion ! I will sure miss our playful jabs at each other and that mischevious grin when he got the better of me (although I sometimes got him too) and that grin when I would rub the top of his head once in a while, passing by him to go home saying" see ya later Walt" !! Rest in peace my friend " See ya later Walt "

Linda

linda couty - January 28, 2017 at 10:26 AM

KF

“ *Our favorite family memories of Walt were the times he would break out in song. He sang old ballads in a wonderful voice; songs from the 30's he knew every verse singing in acapella. "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Grandpa's Little Girl" our favorites! It is amazing to hear your grandpa sing, the sweetest times in our lives! Those overnight visits falling asleep to his voice singing will be greatly missed! Rest In Peace...*

Kessler Family - January 26, 2017 at 08:37 PM