



## Walter S. Love III

November 20, 1935 - June 4, 2020

Walter S. Love III (84 years) peacefully passed away on June 4, 2020. Graveside services will be held Saturday, June 6th, 11am, at the Lake Park Cemetery in Laurel, MS. Pastor Brett Harris, University Baptist Church of Hattiesburg and Pastor Mike Allen, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Laurel, officiating.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Love, Jr.; his brother and sister in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart M. Love. Walter is survived by his three daughters, Amy Love McGill (Ken) of Madison, MS; Virginia Love of Atlanta, GA; and Portia Thomson Alexander (Scott) of Laurel, MS; and four grandchildren, Grace Love McGill, Lee Alexander, Anna Alexander, and Lucas Alexander.

His was a life well lived. Born in Columbia, MS, Walter was a graduate of George S. Gardiner High School of Laurel and attended University of Mississippi and University of Southern Mississippi. He served in the United States Army. Love's twenty-five year banking career included serving as an Assistant Vice President when the Commercial National Bank and Trust Company location in downtown Laurel was erected in 1969. Love was a former Deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Laurel, MS and charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Laurel, MS. A former President of the United Way of the Pine Belt Region, he served as a volunteer

for the organization over 40 years. A member of the Laurel Kiwanis Club for too many years to count, he was dedicated to Wednesday lunch meetings and his all-time favorite, in his words, “most exhausting day of the year”, Pancake Day.

His golf game was legendary. While playing three seasons for Coach B. O. Van Hook, Love established himself as one of the most talented to have ever played at Southern Miss. Following his career at school, he was known as one of the best amateur golfers in MS, winning both the State Amateur Championship and the State Open Golf Championship, making Love one of the few amateurs to capture the title at that event. A former President of the MS Golf Association, his other titles included two-time MPGA winner, six-time Laurel 4 Ball winner, and winner of the Jackson Colonial Invitational. Love was inducted in the USM M-Club Alumni Association Sports Hall of Fame in 1973. In 2014 he and his daughters established the University of Southern Mississippi Athletic Foundation “Walter S. Love III Golf Scholarship Endowment”, providing golf scholarships to deserving students of his beloved alma mater.

Walter had many “Loves” beyond golf and his family. Pecan Pie, the morning paper, Blue Bell ice cream, one particular news channel, anything chocolate, USM sports, a vodka martini or 3, dogs, twice daily scheduled calls with his daughters Amy and Virginia, the 5:30am Wellness Center Club, the Laurel Country Club, Wednesday morning bible study, fried chicken at Kiwanis Club, George S. Gardiner reunions, and long visits with good friends. He adored his “personal assistant” turned close friend/adopted daughter, Samantha Thornton. To him, Bill and Caroline Ford and Graham and Michelle Rogers were more than neighbors that he depended on and drove crazy; they were family.

The family would like to deeply thank Graham and Michelle Rogers, Bill and

Caroline Ford, Samantha Thornton, Christy Squires, Dr. Reed Cotton and Jackson Heart Clinic, Dr. Joel Shores, George Openshaw, Chris Wilson, Brett and Elizabeth Harris, Dr. and Mrs. William Profilet, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Profilet III, and countless close friends of Walter that they leaned on during his final days.

Pallbearers include: Scott Alexander, Lee Alexander, John Christian, John Frank Clark, Bill Ford, Lonnie Godard, Larry Harris, Dick Hennier, Tommy Holder, Victor Jones, Sr., Stover Smith, Bobby Stevens, Wayne Traylor, Darrell Williams, and Chris Wilson.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the United Way of Pine Belt Region or Westminster Presbyterian Church of Laurel, MS.

The family kindly requests that those attending the graveside service practice social distancing and wear a mask.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lake Park Cemetery  
1303 Old Bay Springs Rd  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ June 6, 2020

*To: The Family in Memory of Walter S. Love, III*

*As virtually lifelong friends of Walter, his passing and Graveside Funeral Service evoked a rush of mixed emotions and remembrances of an unforgettable member of the Laurel banking and business community, a graduate and member of Coach Van Hook's USM Golf Team and Walter's being the last of the Love Family's legacy of outstanding golfers at the Laurel Country Club. Being 10-years his junior, my younger days at the Club were spent in the shadows of Walter. He had quite a reputation as a competitor in the regular weekend "gang-some" group, a choose-up format in which Walter and I were always among the choosers, therefore playing on competing teams. No one liked winning more than Walter, so competition was always fierce. Of all the other "Team Captains" in the group, there was no greater pleasure than winning \$3.00 from Walter, he was so competitive, and tight!!! It was a great thrill for he and I to be partners and winning the "Laurel Fourball" in 1963. Friendships and memories developed while playing golf at the Laurel Country Club are cherished forever. Thank you, Amy, Jenny and Portia, for your loving care you gave your father and a friend of so many of us.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Jimmy and Katie Day*

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**Jimmy Day** - June 07, 2020 at 02:38 PM

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“ *Walter was one of my favorites. Always asked my family. Fun to be around. I will miss him.*

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**TimAxton** - June 07, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ *I worked out with Walter for several years at the wellness center. You could always tell when Walter entered the building. I will miss him. He added spice to the atmosphere where ever he was.*

*Chris*

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**Chris Hodge** - June 06, 2020 at 07:47 AM



“ *Walter Love... Great golfer, one the best all time in Mississippi and a whole lot of fun to be around with a quick wit and lots of humor. He will be greatly missed and I very much enjoyed knowing him for many years. Golf won't quite be the same without him being around. God bless and give comfort to his family.*

*Gary Cooper  
Hattiesburg*

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**gary cooper** - June 06, 2020 at 01:47 AM