



Wasatch County Library

Lt. Elwood Phillip Walch

Wasatch Wednesday

November 14, 2018



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11/14/ 2018



It's Wasatch Wednesday. After a week of "Wasatch Wednesdays" saluting Wasatch County Veterans this is the last post for this series.

We wish we had the time and space to honor each Veterans from our County. We are grateful for all who have served. No matter how great or small - THANK YOU!!!

Meet Lieutenant Elwood Phillip Walch. (It appears he went by Phillip (?). Born July 7, 1925 n Goshen, Utah. The son of Harry and Lyle Okelberry Walch. It appears the Walch Family moved to Heber City in the late 1920's.

Lt. Walch enlisted in 1943 and served as a pilot during WWII. When his enlistment contract was up he attended Utah State Agricultural College (now USU) for 3 years. We was a part of U.S.A.C. ROTC program and was called back in to Service May, 1951 during the Korean War Conflict. The Korean War ended in July 1953.

On May 1, 1954 He was flying a routine training mission with his Co-Pilot Staff Sergeant Robert E. Connelly, of New Hampshire, when their T-6 Mosquito crashed in to the side of a mountain in Gwaehon (Kwahon) South Korea. Some reports say they hit a guy wire, or power line, but no clear definitive answer has been uncovered by our staff! He left behind a new bride Laurie Dietert Walch. They had been married less than 15 months.

We are grateful for Military Families; wives, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousin, mothers and fathers, who kept the home fire burning while soldiers are in harm's way protecting and defending our freedoms. We thank them for their service as well!

Whether it be peace time or war, a whole family is affected. It has been said when a soldier is called to serve so is the family. Thank you ALL for your service!



Gwacheon, South Korea

Gwacheon, or (Kwahon) 과천
South Korea



Heber Service Set Friday For Lt. Elwood P. Walch

Funeral services for Lt. Elwood Phillip Walch, 28, who was killed in Kwahon, Korea on May 1, 1954 in an airplane crash, will be conducted Friday at 1:00 p. m., in the Heber First Ward Chapel, Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints.

Bishop Linden Chapman will officiate. Friends may call today prior to services. Burial will be in the Heber City Cemetery.

Lt. Walch was born at Goshen, Utah County, July 7, 1925, a son of Harry and Lyle Oakelberry Walch. He married Laura Dietert at San Antonio, Texas, on January 30, 1953. He was graduated from Wasatch High School. For three years he studied at the Utah State Agricultural College.

He received his ROTC commission in May of 1951. In the fall of 1953 he received a medal for meritorious service while serving in Korea as senior forward air controller.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the U. S. Air Force. He was recalled to duty on October 26, 1951.

Lt. Walch served on the Provo police force for one year. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints.

Survivors include his widow; mother and father, Heber; one brother and one sister, Pfc. Richard Lee Walch, Germany; Mrs. Tom (LaRae) Bonner, Midway; four grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Evert Oakelberry, Goshen; and Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Church, Burley, Idaho.



REFERENCES

www.Familysearch.org (free public records)
Wasatch Wave June 10, 1954

Picture of Head Stone Courtesy of Alice L. DeFriez
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwacheon>

<https://www.sas1946.com/main/index.php?topic=56537.0>