

Walter H. Dennhardt was born on June 15, 1919 in Chicago, Illinois, the only child of DuRoy and Anna (Hamilton) Dennhardt. He graduated from York High School in Elmhurst, IL and went on to Armour Tech in Chicago.

Wally joined the Illinois National Guard and later enlisted into the Army Air Corps in 1940. He started out as an aircraft mechanic in Chanute Air Force Base, and was assigned to various bases throughout the United States. In 1944-1945, he was transferred to Camp Springs, Maryland, when Camp Springs was renamed Andrews Air Force Base (home of Air Force One). Wally was a color guard. Later Wally became an Aerial Engineer. He was in the first occupational forces into Japan and Korea. Wally served on the Berlin Airlift. He retired from the Air Force in 1960, and became a civil service Flight Instructor at Chanute Air Force Base. He moved into the Fuels field and was a civilian certified tank cleaner in the USAF.

Wally married Violet "Vie" Staael in 1942, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bakersfield, CA. To this union, two children were born, Sandra, who preceded her father in death in 1999 and Walter Jr.

Wally and Vie were residents in Rantoul, IL for 49 years, where he was active with ALC. While in Sun City, AZ, he was an active member of Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City West, AZ.

Wally leaves his wife, Vie, son Walter Jr. three granddaughters Lauren, Daelyn and Madison, all of Stillwater, MN, brother-in-law Budd Staael, sister-in-law Gladys Claxton three nieces, one nephew, a dear daughter "of the heart" Marilyn Dalin Nyberg, a fine young man who became like a grandson, Scottie Filz, and two special cousins Ernie and Lou Dennhardt.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents and daughter Sandra.



*Celebrating the Life
Of
Walter H. "Wally" Dennhardt
1919-2009*