



Anthony Walko

August 20, 1938 - March 1, 2019

Funeral Mass for Anthony Walko, 80, of Thorndale, will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 8, 2019 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rockdale with the burial at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. A visitation will be 6 – 8 p.m. on Thursday at Phillips and Luckey in Rockdale with a Rosary at 7 p.m.

Anthony Walko was born on August 20, 1938 in Sharon, Pennsylvania. He was raised by Mike and June Walko. He went to school in Sharon, PA, but because of family difficulties, he and his three sisters were sent to St. Joes Home in Erie, PA. Thanks to Fr. Jim Sperry and Fr. Ted Carter for their influence. After returning home Tony attended Hickory Township High School in Mercer County, PA. He graduated in 1958 and enlisted in the USAF in 1958. He was assigned to bases in Texas, Mississippi, Germany, Japan, and Nakhum Phanom Thailand-Vietnam before returning home to the U.S. and Texas.

He met his wife, Barbara, at Brooks AFB in 1972 and they married in Warren, Ohio on March 9, 1973.

They were stationed at Ricken Backer AFB and then MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL. In 1978, after 20 years of service, he retired and returned to Texas. He went to work for T.U. in Rockdale in 1978. In 1979 the family became his, mine, and ours with the birth of their son, Patrick.

After 10 years with T.U., he went to work for TDC until 2006, but continued to work at the Juvenile Detention Center and various other jobs.

His best job was playing Santa. It started at McDill AFB for the main entrance

guards with Christmas Eve cookies and home visits to base children. He continued after coming to Rockdale with being Santa for the area and riding in the Christmas Parade.

He was a 4th degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus and an active member of the VFW. He was a second generation American and found out recently that he was 100% Italian.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mike Walko and June Lattyak, a son, Andy Walko, and a brother-in-law, Ralph Hoffman.

Anthony is survived by his wife of 46 years, Barbara Walko of Thorndale; three sons, Ronald Embrey and wife Hazel of Rockdale, Michael Walko of Rockdale, and Patrick Walko of Cypress, TX; a daughter, Nancy Walko of Victoria, TX; four sisters, Beverly Redmond of Sharon, PA, Nancy Hoffman of Sharpsville, PA, Gayle Carlson of Sulfur, LA, and Janice Goodnight of FL; three grandchildren, Jarrette Embrey, Kandece Embrey Barnes and husband John, and Kalisha Embrey; three great grandchildren, Jalen Wayne, Gavin, and Jaclynn; a special niece, Tina O'Toole and many more extended family.

Pallbearers are Daniel Griffin, Willie Barcak, Nick Guzman, Phil Konarik, Rod Rodrick, Charles Diver

Honorary pallbearers, Richard Crump, Ronnie Crump, Roy Crump, Knights of Columbus members and VFW members.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

County Road 312
Thorndale, TX 76577

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Rosary

MAR 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Mass

MAR 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
234 San Gabriel St.
Rockdale, TX 76567

Tribute Wall



“ *So sorry for your loss. You all are in our prayers. Raymond and Darlene Waiser* ”



Darlene Waiser - March 08, 2019 at 09:38 PM



“ *Barbara and kids--Tony was such a sweet man. We're so sorry that you'll be without him in this world but am glad that he is Home. All our hugs and kisses to you Barbara. We love you ma. Lorna, Bobby, Brandyn, Shay and Ian Gibson* ”

Lorna Gibson - March 08, 2019 at 11:00 AM



“ *Richard And Dena Kocian lit a candle in memory of Anthony Walko* ”



Richard and Dena Kocian - March 07, 2019 at 04:30 PM



“ *Branchville EEA Club purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Anthony Walko.* ”



Branchville EEA Club - March 07, 2019 at 01:04 PM

BP

“ Prayers to you and the "men"--cannot image St. Joseph's events without Tony being right there...as you both have been always. Eternal rest grant unto Tony, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Blessings, Eric & Barbara Phillips

Barbara Phillips - March 07, 2019 at 12:44 PM

TL

“ Tom and Aggie Hunter, Dawn LeBlanc purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Anthony Walko.



Tom and Aggie Hunter, Dawn LeBlanc - March 06, 2019 at 03:59 PM

BD

“ Barbara, I am so sorry for your loss...Tony was a great guy...thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Barbara Laffere Dietrich - March 05, 2019 at 07:40 PM

DH

“ We will miss you HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1958 Our deepest Sympathy to Barbara and all the family

Donna Holter - March 05, 2019 at 03:04 PM

JY

“ So sorry to hear of Tony's passing. He was the best Santa ever and he enjoyed doing it. He will truly be missed. RIP Tony!



Judy York - March 05, 2019 at 01:11 PM

JK

“ My thoughts and prayers to the Walko family. Earths loss is Heavens gain. June Key

June Key - March 04, 2019 at 09:42 PM

MZ

“ Barbara, We are so very sorry to read about Tony's passing. Your family will be in our prayers.

Mike and Beckie Zelisko - March 04, 2019 at 09:13 PM

CP

“ Barbara and family,
Our condolences. No one will ever play Santa better ;) I sure will miss that smile when I would see him in Rockdale. Thank you for sharing him with all of us.
Colette Proske & Tanner Willems

Colette Proske - March 04, 2019 at 05:25 PM

SN

Barbara and family, sad to hear of your loss. He made people smile and loved his family. When Barbara and Tony were together you could see and feel their love for each other and other people. Remember the best times and know that he is missed by many. Sherry

sherry nolen - March 05, 2019 at 10:48 AM

DM

Our deepest sympathy! May the Lord give your family strength during this time. He will greatly missed. Dan & Zephyr Marek

Dan & Zephyr Marek - March 05, 2019 at 03:06 PM

DG

Met Mr. Walco in '91 when I came to Hobby from the Michael Unit. He was a fine corrections officer who always was willing to help out where ever he was needed. ALWAYS a pleasure to work with! In our prayers, Duke Gilleland

Duke Gilleland - March 09, 2019 at 07:14 AM

AF

“ *Aretha Flores lit a candle in memory of Anthony Walko*



Aretha Flores - March 04, 2019 at 04:49 PM