



## Elton "Sonkey" John Walther

November 17, 1938 - May 7, 2023

Funeral services for Elton "Sonkey" Walther, 84 of Lincoln, Texas, are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12, 2023, at St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln with Rev. Dale Bohm officiating. The burial will follow at the church cemetery. A visitation will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Friday, May 12, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for the visitation on Thursday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Elton "Sonkey" Walther was born on November 17, 1938, in Lincoln, Texas to Wilhelm "Willie" Walther and Hedwig "Hattie" (Symmank) Walther. He was baptized on December 11, 1938 at St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln by Rev. Reinhard Osthoff and confirmed on March 29, 1953 at St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln by Rev. Henry A. Strobel. His confirmation verse was 1 Corinthians 6:20, "You were bought at a price; therefore, honor God with your bodies." Sonkey was united in marriage to Betty Jean Lucille Iselt on November 14, 1959 at St. John Lutheran Church by Rev. August Horn. They were blessed with 64 years of marriage and four children.

Sonkey began operating a bulldozer for his father at the young age of 14. He taught both of his sons and his grandson's how to operate the bulldozer. He was the proud owner of his own bulldozing business, clearing land and building ponds in Lee and surrounding counties. He was a perfectionist that

took great pride in his work and at the same time developed many relationships with his customers. Sonkey was a lifelong member of St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln, where he served as an elder and on the finance board. He played softball and baseball in his younger years and later in life became the manager of the Lincoln Continentals, the local community baseball team. He coached Little League baseball and was a member of the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed helping with numerous community fundraisers throughout the years. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, watching the Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, old western shows, and sitting on the front porch of his home watching the deer.

Sonkey passed away the evening of Sunday, May 7, 2023, at Oakland Manor Nursing Center in Giddings.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilhelm "Willie" and Hedwig "Hattie" Walther; his grandson, Colby Walther; sisters, Edna Gruetzner and her husband, Elmon and Elsie Jatzlau Gruetzner and her husbands, Ervin Jatzlau and Marvin "Smokey" Gruetzner; brothers, Eddie Walther, Elmo Walther and his wife, Bernice, and Billy Walther and his first wife Darlene Jatzlau Walther; brothers-in-law, Paul Krause, Herman Symank, Herbert Biehle, Nelson Friedrich, George Iselt, and his wife Joyce, and Edmund Iselt and his wife Bernice, and his parents-in-law, Louis and Frieda Iselt.

Sonkey is survived by his wife, Betty Jean Lucille Walther of Lincoln; children, Brenda Kieschnick and her husband Johnny of Lincoln, Michael Walther and his wife Julie of Sonora, Felicia Poston and her husband Jessie of Lexington, and Jonathan "Jon" Walther and his wife Stephanie of Lincoln; grandchildren, Priscilla Plumlee and her husband Brandon of Lincoln, Jason Kieschnick and his wife Carrie of Giddings, Sabian Walther and his wife Stacy of Ledbetter, Kasey Walther and his wife Tiffany of Round Rock, Sheridan Walther of San

Antonio, Tyler Walther of College Station, Jacob Poston of San Marcos, Toye Walther of Lincoln, and Wyatt Walther of Lincoln; great-grandchildren, Cora Plumlee of Lincoln, Aspen Plumlee of Lincoln, Delaney Walther of Ledbetter, Skylar Walther of Ledbetter, Tristan Walther of Round Rock, and Jayden Walther of Round Rock; his sisters, Meta Krause of Mississippi, Bernie Symank of Houston, Della Mae Biehle of Lexington, and Carolyn Friedrich of Lincoln; sisters-in-law, Jennifer Walther of Lincoln, Hattie Schulze and her husband, Monroe "Jr." of Giddings, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Pallbearers will be Jason Kieschnick, Sabian Walther, Kasey Walther, Tyler Walther, Wyatt Walther, and Jacob Poston. Honorary pallbearers will be Skylar Walther and Tristan Walther.

Memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln, the Alzheimer Foundation, or to the charity of one's choice.

# Cemetery Details

## St. John Lutheran Cemetery of Lincoln

1012 Private Road 8012  
Giddings, TX 78942

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 11. 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Family Present for Visitation

MAY 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Visitation

MAY 12. 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Funeral Service

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MAY 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church of Lincoln  
1012 Private Road 8012  
Giddings, TX 78942-9263

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - May 10, 2023 at 07:46 PM

CS

“ *So sorry for your loss.  
Love,  
David, Carol, and Christopher Schulz*



Carol Schulz - May 16, 2023 at 07:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther.*



May 12, 2023 at 11:30 AM

HN

“ *We were sad to learn that Sonke had passed away. May you find strength in the Christ's comfort in the faith he had been raised up.*

Herbert and Junelle Nittsche - May 11, 2023 at 11:18 PM

MS

“ Michelle Schuetz lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther



Michelle Schuetz - May 11, 2023 at 08:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther.



May 11, 2023 at 05:26 PM

ND

“ Nancy Chris Delcastilho lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" Walther.



Nancy & Chris Delcastilho - May 11, 2023 at 04:39 PM

RP

“ Rick & Lori Parker lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther



Rick & Lori Parker - May 11, 2023 at 09:20 AM

BH

“ *Sympathy and prayers for the Walther family.*

*Mike & Brenda Hirsch*

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**Brenda Hirsch** - May 11, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ *107 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - May 10, 2023 at 07:36 PM

DC

“ *So many memories with this family. My son was 3 weeks old and I took him out to the ball field. All the games and festivities afterwards are such great memories! I have stayed in contact over the years and remained close friends. My heart is so very sad for all the family. I love all of you and pray God blesses each of you during this time.* 🙏🙏💕🌻

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**Debbie Cole** - May 10, 2023 at 04:38 PM

AI

“ Amanda Iselt lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther



Amanda Iselt - May 10, 2023 at 03:15 PM

CS

“ Cheryl Sanders lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" Walther



Cheryl S. Sanders - May 10, 2023 at 12:32 PM

SH

“ Sandra Harzke lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" Walther



Sandra Harzke - May 10, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Elton "Sonkey" John Walther.



May 10, 2023 at 11:26 AM

DF

“ Dale Lisa Belmont & Family lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" Walther



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Dale and Lisa Belmont & Family - May 10, 2023 at 09:25 AM

BO

“ Felicia,

*During this time of grief, please know that you and your family are in our prayers. Heartfelt condolences on the loss of your father.*

*Bonnie & Preston Adachi*

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Bonnie - May 09, 2023 at 10:39 PM

DW

“ So sorry for yours loss Mr. Sonky was always at best on his Dozer working alongside John. They cleaned land for me i would go by in the evening and they were hot and thirsty and I brought the Beer he said it's time to Quit anyway. May He Rest In Peace.

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Dwane Wiederhold - May 09, 2023 at 09:38 PM

JS

“ Janice & Gary Schneider lit a candle in memory of Elton "Sonkey" Walther



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Janice A & Gary Schneider - May 09, 2023 at 07:57 PM

BS

“ Always a great time with Coach Sonkey before, during, and particularly after the Lincoln baseball games. A great man and an awesome family. Fair winds and following seas...sail on, Sonkey. 🙏



Billy Schott - May 09, 2023 at 04:34 PM

PA

“ Learned alot from this good man and wonderful wife. Taught me a lot about butchering hogs and using every part. RIP and prayers to the family. Paula Kasper Albrecht

Paula Kasper Albrecht - May 09, 2023 at 03:51 PM

SS

“ So very sorry for your loss. Praying for your family that you may have peace at this time, knowing he is in heaven.

Susan Schulze - May 09, 2023 at 03:06 PM

CG

“ So many good memories of Uncle Sonkey!! He will be missed!

Cathy Beisert Gruetzner - May 09, 2023 at 02:27 PM

KN

“ I'm so sorry for your loss! May the Holy Spirit comfort you and God Bless you!



kathy neal - May 09, 2023 at 01:07 PM