



Norris Dale Waller

May 11, 1937 - February 8, 2026

Norris was born in Humphrey, Missouri, to Luther and Elgeva (McCalley) Waller on May 11, 1937. He lived his life in Humphrey and graduated from Trenton High School in 1955 where he especially enjoyed playing his trombone in the band. While attending what was then Trenton Junior College he met the love of his life, Fran Warren. That alphabetical seating chart put Waller and Warren in close proximity!

After deciding school could wait a bit, Norris went to Denver to work and live with his older brother, Noel. But he maintained a relationship with that Warren girl and she said, "Yes!" Norris and Fran were married on a hot June 5, 1958, at the Edinburg Baptist Church. Their honeymoon was a trip returning to Denver to stay and work. They decided to return to Kansas City where Norris worked while Fran finished her college degree.

They moved to Cameron, Missouri, where Norris worked for Cameron Mutual Insurance. He moved to work as a Claims Adjuster and the family moved to Higginsville in 1966, where he and Fran still live today. After leaving the insurance industry, Norris earned his teaching degree from Central Missouri State University and began teaching Industrial Arts/Shop until his retirement in 1990.

Norris enjoyed "raising" a variety of animals on their hobby farm—rabbits, Nubian goats, Boer goats, and cattle. He particularly enjoyed raising and showing red Simmental cattle. He was very proud of his Missouri State Fair Grand Champion bull, Truck! One daughter remarked that Truck's bull shed

had better siding than her own house!

Norris's later years have been spent restoring antique tractors, especially Farmalls. He has shown and driven these tractors in parades and Fall Festivals. Norris was a member of Grace United Methodist Church of Higginsville. He has been a Methodist all his life and even converted a strong Baptist girl to join him when they married. The Masonic Lodge was a very important part of his life. He rose through the ranks to Worshipful Master and was recently honored with his 60-year member pin.

Down through the years Norris touched and impacted many lives. Through his activities, but most importantly by his teaching the kids who came through his shop classes, including both of his daughters. Rarely an entire week went by that he didn't have "one of my kids" stop and talk with him as he ate his breakfast and had coffee at McDonalds! Mr. Waller taught a lot of life skills to a bunch of kids - Measure twice; Cut once.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Fran (Warren), two daughters, Melody LaPreze and Amy (Kent) Tieman. Four grandchildren: Abigail (Jeremy) Morris of Lake Saint Louis; Emily (Drew) Pfyl of Lee's Summit; Ross (Raschel) and Chad (Haley) Tieman all of Alma, Missouri. Eight great-grandchildren: Annabelle and Caleb Morris; Avery Pfyl; Rhen, Ripp, and Reese Tieman; and Henry and Hazel Tieman. Niece Nancy Waller Carter and her family, and numerous other nieces and nephews.

Norris is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Noel and Robert Leon and their spouses.

Dad, you will be greatly missed. You left us behind with much wisdom. If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing it right. You did a good job - you lived this life right!

A visitation is scheduled on Thursday, February 12, 2026 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, with a Masonic Service starting at 5:30 PM. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 13, 2026 at Grace United Methodist Church. Burial will follow in the City Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Grace United Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

City Cemetery

2275-2491 Lipper Ave.
Higginsville, MO 64037

Previous Events

Masonic Service

FEB 12. 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM (cst)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.
1600 Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-3400
hoeferfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.stewarthoeferfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

FEB 12. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (cst)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.
1600 Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
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Memorial Service

FEB **13**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (cst)

Grace United Methodist Church
16 W 15th St.
Higginsville, MO 64037

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Amy, I am sorry to hear of Norris passing, I had him as a teacher years ago, back when he hated girls in his shop class. He learned to love us. He was a great man.

kim (goting) Marshall - February 18 at 01:38 AM



“ I spent many hours at the Wallers from 4th grade to 12 th grade. Mr. Waller and I went hunting many times, checking his gardens, working on things, and he instilled my love of canoeing and camping. He had that way of looking over the top of his glasses or just taking them off when he wanted to make a point. He was my second Dad, and he taught me many things about life. He is a good man and I will miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Martin Rinne

Martin Rinne - February 12 at 04:59 PM

MM

“ *Fran, Melody, Amy and Family,*
I have known your family since you moved to Higginsville as church friends, teachers, a babysitter for your family, my patients, and community friends. My dad always enjoyed Norris as a Masonic brother as well as these other roles. I loved talking goats with him and seeing you both working at the food pantry and all you community activities.

Almost everyone knew your family in some way and we want you to know our thoughts and caring surround you in your loss. You have impacted so may lives in your years here and we all love you. What a glorious life to celebrate!

Marla Tobin, MD

Marla Tobin, MD - February 11 at 07:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Norris Dale Waller.*



February 11 at 10:56 AM

NK

“ *NAWIC KC purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Norris Dale Waller.*



NAWIC KC - February 11 at 10:36 AM

NK

“ NAWIC KC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norris Dale Waller.

NAWIC KC - February 11 at 10:36 AM

CN

“ Norris was one of a kind in the best way! I remember in Shop class we were making the infamous toolbox and one morning Norris was eerily quiet. He said someone had decided to vandalize a classmates project. He said he wasn't sure who was the perpetrator but because of their actions, the person who owned the damages toolbox would receive an automatic "E". I was the unlucky/lucky person who's toolbox was vandalized. Probably the only way I was going to get an "E" on it! 🙄 It was always great to see him and Fran out and about. I will miss the bear hug greetings! Cherish all the memories and may they always be a blessing to all who know and love him. Cindy Nuelle

Cindy Nuelle - February 11 at 10:00 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norris Dale Waller.



February 11 at 09:02 AM

SM

“ Uncle Norris was one in a million. He taught me how to shoot, out in the pasture, with his old 22. He always had some practical joke or prank up his sleeve. But, my most cherished memory is of him at my wedding reception, going around serving champagne, with a towel over his arm, like some upscale waiter. He will always hold a special place in my heart. Much Love to my Missouri Family, Susan Bunnell-Meyers

Susan Meyers - February 11 at 08:24 AM

SF

“ Susan Meyers, Jen Bunnell, & families purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Norris Dale Waller.



Susan Meyers, Jen Bunnell, & families - February 11 at 08:12 AM

TF

“ The Beale Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norris Dale Waller.

The Beale Family - February 11 at 07:58 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Norris Dale Waller.



February 11 at 07:58 AM

CO

“ Dear Fran, Melody, Amy, and all the family,
My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you all. Norris was a wonderful father, husband, teacher, human being of love, caring, support, and knowledge he shared, with so many. I know his health has been a struggle in recent years. Cherish your joyous memories. I am grateful to have the Waller influences in my life. Fran, I cherish our chats when my career was transiting. Melody, I appreciate your sharing of our P.E.O. Sisterhood carrying on my grandmother and mom within Chapter EC. Please know, each of you have touched many just like Nortis did.

Love and God's blessings
Connie Long
1972 Laf C-1 Grad
CMSU BME 1976
UCM MSE 1982 GUIDANCE N COUNSELING
Educator 1976-2011RET., Substitute 2012-2020

Connie,Long - February 10 at 11:57 PM

JS

“ So sorry to read of your Dad's passing. He sounds like one heck of a guy. Prayers and hugs for all of you during this difficult time
Janice Stoll

Janice Stoll - February 10 at 07:35 PM

FF

“ From the Reno and Harvey families. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norris Dale Waller.

From the Reno and Harvey families. - February 10 at 05:49 PM

FF

“ From the Reno and Harvey families. purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Norris Dale Waller.



From the Reno and Harvey families. - February 10 at 05:49 PM

SW

“ I am sorry to hear of Bro. Waller's passing. It was my honor to have presented him with his 60 year Masonic pin last summer.



Scotty Walker - February 10 at 05:09 PM

SW

I am sorry to hear about Bro. Waller's passing. It was my honor to have presented him his 60 year Masonic pin last summer. Scotty Walker, Holden, Missouri

Scotty Walker - February 10 at 05:11 PM

GG

To Fran & family, my deepest sympathy for your loss. Cherish the memories of a life very well lived.
Gary Grigsby, Warrensburg

Gary Grigsby - February 12 at 01:14 PM

VB

Fran, So so sorry about your loss. He will definitely be one that will be deeply missed. We always had a great time when he needed a tire repair. Repair never took long but the conversation was the good part of being there with him. If you need anything, call me. He left a legacy to me and many others. Best wishes, Victor and Kendra Butner

Victor Butner - February 22 at 08:51 PM