

**God saw he was getting tired
And a cure was not to be.
So he put His arms around him
And whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer
And saw him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.
~ Author Unknown**

R REA FUNERAL
CHAPEL &
CREMATION SERVICES



A LIFE REMEMBERED



WALTER LEE SANDS

JUNE 23, 1945
OCTOBER 2, 2025



Walter Lee Sands

Walter Lee Sands, 80, of Sedalia, MO, passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at Bothwell Regional Health Center.

He was born on June 23, 1945, in Sedalia, the son of Kenneth Sands and Virginia Lee (Lemons) Sands Brockman, who preceded him in death.

On December 31, 1971, in Sedalia, he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Mary Hoke, who survives of the home.

Walt was a proud graduate of Smith-Cotton High School, Class of 1963. Following graduation, he began working for the City of Sedalia before answering the call to serve his country. From 1965 to 1969, he served honorably in the United States Air Force, spending one year stateside in Maine and three years overseas in England. After completing his military service, Walt returned home and resumed his career with the City of Sedalia, where he devoted 40 years of faithful service until his retirement in 2010.

He was a dedicated member of Encounter Church in Sedalia and an active member of several veterans' organizations, including Sedalia Voiture 333 of the 40 & 8, the American Legion Post #642, and Disabled American Veterans.

Walt had a fun-loving spirit and enjoyed life's simple pleasures. He was an avid fan of professional wrestling and shared a special Monday night tradition of gathering with family to watch WWE together. He also loved cheering on his brother at the dirt tracks, racing micro midgets. Walt cherished time with his family, adored his grandchildren, and treasured the companionship of his beloved dog, *Chewy*.

In addition to his wife of nearly 54 years, Mary, he is survived by two daughters, Heather Wright of Hughesville, MO and Holly Hatfield (Chris) of Sedalia; two grandchildren, Ashlee and Jacob; two sisters, Gloria Baldwin of Kansas City, MO and Kenna Page (J.R.) of Alamogordo, NM; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Herb Sands.

Funeral Service

4:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Rea Funeral Chapel

Sedalia, MO

Officiant

Pastor Chris Gray

Special Music

"Heaven's Now My Home"

"Remember When"

"Go Rest High On That Mountain" - Video Tribute

Military Honors

Whiteman Air Force Base Honor Guard

VFW Post #2591

Patriot Guard

Honorary Bearers

Charlie Martin, Kenny Sands,

Jacob Sands, Chris Hatfield, Orval Petree

Memorial Contributions

Sedalia Senior Center