



Walter S. Fredenhagen

February 28, 1925 - November 16, 2022

Walter Fredenhagen, Jr., better known to friends as “Ted,” passed away in peace on Wednesday Nov. 16, 2022 at his home in Amboy, IL at the age of 97 after battling COPD and Covid. Ted was born February 28, 1925 in Naperville, son of Walter and Grace Fredenhagen. He grew up in Naperville, IL and attended North Central College after serving in the Marine Corp for 3 years during World War II. Ted was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother, James Dean Fredenhagen; his sister Jeanne Moen; and sister, Rita Harvard. He is survived by son James Scott Fredenhagen of Anchorage, AK; daughter Laura Jean Schaefer of Amboy; son Gary Robert Fredenhagen of Boulder Junction, WI; daughter Jane Ann Herron of Newburg, MO; daughter Debra Sue Zellhofer of Amboy; ten grandchildren, and twenty-two great grandchildren.

From the time he was a youngster, Ted loved music. His mother, Grace, was an outstanding musician, serving as accompanist for the Marshall Field Choir in Chicago, and Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville. At his mother’s request, young Ted would sing in her church choir to offset the older, out-of-tune gentlemen. When he was in junior high, Ted took up trumpet playing and never stopped. With two friends he formed “The Men of Swing,” a trio that played once a week on the radio in Aurora and wherever they could find a gig. After high school, Ted joined the Marine Corp. In 1944, in California, he served as a drill instructor, sighted aircraft armament, and played in the Marine Band. As his unit was preparing to ship abroad, Ted was “pulled out” in

order to continue playing in the Marine Band. Later in life, Ted was honored to serve as bugler with the Amboy Honor Guard at funerals for many local veterans. After his Military Service, Ted married Mary Alice Godshalk and together they raised five children: Jim, Lonnie, Gary, Jane, and Debbie. Ted attended North Central College for two years, majoring in Business. He was an outstanding athlete, competing in football and track. Ted worked with his father, Walter, in the family business, Prince Castle Ice Cream Corporation. The business was started in 1931 and was the “first” in what later became known as the Fast Food Industry. In 1955 Walter and Ted expanded and renamed the business “Cock Robin.” There were 25 stores in the suburban Chicago area. The stores were sold in 1991. Ted and Walter reorganized over time and relocated to Amboy, IL. His career and family kept him busy, but Ted would occasionally hold jam sessions in his home. During the 90’s, his Naperville High School Class Reunion committee asked him to have his high school band trio come together to play. Ted named them “Class Act.” They began to meet regularly and grew in number. Ted eventually reformed the Band to operate out of Amboy, using musicians primarily from the local region. Class Act expanded to include nineteen members and was a true Big Band. Each year Ted would host a “Barn Bash” at his farm for Class Act and friends. For over 30 years, Class Act Big Band has performed throughout northern Illinois for those who love to listen and dance to the classic music of the Swing Era.

Ted Fredenhagen has held many friends and family members close over the years. His spirit of love and generosity is his legacy, and he will never be forgotten.

A Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. followed by the Funeral service at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy, IL on December 10, 2022. A Celebration of Life will follow at a later date. Memorials in Ted's name can be made to:

Red Cloud Indian School
PO Box 5202

Sioux Falls, SD 57117

St. Joseph Indian School

PO Box 300

Chamberlain, SD 57325

St. Labre Indian School

PO Box 216

Ashland, MT 59003

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School

PO Box 610

Thoreau, NM. 87323

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **10**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy
303 East Main Street
Amboy, IL 61310
(815) 857-2611
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Service

DEC **10**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy
303 East Main Street
Amboy, IL 61310
(815) 857-2611
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter S. Fredenhagen*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Walter S. Fredenhagen*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter S. Fredenhagen.*



December 09, 2022 at 09:17 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter S. Fredenhagen.*



December 04, 2022 at 11:01 PM

MB

“ *Ted and my husband Jim became friends as fellow veterans in the Amboy American Legion. He was a fine man. His playing of Taps at Jim's funeral service was a memorable event remaining in our hearts always. Thank you Ted. Deepest sympathy and prayers to his family.*

Marilyn Braida - December 01, 2022 at 06:39 PM

TC

“ *The Great Northern Sportsmen's Club purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Walter S. Fredenhagen.*



The Great Northern Sportsmen's Club - November 27, 2022 at 05:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter S. Fredenhagen.*



November 24, 2022 at 03:51 PM

JT

“ Family members of Ted, in 1972 Ted and his wife lived on River Road in Marengo, Illinois. They owned adjacent to their home a small two-bedroom farmhouse which they rented to us for nearly three years. Ironically, Ted moved to Amboy, my hometown, and frequently during our visits back to see my parents we would see Ted at the Longbranch. We were very appreciative of his generosity to us during our time in the rental. Our thoughts and prayers go to all of those who loved Ted. Jerry and Kathy Trickett

Jerry and Kathy Trickett - November 22, 2022 at 04:41 PM

TD

“ Tom, very sorry to hear about your Uncle Ted's passing. I have great memories of working at Cock Robin during high school, and taking some weekend drives to Amboy to fish and hang out listening to his stories. Uncle Ted loved to tell stories and loved having his family and friends around him! I really don't remember ever seeing him in a bad mood. He was always interested in everything we were into at the time. My sincere condolences to his family.
Tom Drendel

Tom Drendel - November 22, 2022 at 12:38 PM