



Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr

December 2, 1928 - February 21, 2025

Walter Glenn Birdwell, Jr., age 96, of Carthage, TN passed away peacefully at his home on February 21, 2025. His beloved wife of 72 years, Helen, was by his side.

Walter Glenn was born on December 2, 1928 to Catherine Hargis Birdwell and Walter Glenn Birdwell, Sr.

Walter Glenn graduated from Smith County High and Vanderbilt University where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and a member of the Vanderbilt Wrestling Team. Most importantly at Vanderbilt, he met Helen Walton, whom he married and together they built a wonderful life.

After graduating from VU, he served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War.

Walter Glenn worked with Citizens Bank of Carthage, TN, for 70 years, a bank his father founded with some local investors opening on October 26, 1929, three days before "Black Tuesday". He served as Chairman of the Board from 1988 until his death. Until one month ago, he continued to arrive at the bank each day for the 7:30AM meeting. He served as a Board Member of the TBA (Tennessee Bankers Association), was a founder and first President of the TBA Young Bankers, and served as President of the TBA Independent Bankers Division.

Walter Glenn served as Chairman of the Smith County Industrial Board, President of the Smith County Chamber of Commerce and President of the Lions Club. He was also a member of the Smith County Help Center, and Smith County Historical Society. Carthage United Methodist Church was an important part of Walter Glenn's life, and he served in many leadership roles there.

Walter Glenn loved being with his family and friends. He and Helen traveled the world. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved duck hunting, snow skiing, and watersports on Center Hill Lake.

Along with his wife, Helen, he is survived by their three children, Sue (Jerry) Ishee of Nashville, Walter Glenn "Birdy" (Christie) Birdwell, III, of Sparta, and Ann (Matt) Dobson of Franklin, and by grandsons, Matthew H. Dobson, VI, of New York, NY and Walter Birdwell Dobson of Franklin.

Funeral services will be held for both Helen and Wally at Carthage United Methodist Church on Friday, February 28, 2025 at 1PM. Interment will follow in the Ridgewood Cemetery.

Visitation with the family will be in the Fellowship Hall of the Carthage United Methodist Church on Friday from 11AM until service time at 1PM.

The family asks that memorial gifts be made to Carthage United Methodist Church.

The family would like to thank Ruby Crawford, Jo Sponaugle, Kathy Hamby and their wonderful team for the devoted care of Walter and Helen.

Cemetery Details

Ridgewood Cemetery

103 McGennis Ave
Carthage, TN 37030

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Carthage United Methodist Church
608 Main St. N
Carthage, TN 37030

Service

FEB 28. 1:00 PM (CT)

Carthage United Methodist Church
608 Main St. N
Carthage, TN 37030

Tribute Wall

JE

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know "Mr. Wally" well, through our shared involvement in the Tennessee Bankers. As a young banker, also following in my father's footsteps, Mr. Wally was very encouraging to me, and he and Mrs. Helen have been an example for my wife and I, of how a marriage should be. We are truly sorry for your loss. Mr. Wally was a wonderful man.

Jay England - February 27, 2025 at 04:38 PM

CK

“ A genuine treasure to his family, friends, church, community, country and world. He will be greatly missed by all. Super proud our paths crossed in Carthage, TN. Sympathy and hugs for his family.

Connie Kuecker - February 27, 2025 at 12:12 PM

TS

“ The employees of Citizens Bank Sparta. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.



The employees of Citizens Bank Sparta. - February 27, 2025 at 11:27 AM

JB

“ Joan C Bryan lit a candle in memory of Walter Glenn Birdwell



Joan C Bryan - February 27, 2025 at 11:23 AM

SF

“ Sharon and Howard Hunter and family purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.



Sharon and Howard Hunter and family - February 27, 2025 at 09:12 AM

SF

“ Sharon and Howard Hunter and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.

Sharon and Howard Hunter and family - February 27, 2025 at 09:12 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.



February 27, 2025 at 04:21 AM

MV

“ Jacques and I will always remember the genuine friendliness and hospitality of ‘Wally’. Our thoughts go out to the family and especially to Helen.

We wish you strength in this time of saying farewell. May the memories of a long life together hereby help.

Love,

Mia and Jacques Tack

Belgium

Mia Tack- Verdonckt - February 27, 2025 at 03:59 AM

NM

“ Neil Patel & Image Hotel Management purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.



Neil Patel & Image Hotel Management - February 26, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.



February 25, 2025 at 02:10 PM

EL

“ I was always pleased to meet Walter Glenn at different times around the area or at the bank -, he greeted me like an old friend ! I thought of him as such a gentleman, who carried on his life with integrity and class.

Elaine - February 24, 2025 at 07:01 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.



February 24, 2025 at 05:11 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Walter Glenn Birdwell Jr.*



February 22, 2025 at 12:46 PM



“ *Heartfelt sympathy for your loss. I remember the last time we spoke and he was as alert as ever. He had an amazing life.*

Lee Milstead - February 22, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ *Mr. Birdwell was the nicest man I ever have known besides my daddy. It was a honor being his caregiver he was just like my daddy and I sure will miss him. I enjoyed cooking for him because he liked good country cooking. He will always hold a special place in my heart. Love You Mr. Birdwell But Now You Will Have No More Pain But Sure Am Going To Miss You.*

Kathy Hamby - February 21, 2025 at 06:26 PM