



Walter Toedter

October 14, 1974 - March 2, 2009

Walter “Wally” John Toedter died of heart failure on Monday, March 2, 2009, peacefully at his home in Wadena, MN, surrounded by his housemates and staff. He was born October 14, 1974 at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT to Wendel and Lorraine (Kercho) Toedter. He was born with Down’s Syndrome and a heart defect. From the beginning he received loving support from his family, church friends, and medical and educational professionals. He attended Seaside Regional Center, Uncasville, CT, and public schools in Groton, CT, and Staples, MN. He moved to Staples in 1981. He survived 3 life-threatening illnesses and participated in Special Olympics. He was a 1994 graduate of Staples High School. After graduation Wally worked at the DAC in Browerville and at the Thread Shed II in Staples. Wally moved to Elmwood Group Home in Wadena in 2002 and worked at the DAC in Sebeka. He participated in Sunday School, Youth Group, VBS, and served as an usher at Staples Alliance Church. In Wadena he attended the Evangelical Church. Wally has always been a people person with a gift for remembering names and details of people’s lives and families. He made friends the world over, as he accompanied family in travels throughout much of the U.S. and a number of countries in Europe. He liked to tease and wrestle his cousins. He enjoyed music, parades, and social activities with friends. He was very proud to be a brother-in-law and of his role as an uncle. Wally is survived by his parents, Wendel and Lorraine Toedter of Staples; sisters, Laura (Paul) Burdo of Brattleboro, VT, and Andrea (Ron) Pond of Pine Ridge, SD; nieces Aimee and

Brooke Pond; and nephews Jay Pond, and Anthony, Jonathon, Daniel, and Elijah Burdo. Funeral services were held at 12:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2009 in the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Staples with Pastors Paul Johnson and Mike Picconatto officiating. Interment was in the Thomastown Covenant Cemetery in rural Staples. Pallbearers were Ronald Pond and Wally's cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to ARC, Special Olympics of Minnesota, or Joni and Friends.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ i only got to kknow wally a short 9 years but i felt like i knew him my whole life when ever i got to visit him he was alyways smileing or joking i just want to say im so proud to have known wally i will miss him but he is now with god thank you for your smiles wally

Daniel - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Even though I have moved far away I stay in touch with the Wadena community through my computer. I was saddened to read about Wally this evening. My heart goes out to you at this sad time.

Wally was a nice person. I met him when he was in his teens, I think. He was fortunate to have parents who provided him with so many opportunities. You have been true advocates for anyone who has daily challenges.

Warmest regards,
Mary Ellen Kollodge

Mary Ellen Kollodge - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Wally was such a kind-hearted person, always thinking about others. His friends were many and he will be deeply missed. It was an honor getting to know him through various activities in the community.

Candice Tellers - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ Wally will always have a special place in my heart. I will miss him greatly. What a special and kind man, we were all blessed to have known him. Love you Wally!!!

Beth

Beth Niemi - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Wally. What a neat person he was. I got to know him, when my sister Missy worked at Elmwood. He was always happy to see me and a ray of sunshine to the others. May God be with your family at this time and Wally enjoying his time in Heaven with Jesus.....

Christie Hennagir - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Wally was a good example of loving Jesus.

Dennis and Jeannine Gordon - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

K(

“ Wally...What a beautiful person! I have so many happy times/memories. Growing up in Staples with Wally as my neighbor I was fortunate enough to babysit him many times. Having dinner, reading stories, hugs and kisses before bed. In school he would always stop and say Hi or talk with me in the hallways. He was so positive, friendly and smiley. He will be missed! Heaven will be an even more beautiful place with Wally.

Kimberly Hokenson (Blom) - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ To the Toedter family.
John, I & our family had the privilege getting to know Wally when he came to our home for respite care in our Staples home. He will always hold a special place in our heart. May God's peace and comfort surround you all during this difficult time. He was loved by many including our family.
Thank you for sharing him.
Love, John and Mary

John and Mary Blom - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A(

“ I so sorry to hear about wally I will be having you in my prayers, and thinking about all of you

Alecia McCall (Blom) - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Just wanted you all to know what a pleasure it was to work with Wally John as I called him. He zest for life was amazing. He loved to go out to eat, mainly taco salad or pizza. Loved to practice golf in the back yard. Loved to study his Bible before church on Sundays and prayed frequently for his friends and loved ones. Toward the end, he'd say, "I'm sorry--I forgot!" Truly he was loved by many and will be missed a lot. Working the last few overnights, I took the opportunity to get a few extra hugs in whenever I had to transfer him and he was snuggling up against my cheek with his... what a sweet heart! And gave me that big smile that we will all miss so much. What a blessing this "old" man was (as he would get upset if you called him a young man!).

Donna Mayo-Fearing - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM