



## Walter Hugh Atkins

September 3, 1937 - March 7, 2020

Walter Hugh “Chief” Atkins born September 03, 1937, passed away Saturday, March 7, 2020 following a long illness.

He accepted Christ as his Savior as an adult and truly became a new creature in Christ. His first phone call was to his mom. As every mom knows, the most important thing is for her children to know the Lord.

Chief proudly served 33 years in the U.S. Navy. He was a Command Master Chief who completed 3-one year deployments to Vietnam and saw and experienced many combat missions.

He enjoyed a second career as a Major League Baseball scout. In 2018, he was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Alabama Baseball Coaches.

He loved Alabama football and always wanted his Tide to win. Always. Most importantly, the game of baseball and the Alabama Crimson Tide were the foundation of many special friendships that extended well beyond sports.

He loved nothing more than spending time with his girls, their husbands and his five grandchildren. The love of his life was his precious bride, Weezie. He truly loved her as Christ loved the Church.

Chief was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Atkins, his parents, Carl and Bell Atkins, his sisters, Edith Wilson, Carrie Ann Simpson and Emma Sue Willingham; and his brother Hubert Atkins. He is survived by his daughters, Karen (Grant) Cochrane, Kim (Wayne) Lawter, and Karla (Andrew) Byrd, by his grandchildren, Braxton Foster, Walter Blake Foster, Will Cochrane, Hannah Cochrane and Christopher Lawter and his sister Christine Leath and many nieces and nephews.

He was known by various names in his life. Growing up in rural Georgia, he was known as Hugh Boy. When he joined the Navy, his friends called him Chester and, upon retirement, he was known as Chief. In his later years, his friends called him Walt. But his favorite name by far was Granddaddy.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Big Oak Boys Ranch. Visitation will be held Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Guntersville Memorial Chapel from 10-12pm. Funeral Services will follow at 12:00pm with burial at Brookwood Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Brookwood Cemetery

Arab, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel  
1601 Henry Street  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-7931  
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

## Service

MAR 14. 12:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel  
1601 Henry Street  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
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# Tribute Wall

LH

“ Chester and I go back a long way. We were first stationed together on the USS Enterprise in the 60's off the coast of Viet Nam. When we found out that we were both die hard "Tide" fans, our friendship was casted and bonded. The next time our paths crossed was on USS Forrestal in the early 70's in the Mediterranean Sea. After that tour we remained in contact from that time own. He retired earlier from the Navy than I did and neither of us could believe that he landed the NJROTC job in the school of the town where I had completed school. We talked frequently by phone especially during Football season. Rejoicing in the Tides wins and crying over their losses. I lost contact with Chester when he moved south to be near his daughters. I washed my cell phone and couldn't retrieve my contacts and numbers. I think I called every retirement home in the B'ham area but I could never get his phone number again. I will miss him. My thoughts go out to his family. Chester was a Great Navy man. He was Called. He Served. He Mattered. Salute to you Master Chief and "Roll Tide".

Larry Hardin Lcdr. USN (Ret)

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**Larry Hardin** - March 14, 2020 at 04:59 AM

KL

Thank you so much for sharing this! Dad spoke often of you and would love to have seen you. We will treasure your kind words. They truly do mean so much.

Karen, Kim and Karla

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**Kim Lawter** - March 27, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



**Guntersville Memorial Chapel & Crematory** - March 12, 2020 at 06:57 PM



*We cherish our Saturdays in the South sitting next to the Adkins family. Our lives are richer for having known Walter. He was a kind and loving man and a tru gentleman. God's comfort to his family.*

**Jane Geloneck** - March 14, 2020 at 05:36 AM



“ *Betty Hanks lit a candle in memory of Walter Hugh Atkins*



**Betty Hanks** - March 11, 2020 at 11:07 AM



*Thank you so much.*

**Kim Lawter** - March 27, 2020 at 09:58 PM

JM

“*Hugh Boy was 5 years older than me Johnny Marshall, so he was quite ahead of me at Menlo High School. So sorry to hear of his passing, but the comfort to know where he is now must be the blessing the family remembers.*”

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**John & Betty (Willingham) Marshall** - March 10, 2020 at 10:33 PM

KL

*Thank you. We appreciate you sharing your thoughts and prayers with us.*

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**Kim Lawter** - March 27, 2020 at 09:59 PM