



Dr. Walter A. Buchan

September 2, 1942 - September 3, 2025

Exeter - Walter Alexander Buchan, known through college as Sandy, 83, passed away peacefully at home on September 3, 2025, surrounded by his wife, Jackie, and his daughters, Jill and Kate. A respected dentist in Nashua, New Hampshire for more than five decades, he was known professionally as Dr. Buchan, but to family and friends, simply as Walt.

Born on September 2, 1942, in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, Walt was the son of Marion Evelyn Buchan and Walter Faulds Buchan. He grew up in Aliquippa, PA, with his younger sister, Jaye, and graduated from Hopewell Memorial High School in 1960. A standout athlete, he played varsity football and track and field, setting records in shot put and earning the title of Most Valuable Player in football during his senior year.

In 1960, with a full athletic scholarship, Walt attended Penn State University, where he held a starting position on the football team throughout all four years, helping the team earn invitations to two consecutive Gator Bowls. He graduated in 1965 with a Pre-Med degree before pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming a dentist—a dream he had carried since the age of seven. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland in 1970 and later completed his post-doctorate degree in Prosthodontics at Tufts University. While in private practice in Nashua, New Hampshire, he pursued and earned a fellowship with the Academy of General Dentistry (FAGD), an

honor achieved by only a small percentage of dentists and a testament to his dedication to lifelong learning and excellence in his field. Walt practiced dentistry for 51 years, earning the trust and admiration of generations of patients and colleagues.

In 1968, Walt married Sharon Hickey Buchan, with whom he shared the joy of raising their two daughters. He was also a devoted member of the Congregational Church in Amherst, NH, where he participated actively in the life of the congregation.

In midlife, Walt discovered a passion for fly fishing that became a defining joy for decades. He traveled the world casting his line, tied intricate flies admired by many, and even fished with Ted Williams. Some of his most cherished memories were shared with lifelong friends, both on and off the fishing line. He also treasured the solitude of his camp in Canada, where he fished the Miramichi River and embraced the quiet peace of nature.

In 2004, Walt married Jacqueline Johnston, his wife of 21 years. Together, they shared countless memories, including recent months at their Florida home. Walt embraced new activities there, from shuffleboard to social gatherings and making new friends in the community. Jackie inspired him to take up golf in his later years, and they also enjoyed quiet time together, home-cooked meals, and going to the gym.

Walt lived with integrity, honor, and humility—values instilled in him by his father and evident in every part of his life. He enjoyed life's simple pleasures: crisp fall days, hummingbirds at the feeder, mussels at Ronaldo's Ristorante, a good book, and watching a ballgame at home. At age 80, stepping far outside his comfort zone, he taught himself to type—proving to himself and others that it is never too late to learn something new. Above all, Walt's greatest joy was the love he shared with his wife and his daughters.

Walt is survived by his loving wife, Jackie Buchan; his devoted daughters, Jill Buchan and Kate Buchan; and his adoring sister, Jaye Buchan Pagotelis. He is also survived by his nephew, Alex (Rebecca) Pagotelis, and their daughters Ellie, Abby, and Sophie; his niece, Dr. Marjean (Andy) Eastmond; and their son, Andrew. He is further survived by his stepsons, Todd (Colleen) Ellis and Chad (Danielle) Ellis, and six step-grandchildren: Noah, Elijah, Abbie, Hannah, Addi, and Adrien Ellis. He also leaves behind one brother-in-law, eleven sisters-in-law, and many step-nieces and step-nephews.

Family and friends are invited to attend a gathering and memorial service for Dr. Walter A. Buchan on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH. Gathering hours will be held from 9:00–11:00 a.m., followed by a service and tribute at 11:00 a.m. Interment will take place at Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Buena Vista, PA, with immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Walt's memory by choosing integrity, practicing kindness, and finding joy in life's simplest moments. Every day is a good fishing day where he is now, and his family invites you to carry that same spirit of peace, gratitude, and quiet strength into your own life.

Previous Events

Gathering

SEP **13.** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Service

SEP **13.** 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

NO

“ Driving through Nashua today I asked my Husband Ray how Walt must be enjoying his camp as we are doing the same. We ALL love to fish and tell our stories. No person has been missed more since his retirement. May you rest in peace our dear friend. We miss you see you on the other side. Catch the big one. Pixie and Ray Durand patients.

Noreen - December 22, 2025 at 03:20 PM

PA

“ Walt was our dentist for over 20 years. He and my husband were very similar. They both had the same build and kind personality. They talked a lot about fly fishing and family. Our daughters were in school together. He was much more than a dentist to us. He was a friend.

pam - September 22, 2025 at 04:59 AM

LN

“ We knew Walt through his practice, having been patients for over 25 years. He was always so kind asking about our kids, jobs, and life in general. He was a wonderful man! Our sincerest condolences go out to his family. David and Lyn Nelson

Lyn Nelson - September 13, 2025 at 06:51 PM

BM

“ It was a sad day for us upon hearing of Walt’s passing. We have many wonderful memories of the years he lived in Amherst: watching him tie his amazing fly fishing flies, riding in the sidecar of his motorcycle, Friday night pizzas that he made to share. The memories bring moments of joy now, which is what a good life will do for others. Our condolences to his entire family, those we know and those we do not. Walt’s was a life well lived and loved.
Beverly, Farokh, Katy, and Michael Morshed

Beverly Morshed - September 13, 2025 at 07:44 AM

JP

He was my brother, my only sibling, the best of the best, as an older brother he saved my life twice when I was little and I owe him so much and was best man at my wedding. Sharon and he gave me two fantastic nieces 🥰 I loved being your sister, “Sandy”. See you on the other side! Jaye

Jaye Buchan Pagotelis - October 04, 2025 at 12:34 PM

RM

I just heard of Walt’s passing yesterday May 6. Walt and I were doing our post graduate residencies at Tufts at the same time. He in prosthodontics, myself in endodontics. Walt was a former Nittany Lion and I am a former Orange man. We used have spirited conversations about sports concerning our former teams. I remember Walt as a class act, stand up guy, and a man I would gladly go into battle with. Glad to hear his patients and friends will sorely miss him. Rest in peace old friend.

Dr. Raymond Mehlman, Tufts PG87

Raymond Mehlman - May 07 at 08:57 AM

NO

“ I had a lot of great times and memories made with Walt from us both being popular athletes (Me in Cross Country and Walt with Football) having in common that we both did Track and Field in our high school career. There was also, Thanksgiving every other year, and a HUGE Sweet 16 Birthday Party with my Teammates and Family from Londonderry High School! However, this day in February 2024 stands out to me! Memere and Walt enjoyed seeing where I lived and heard stories of where I worked at Disney! We had a great time catching up at Ford's Garage on this day in Kissimmee, Florida 😊 It was a fun time seeing how happy me, Memere, and Walt were when we saw each other and how the Florida Life was good and how I became a better person at Disney with Memere and Walt witnessing that from this particular day in 2024. Rest in Sweet Peace Walt Until We Meet Again ❤️

Noah - September 12, 2025 at 05:38 PM

NE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Noah Ellis - September 12, 2025 at 05:14 PM

NE

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Noah Ellis - September 12, 2025 at 05:32 PM

LR

“ *A wonderful boss for 42 years. I miss you. Linda Ratoff*

Linda Ratoff - September 12, 2025 at 03:40 PM

PA

Linda he really was. He loved you. Pam Harwood

pam - September 22, 2025 at 05:02 AM

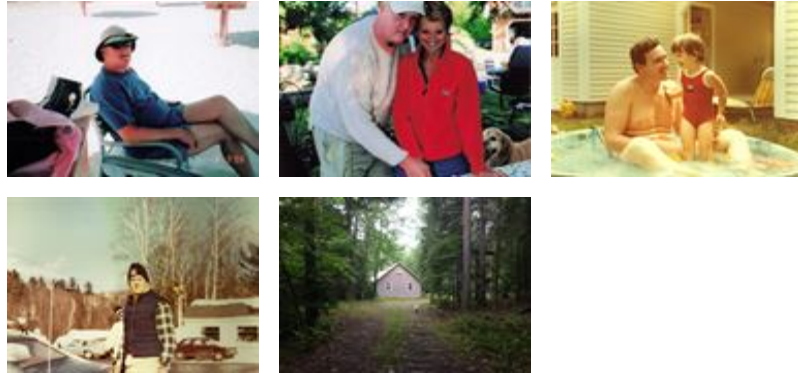


“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.*

September 12, 2025 at 01:26 PM



“ 149 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - September 12, 2025 at 10:14 AM

LS

“ Love, Tommy Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.

Love, Tommy Smith - September 12, 2025 at 10:06 AM

LS

“ Love, Tommy Smith purchased the *Country Basket Blooms* for the family of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.



Love, Tommy Smith - September 12, 2025 at 10:06 AM

KA

“ Dr. Buchan was my only dentist from when I was 6 until 50 years old. When I got married my husband also became one of his patients for many years until Walt’s retirement . We always loved seeing Walt at our appointments. He was such a friendly, calming and nice man. We have new dentists now but no one will ever be like Walt. We have missed him greatly over the last years. My husband and I send our deepest condolences and our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.
Ray and Karen Leedberg

karen - September 12, 2025 at 07:40 AM

CC

“ We always had good conversations with Walt in Aruba. Jackie & family you are in our thoughts & prayers in this time of grieving.
Chip & Kathy

Chip Chapin - September 11, 2025 at 04:54 PM

JH

“ To Jackie and Family,
We are so sorry for your loss.
Sending our Love and Prayers.
With our Deepest Sympathies,
Joanne and Mike Haddad 🙏

Joanne and Mike Haddad - September 10, 2025 at 10:22 PM

LT

“ Lori and Terry purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.



Lori and Terry - September 10, 2025 at 08:05 PM



“ We Loved you deeply Walt! So Very Grateful for the 21 years of Knowing you !!
We had so many laughs and so much love ! Isn't that what its all about !!
So grateful to have you in our Lives ! Our deepest Sympathies to Jackie ,Kate and Jill
May he now rest in eternal peace !
Till we meet again !!

Dickie Labrie - September 10, 2025 at 02:55 PM

MB

“ We will always remember our three day Thanksgiving celebrations we had for so many years. Turkey dinner on Thursday, left overs on Friday, and Joe's pizza on Saturday. In our hearts forever. Joe and Michelle ❤️

michelle bianchi - September 10, 2025 at 10:39 AM

JG

“ Joe, Michelle & Greg purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.



Joe, Michelle & Greg - September 10, 2025 at 10:04 AM

JG

“ Joe, Michelle & Greg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.

Joe, Michelle & Greg - September 10, 2025 at 10:04 AM

LI

“ Sending our prayers to Jackie and Walt's girls. We have SOOO Many memories with Walt, between his homes, vacations and family gatherings. We will be missing you! Until we meet again! Love Bob and Lilly.

Lilly - September 10, 2025 at 09:35 AM

CL

“ Walter was a quiet, gentle soul! He didn't have to say anything but you always knew he was there. He always showed up! The kids and I will never forget the last dinner we had with you, when it was just us and what you said to the three of us in the kitchen. You will be missed just as much. We will be seeing you ❤️. Chrissy, Jack and Alana



Chrissy Labrie - September 10, 2025 at 08:50 AM

GJ

“ Our condolences go out to all those who mourn the passing of Walter. He was very special to all of us and he will be missed. Gloria & Bob Jenkins

Gloria Jenkins - September 09, 2025 at 08:43 PM

MC

“ Our deepest condolences to Jill and Kate. We have some precious memories of past times with your family and ours. Love you. Hugs. Mary Lee, Matt, Ryan Carmody

Mary Lee Carmody - September 09, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.

September 09, 2025 at 12:52 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Walter A. Buchan.



September 09, 2025 at 12:52 PM