

Theodore Joseph (Ted) Walker

1954 – 2022

Ted Walker, a respected colleague and dear friend to many REHS, passed away on January 19, 2022. Ted grew up and attended Catholic K-12 schools in Torrance, CA, and graduated from Chico State University with a degree in Environmental Health. He worked for Solano County for a few years but spent most of his career with Sonoma County Environmental Health and Permits and Resource Management, working primarily in the well and septic section.

Ted Walker was a leader in on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (septic). Ted was a mainstay on the California Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Symposiums programs for years. He brought renowned speakers from across the country to speak on what was then, new technology. The Wisconsin Mound system, pre-treatment systems, and chambers, are now used routinely in on-site wastewater systems. Ted took pride in educating new, up and coming Environmental Health Specialists and was always willing to help other jurisdictions with their questions.

Ted worked tirelessly for several years, to bring a community wastewater system to the small town of Monte Rio along the Russian River. It was the first of its kind and was so disappointed when the project did not come to fruition. He retired from the Sonoma County in 2006, and continued consulting until his death. He continued to serve the public by participating in many advisory committees, advocating for protection of public health and the environment, while balancing the needs of homeowners.

Ted contended with health challenges, including Type 1 diabetes. Yet he chose to live life to the fullest and traveled to much of the world and the U.S. He and his wife, Leah visited Cabo annually where he fished, watched whales, and sat in the sun.

Ted Walker, a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend to all he met, died while on vacation in Cabo San Lucas. Ted is survived by his wife of 35 years, Leah Godsey Walker, his son Matthew, and daughter-in-law Maggie.

Ted made friends everywhere, often knew someone's story within minutes, and touched many people's lives. Ted was a friend, a trusted mentor, a role model, an inspiration, and a father figure to anyone who would allow it. Ted's family and friends knew they could always depend on him to offer love, laughter, support, and advice of all kinds (expert and not-so-expert). He was always ready to lend an ear or talk your ear off with a bottle of good wine or beer and a smile on his face.

A memorial to celebrate Ted Walker's life will be held on:

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 1- 3:30 PM

Sebastopol Community Center, 350 Morris Street, Sebastopol

In order to get an estimate of attendance, please RSVP to Leah Walker at Lgodseyw@comcast.net.

Donations in Ted's memory may be made to the West Sonoma County High School music program <http://www.analybandwagon.org>