



Walter Conlee Caruthers was born on the family farm on April 18, 1945, in Waverly, Illinois. It was there that he discovered his life's passion – farming. It was also there that he learned the hard work, determination, and dedication needed to make the family farm be successful. In addition to working long hours on the farm, he also found time to serve others in many different roles.

Walt was a lifetime member of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau. He served on the nominating committee for the Rural Electric Association (REA). He was an associate member of the Sangamon County Soil and Water Board. Walt was also named the Sangamon County Soil and Water Conservation District Cooperator of the Year for the conservation projects he completed on the farm. He was a lifetime member of the Talkington 4-H Club. Walt also served on the Board of Trustees for the Talkington Township and as a school board member for the Waverly Community Unit School District #6. He was also a lifetime member of

the Waverly First United Methodist Church, where he served on the Pastor Parish Relationship Committee as chairman.

Walt was most instrumental in running Caruthers Farms, which will be recognized as a sesquicentennial farm by the Department of Agriculture in 2022. It was there that he enjoyed tending to the herds and flocks of many animals and rows of crops.

Walt married Linda Shekelton in 1969 and had three children Carrie (Gary) Howell, Jill (Mike) Keeton and Shari (Todd) Edwards and 7 grandchildren. He led an active lifestyle until his death on August 10, 2020, where faith, family and farming were the center of it all. Despite his physical disability, Walt never once complained or made excuses as to why something could not be done. He succeeded at being successful in life, in farming, in raising a family, and in setting a good example of what a good man and a good farmer are!

**2022 Recipient
Walt Caruthers
Waverly, Illinois**