Walter Ray Hinds Jr. passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 27th 2014 at Lake Winona Manor. Walter was born on March 3rd, 1921 to Walter and Thelma Hinds in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

Walter enlisted in the Army Air Corp in the spring of 1943. He received a year and a half of training as a navigator on a B24 Liberator. After training, Walter was deployed to England where he flew 12 missions before being shot down and captured outside of Frankfurt, Germany on February 9th 1945. He was then taken prisoner and interned for the remainder of the war until liberated by General Patton.

Walter married the love of his life, Dorothy Edwards on September 27th 1952, in New York City. Walter and Dorothy have enjoyed a wonderful marriage for 62 years.

Walter attended Capitol University, Ohio as well as Julliard School in New York City. Walter received a doctorate in music from the University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana.

Walter accepted a teaching position in the music department at Winona State University in 1964. He taught piano and voice for 25 years until his retirement in 1989. Walter's great passion in life was music and teaching others, providing countless lessons to the residents of Winona over the years. He was well known for his rich baritone voice, which could be enjoyed every Sunday in the church choir. Walter was also an avid gardener, serving as president of the Winona Gardening Association and earning the title of Master Gardener.

Walter was preceded in death by his sister Patty and his parents. Surviving Walter are his wife Dorothy, his sons Chip (Joan) of Winona and Dave (Sook) of Chicago; daughters Lee (Dave) of Spring Grove, Minnesota and Dede (Dave Sobeck) of Winona; grandchildren Erik, John, Christina, Rachel, Cassi, Annie, Esther, Marc and John and great-grandchildren Gabrielle, Maya, Jakob, Jorge and Meadow.

Visitation will take place at Wesley United Methodist Church to begin at 9:30 am with service to follow at 11:00 on Saturday August 30, 2014. Luncheon will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the Music Dept at Winona State University or Wesley United Methodist Church. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Winona, MN and Fountain City, WI.