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- [Facilities](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Scheduled Services](#)
- [Services We Offer](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

MID-MICHIGAN'S FINEST FUNERAL HOME



- 12: [Nancy E. Milne](#)

[William Edward Tucker](#)



July 1, 1926 – April 14, 2017

William E. "Bill" Tucker of Lansing passed away April 14, 2017, after suffering a stroke. The son of British immigrants, he was born July 1, 1926, in Detroit, Michigan. Bill earned the rank of Eagle Scout while a student at Redford High School.

He joined Junior ROTC at age 15 after hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Two years later, he chose to leave his senior year at high school in order to join the United States Navy. In August 1944, he was assigned to a new destroyer, USS Henry A. Wiley, where he served as a range-finder on the gun crew when the ship went into action first at Iwo Jima and subsequently at Okinawa. The Wiley and its entire crew were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance in action against an enemy of the United States, one of only 26 destroyers so honored during the war.

Back home in Detroit, Bill began serving a formal apprenticeship in carpentry. He earned his journeyman's certificate in 1952 shortly before being recalled by the Navy to serve in the Korean War. Returning once again to civilian life, he formed his own carpentry business and began contracting the framing and finishing of single-family tract houses. His work soon expanded to the Lansing area where he built upwards of 20,000 homes in subdivisions developed by Francis N. Fine.

Tucker, Inc. expanded into building multi-family housing projects throughout the Lower Peninsula. In 1963, Bill was awarded honorary membership in the lumber and building materials fraternity, Sigma Lambda Chi. Governor George Romney appointed Bill to the newly-created state licensing board that established rules for the bonding and licensing of builders. On November 10, 1966, Tucker, Inc. was granted Residential Builder license number 00002.

Boating was Bill's passion from 1968 to 2010. He shared his love of the sea with his wife and First Mate, Jewel, and together they enjoyed forty years of motor yacht cruising, from California through the Panama Canal; from the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi River, around the Bahamas, up the Intracoastal Waterway and through the Welland Canal back to the Great Lakes. Along the way, Bill enjoyed videotaping his travels and editing the footage into enjoyable films for his family and friends.

Bill retired from business at age 58. After selling the last of their custom-designed boats, Bill and Jewel continued their love affair with the sea by embarking on commercial cruise ships which eventually took them to all seven continents.

From humble beginnings as a child of the Great Depression to a successful businessman who visited ports of call around the world, Bill lived the epitome of the American Dream. He couldn't have done it without the loyalty and enduring love and support of the former Jewel Amelia Buchbinder, his wife of more than 68 years. They raised three daughters and enjoyed many sea-going and land-based adventures with their six grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.


He is survived by Jewel and his daughters Beverly (David) Lang of Perry, Michigan; Barbara Tucker of Atlanta, Georgia; and Janet (Peter) Hughes of Tallahassee, Florida; grandchildren Amy Lang Sjoberg of Dewitt, Ian (Lauren Rutledge) Lang of Lafayette, Colorado; William Baggerman and Daniel Baggerman of Atlanta, Georgia; Emily Hughes of Nashville, Tennessee; and Anna Hughes of Tallahassee, Florida. Also surviving are great-granddaughters Bailey and Abby Sjoberg and Charlotte Lang as well as numerous cousins in Michigan, Arizona, California, England, and Australia.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel. Interment will follow in Deepdale Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial Walk of Honor, PO Box 237, Royal Oak, Michigan 48068, www.MichiganWW2memorial.org. An online guestbook may be signed or condolences sent to Bill's family at www.EstesLeadley.com


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12 Messages to "William Edward Tucker"

1  *Randy and Sue Malone* Says:
[April 15th, 2017 at 10:29 pm](#)


We will miss Bill very much, he was such a kind man. We will never forget our trip on the Love Affair.

2  *Kimberly Savage* Says:
[April 16th, 2017 at 1:16 am](#)


I remember the times my family spent with Bev and Dave and their family as we celebrated family events together. Bill and my dad could always be found sitting next to each other, regaling stories about their respective experiences during WWII, my dad having served in the European theater and Bill in the Pacific theater. Bill always had such wonderful and interesting stories to tell. And he always brought a smile to my dad's face. My heartfelt condolences to Jewel and all of his family. He was a man who will not be forgotten.

3  *Peter and Win Hunt* Says:
[April 16th, 2017 at 3:40 pm](#)

Three years ago we were in America and were able to spend time with cousin Bill and family. This turned out to be such a very special time and we have many fond memories spent together. It was a privilege to have known Bill – he was a great family man, very caring and will be sadly missed. The world will be a poorer place without him. R.I.P. Bill.

4  *Paul Bjarnason, Jr* Says:
[April 16th, 2017 at 9:51 pm](#)

I will miss Bill. My dad was skipper of the WWII destroyer (USS Henry A Wiley) Bill Tucker served on. I encountered Bill and Jewel many times at the crew reunions and maintained contact with him after my dad passed away almost 15 years ago, the last time being about one month ago. Bill had a sharp mind, even in our conversation of last month. I would say Bill had a life well lived and he will be missed.

5  *Steve and Alison Lang* Says:
[April 17th, 2017 at 9:35 am](#)

What a wonderful life! We can all draw inspiration from Mr. Tucker's self reliance, sacrifice, adventurous nature and commitment to family. He is a iconic member of the (soon to be lost) Greatest Generation and there is so much we can learn about the way he lived his life. Our hearts go out to Mrs. Tucker and his family.

6  *Robert Roscioli* Says:
[April 17th, 2017 at 9:54 am](#)

This is a sad day for my family and me who have known Bill for almost forty-five years.

My deepest condolences to your family.

Bob and Sharon Roscioli and family

7

*Ceri, Simon, Georgia and Cameron Thomson Says:*[April 17th, 2017 at 4:04 pm](#)

We loved our special family time at Mackinac Island with Uncle Bill, Aunt Jewel and our American cousins back in 2014. We feel so blessed to have such lovely memories of cycling around the island, dancing in the parlour and sitting on the porch together. Sending our love and prayers to you all.

8

*Andrea Dixon Says:*[April 17th, 2017 at 7:47 pm](#)

To hear that “Uncle Bill” is gone just cannot be true,
I know he is still with us.
He lives on in me and you.

His sea faring ways, that welcoming smile, a patriot’s yarn to spin, he’ll never be forgotten and even those who never knew him will hear of him for sure. The Tucker name a proud one, oh Lord he wore it well and speaking of his family, he took the time to tell. Embracing all the ancients and keeping their lore strong, was one of the BEST reasons he lived on for oh so long. A young man lived inside him, a staunch but gentle soul, with his loving Jewell beside him there was nothing they longed to do, they did it all and then some and oft went back for more. Many captains met him, and many crew men too but those who loved him, “knew” him, and hold him close at heart.

His body may be still now but he lives on its true...
Each time we pass his stories on he lives on in me and you.

Know that I am there with you all as you say your final goodbyes. A new star in the heavens and another spirit sits with me at each sunset.

Andrea Dixon, eldest daughter of Shirley (Tucker-Hamel) Dixon

9

*Meredith Carl Miller Says:*[April 18th, 2017 at 8:10 am](#)

My sincere condolences to Mrs. Tucker, Bev and Dave and Family at this sad and difficult time. I have good memories of growing up in our neighborhood with Bev. Your father’s story is truly one from our greatest generation and one can see that he and Mrs. Tucker brought your family up with dignity and class.

10

*David, Sally, Andrew and Matthew Says:*[April 18th, 2017 at 1:34 pm](#)

So sad to hear of the passing of Uncle Bill. He was and will always be an inspiration to us on how to live life to the full and to always keep contact with your family no matter how far away you are! Love to you all, our thoughts and prayers are with you. David, Sally, Andrew & Matthew xxxx

11

*Kathryn Spurlock (Nealey) Says:*[April 18th, 2017 at 8:38 pm](#)

I am so sorry that I was not able to be there today to say a final good bye to Uncle Bill. His strength and leadership were respected by our family as well as the community he shared his service, love and talents with. We have such fond memories with Uncle Bill on the boat, at Mackinaw Island, and family gatherings. My heart goes out to Aunt Jewel, Bev, Barb, Janet, and their families at this time. I know you have many happy memories and good times to comfort you.

12

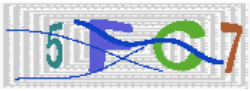
*Starr Lander Says:*[April 19th, 2017 at 5:00 pm](#)

My deepest sympathy to all the family and friends. He was such a wonderful man and my father, Truman Lander, truly enjoyed his company and WWII stories.

Please Sign the Guestbook.

 Name





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