



Allen Tolbert

April 1, 1927 - May 21, 2021

Allen Roy “Big Al” Tolbert passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, May 21, 2021, with family by his side. Born near Lenoir, NC on April 1, 1927 to the late Edgar Henry and Claudia Williams Tolbert, Allen attended Oak Hill School where he won numerous debating contests. He joined the United States Marine Corps immediately upon graduation, and was stationed at Camp Pendleton California at the end of WWII. He continued his military service in the Marine Reserves until 1964.

Upon Allen’s Honorable Discharge from the Marines, he attended Clevenger Business School in Lenoir, where he pursued his loved for accounting and then opened his own bookkeeping service for small businesses. The lure of the big city pulled him, and he moved to Charlotte in 1952. This led him to employment with Terrell Machine Company on South Blvd, where he served in increasing roles of responsibility for 40 years until his retirement in 1992.

A life-changing event took place in Allen’s life on a Saturday in 1953, when his brother Paul invited him to have lunch with his wife’s family in Blowing Rock the next day. Allen hesitated as he wanted to rest on Sunday, but Paul’s wife Mary pulled out a picture of her beautiful sister Willa, and Allen changed his mind immediately. This began a love affair which resulted in Holy Matrimony on December 22, 1954, and to the end he always called Willa “my brown-eyed beauty”. He kept that first picture he saw of her in his wallet for the entire 66 years of their marriage.

Allen was a faithful member of University Hills Baptist Church (formerly Enderly Park Baptist) where he served in numerous leadership roles, including teaching Sunday School, serving as a Deacon, and as Church Treasurer.

A Godly husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle, Allen loved nothing more than spending time with family and friends, usually over a good meal (always ice cream for dessert!). He also enjoyed spending Saturdays at the farm where he grew up, “The Old Place,” riding his tractor moving dirt around and sharing stories with his brothers, cousins,

and nephews.

Allen is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Willa. He is also survived by his daughter Pam Hall (husband Dana) of Harrisburg, his son Gary (wife Teri) of Raleigh, his grandson Brooks (wife Anna) of Winter Garden FL, and a special nephew Kevin Tolbert (wife Cathy) of Hickory. He is also survived by too many nieces and nephews to name, all of whom he loved with all his heart.

In addition to his parents, Allen was predeceased by brothers Leonard, Maynard, Gene, Paul, sister Lois Ward, and special cousin Ernest.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, May 25, at University Hills Baptist Church, 1500 Suther Road, Charlotte. Visitation will begin at noon with the Celebration to follow at 1:00, officiated by Rev. Bo Riley and Dr. Mike Toney. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to University Hills Baptist Church (Foreign Missions Fund), 1500 Suther Road, Charlotte NC, 28213 or to Hospice and Palliative Care Lake Norman, 705 Griffith St. Suite 203, Davidson, NC 28036.

Arrangements are in the care of James Funeral Home of Huntersville. Online condolences can be shared jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com.

Cemetery

Forest Lawn West

4601 Freedom Dr
Charlotte, NC, 28208

Events

MAY **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

25

University Hills Baptist Church
1500 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC, US, 28213

MAY **Funeral Service** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

25

University Hills Baptist Church
1500 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC, US, 28213

Comments



“ My sincere condolences to the Tolbert & Coffey family, Allen was a wonderful man and we will miss him and his smile at our reunions knowing he is now with Jesus gives us all hope that one day we will be reunited with Allen again, may God give you all grace to get through this time of grief is my prayer.!!!



Richard Hartley - May 25, 2021 at 08:12 AM



“ Love, Ken, Andrew & Bethany purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Allen Tolbert.



Love, Ken, Andrew & Bethany - May 24, 2021 at 12:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Allen Tolbert.



May 24, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Allen Tolbert.



May 23, 2021 at 10:07 PM



“ As I write this note, I'd really like to talk with my mom and dad to reminisce about the fun and laughs we all had with Mr. Tolbert....I never could call other parents by their first names! His picture to the left says it all and exactly the face I remember. Thanks to him and Mrs. Tolbert for being such good buddies to Jo and Paul. Even the trips to Stoney's for strawberry pie were a blast for a teenager like me tagging along with the parents after the church softball games. Loved his quiet, sneak-in-a-funny-comment demeanor that kept everyone chuckling. Hope my generation can carry on the legacy of fun and friends that mean so much in life. Much love to the Tolberts!
Debbie Williams Beeker

Debbie Beeker - May 23, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ Shoneys, of course.

Debbie Beeker - May 23, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ Willa, Pam, Dana and all the Tolbert family. We are so very sad about Allen's passing. We can't think of Allen without thinking about how kind he was to Nathan, always taking time to talk to him, hold his hand, and pick on him - which Nathan thought was hilarious.
We imagine that Nathan helped greet Allen as he entered into Heaven's gate. Our prayers are with you as you grieve the loss of such a very special man.

Ron and Carol Cranford

Carol Cranford - May 23, 2021 at 03:09 PM



“ Shirley and Cindy Saunders are deeply saddened by this loss. Allen was such a wonderful man and we are so blessed to have shared much of his life with him and his family. Mom (Shirley) still describes Allen as the best boss man she ever worked for.

Our thoughts and prayers with Willa, Gary and Pam and our Tolbert family!

Shirley Saunders
Jude and Cynthia (Saunders) Arcuri

Cynthia S Arcuri - May 23, 2021 at 01:39 PM



“ Allen loved his family. The Tolbert family is quite extensive and paired along with the Coffey family - HUGE! His love extended far beyond his immediate family to include his church family and friends he met along the way.

My 1st encounter with the Tolbert family was in December of 1980. Having come from a very small family, you'd think meeting the Tolberts would be intimidating-but far from it! From that day forward I was welcomed and have always felt comfortable among them.

Allen loved his heritage and thoroughly enjoyed sharing stories about his life growing up on the Tolbert farm-fondly called The Old Place.. Through the years, Allen along with Leonard, Paul, cousin Earnest, Kevin, and many others, kept up the "Old Place." Their labors of love have made it available for generations of Tolberts to gather and reconnect. The Tolbert reunions are a special time for everyone who has the opportunity to attend. Even for those who weren't family, Allen made sure all were welcome!

Allen always showed care and concern for others. He never seemed to meet a stranger. His kind, caring nature was something that made people feel accepted and well, simply put, just good! He was one of the most genuine people I've ever had the privilege to have known. Along with so many, I am glad I got to know , love, and cherish Kevin's special uncle Allen for all these years!

He will be missed so much here on Earth but I can only imagine how joyful it must be for Allen and all his siblings to be reunited once again in Heaven.

With love and appreciation,
Cathy

Cathy Tolbert - May 23, 2021 at 01:07 PM



“ We lovingly thought of him as Uncle Al all our lives. I never remember him without a smiling welcome and big hug! You will be missed, but I know Heaven's choir is rejoicing to have you join them! Your family has always made me feel like I am part of the family, too! Love you all!!

Libby Bagwell - May 22, 2021 at 04:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Allen Tolbert.



May 22, 2021 at 12:56 PM



“ As my Uncle Allen's oldest niece, I was fortunate to receive lots of loving attention from him my entire life. From spending special time with him in my childhood to having him pick me up from the airport each time I flew in from Florida as an adult, my Uncle Allen was always my mentor and my confidante. He had always watched out for his sister, my mother Lois, through the years also. With marvelous story telling, singing , music and discussions, my Uncle Allen was always able to connect and make a difference to anyone he met. And though I'm aware the Lord knew it was time for Uncle Allen to join his family and friends for a wonderful reunion in Heaven, I greatly grieve the passing of this wonderful man.

Gail Wright - May 22, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ Allen is now at perfect peace....what a blessing for a child of God. My love and prayers are with his family.

Margaret Stewart

Margaret Stewart - May 24, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ My deepest sympathies go out to Aunt Willa, Pam and Dana, Gary and Terri, Kevin and all the Tolbert family. After Sharon's Dad passed away, Allen became a second father to her. They are now reunited in Heaven with the rest of their family. Over the years, we have greatly enjoyed our visits with Allen, Willa and their family, along with the outings at "The Old Place". As others have noted, Allen never met a stranger, and he loved to tell his stories. He will be greatly missed!

Ken Flinchum

Ken Flinchum - May 24, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ We are saddened to learn of Allen's passing. In recent years he was a bridge to our becoming reacquainted with the Tolbert family and a beautiful example of what it was to be a Tolbert.

Always a gentleman and a "gentle-man", a modest, thoughtful and loving man, he will be greatly missed.

We wish to extend our prayers to Willa, Gary, Pam and all the Tolbert family who mourn Allen's passing.

In lieu of flowers, a contribution will be sent to Hospice.

Cecile Tolbert Bordlemay and the Went Family (Colleen, Greg, Zachary, Sidney, and Robert)

Cecile Bordlemay - May 25, 2021 at 02:47 PM