



William D. Rucker

June 24, 2018

William D. Rucker, Jr. a native of Nashville, TN entered into eternal rest on Sunday June 24, 2018. He was the eldest of 3 children of William D. Rucker, Sr. and Rosa E. McIntosh Rucker. Bill grew up in Buffalo, NY and following his high school graduation he was drafted by the U.S. Navy during WWII and received his boot training at Great Lakes, Illinois. This was followed by a brief training period at Camp Shoemaker in Pleasanton, CA. Later he was assigned to a post in New Guinea located in the Asiatic Pacific for several months. This assignment was followed by a stint in the Philippines where he remained until December 1945. His final duty was spent on the USS Muliphen. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in May 1946. Following military duty he enrolled at Dillard University in September 1946, where he received his bachelor's degree in May 1950. Bill also attended several colleges following graduation from Dillard including Springfield, George Williams and others. Sylvania Television in Buffalo, NY hired Bill soon after where he remained until the summer of 1951.

He married Marguerite H. Hartman June 9, 1951 in Chicago, IL. Soon after getting married he joined his wife in Cleveland, OH, where she was in graduate school. While there he was employed by the U.S. Navy. In the summer of 1952, Bill and Marguerite moved to New Orleans where she joined the faculty at Dillard University and he was hired by the YMCA as the Boy's Work Director. The YMCA recommended Bill for a job as Executive Director at the YMCA in Jackson, MS. which he accepted in 1958 and remained until

1962.

At this time he was promoted to Executive Director at the Dryades St. YMCA where he remained until 1969 and then he became head of the newly founded Community Service Center. Bill retired from there in 1991.

After a brief retirement, he established an Empowerment Program for unwed mothers at the New Orleans Talent Search.

Bill and Marguerite are the parents of Janet E. Rucker and Carol Rucker Murphy, MD (Joseph) and the grandfather of Elizabeth M. Murphy and William H. Murphy. He is survived by his sister Mamie Rucker Bell of Buffalo, NY (Bill) and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Hi affiliations past and present include: The New Orleans Jazz Fest and Foundation Board, the Criminal Justice Commission of the Louisiana Interchurch Council, WYES Board, the Children's Bureau, VIA Board, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and many more.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral service at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1222 N. Dorgenois St. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM. Interment: St. George Cemetery, Baton Rouge, LA. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to share online condolences.

Cemetery Details

St. George Cemetery

Baton Rouge, LA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke Episcopal Church
1222 N. Dorgenois St.
New Orleans, LA 70119

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I received a letter from Bill dated April 8, 2018. He informed me that he had a pacemaker implanted about four months before. I responded a few weeks ago to see how he was doing, and was concerned as he always responded right away. Today I checked on line and discovered his obituary. W.D. as I always referred to him, and I were raised up together across the street from one another in Nashville, Tn. We were born in the same month and year, drafted into the Navy in WWII, and served in the same outfit until I left the Philippines in November of 1945, all of the years since we have kept in touch by mail. He is the last connection I have from the old neighborhood on 14th Ave, N., in Nashville. I will miss him. He was a great individual, and my friend.

To the family of W.D., you have my sincere prayers and deepest sympathy. May he R.I.P.

John T. James - August 07, 2018 at 09:55 PM

CH

“ My brother Bill, thanks for caring about the people that no one care about. I first meet Mr. Rucker when I was in Angola, then later when I was released, we were at meetings together at the (LIC), that's full circle. Thanks my friend and brother, rest in peace.

Checo Yancy

checo_yancy@yahoo.com - July 01, 2018 at 10:33 PM

BI

“ As a young man, I was introduced to civic work by serving on the board of the Community Service Center under Bill's tutelage. I was always appreciative of his dedication and leadership.

Brooke Duncan III

Brooke Duncan III - July 01, 2018 at 05:01 PM



Elizabeth
Murphy

*Thank you for sharing this. It means a lot to me and my family.
- Elizabeth Murphy (his granddaughter)*

Elizabeth Murphy - December 19, 2018 at 02:22 AM

DW

“ We pray that God's Grace and Mercy will strengthen you, The Rucker Family, during this time of sadness.
We will always treasure the Jazz Festival and concert events, Dan and I shared with Mr. Rucker and his wife. God Bless.
Dan and Ethel Williams

Dan and Ethel Williams - June 30, 2018 at 01:51 PM

RW

“ I will always remember Mr. Rucker. When my sister and I were Tottlers at the Jazz Fest, he was always nice to us. Our prayers and thoughts are with the William Rucker family.
From Rashidah and Shahidah Williams

Rashidah D. Williams - June 30, 2018 at 01:34 PM

TY

“ This is Terri Saunders Young. So sorry for your loss. Growing up with the Saint Luke family we shared many memories. Janet and Carol of course my dad he passed in August 2011, was one of your dad's best friends. Sending prayers and love to you guys here in Stone Mountain, Georgia. My birthday was June 24th.

Terri S. Young - June 29, 2018 at 02:34 AM

MC

“ A gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman...so very kind to everyone who crossed his path. Will be sadly missed.
Mary (Mickey) Caplinger

mary L caplinger - June 28, 2018 at 10:41 PM

DJ

“ Memories are the legacy of love. I will always remember the Ruckers loving thoughts. They both shared such kindness to all they came in contact with. My condolences to all of you at this time. Delores Jenkins, Baton Rouge, LA.



DeLores Jenkins - June 28, 2018 at 09:36 PM

LA

“ Love, Paul & Lori and Bridget & Al purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William D. Rucker.



Love, Paul & Lori and Bridget & Al - June 28, 2018 at 06:16 PM