



Daniel Stephen Tucker

June 9, 1947 - November 2, 2017

I often teased my husband, Daniel S. Tucker, that the S stood for stubborn. He would laughingly reply that he was just "determined." I'm Carolyn Puckett Tucker, his wife of 51 years, and looking back, I now agree.

He was born June 9, 1947 in Altavista. His parents were Fred and Vera Tucker of Lynch Station.

Dan was a short, scrawny kid who had an older brother, Fred Jr., and a younger sister, Patricia. His grandparents in Evington were W.P. and Emma Tucker. Charles and Bonnie Eggers were his grandparents in Forest. He loved that he had lots of cousins to play with when he was young.

One of Dan's favorite things to do was visit W.P. At 15, Dan picked up his grandpa's habit of smoking. Throughout his life, Dan was determined to continue smoking and no one could convince him to quit. He'd say, "W.P. lived to be 100 and only quit because he went to a nursing home when he was in his late 90's." He'd joke that he wanted to be buried with a carton of Pall Malls. Being cremated would be even better because no lighter was needed.

Smoking never stunted Dan's growth. He played football at Altavista High School and I met him in 1964. Our first date took place the week before we went to the prom together. We went to see a movie (Under the Yum Yum Tree) and then talked for three hours at Dude's Drive-In. We talked about our life's goals and many of those dreams came true. I became an elementary school teacher in Campbell County and Dan went into the Army and later became a police officer. I remember how comfortable we were talking with each other. We never dated anyone else and were married at Lynch Station Baptist Church on June 26, 1966.

It took me the "usual" time to graduate from Lynchburg College but Dan took a less direct route that required 14 years to get his B.A. degree. He studied business administration, personnel management, and public service. He took classes at Bluefield College,

University of Virginia, University of Maryland, Central Virginia Community College, FBI National Academy, and finally graduated from Lynchburg College in 1979. His education was another example of his hard work and determination despite life's detours.

A major turning point was June 26, 1967 on our first wedding anniversary. Dan had enlisted in the Army and stepped onto a bus headed to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Vietnam War was in full fury and he wanted to do the right thing. He was deployed to the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) on the border between North and South Korea. Dan learned the value of freedom through his experiences as a Military Police officer for 13 months. He was determined to protect others even if it meant giving his own life.

I joined him at Fort Ritchie, Maryland when he returned to the States in 1969. Our daughter, Sherry Lynn, joined our family that snowy December. A stray cat was our first family pet. Dan was determined to always have cats. "The more, the merrier."

Dan worked with personnel records at Fort Ritchie. His supervisors recognized Dan's devotion to duty, initiative, and leadership and the fort awarded him with "Soldier of the Month." Dan was determined to do what he thought was right and best for any situation.

We returned to Virginia and Dan wanted to continue as a public servant. He loved God and Country. He wanted to make life better in our area. In his career, he worked for Campbell County Sheriff's Department, Virginia Department of Corrections, and Hurt Police Department. He ran for Sheriff twice which shows his determination and dedication to local law enforcement.

As a hobby, Dan learned to restore old license plates to help his father Fred sell them to collectors and owners of classic and antique motor vehicles. Fred was known as "Tag Man Tucker" and would travel with his wife Vera to car shows, fairs, and flea markets. Dan later became "Tag Man Two" and we would set up tables outside on weekends at Happy's Flea Market in Roanoke.

Even if he didn't sell any license plates that day, he enjoyed meeting a variety of people. He loved to talk with others who had different lives and opposing viewpoints. Dan respected those who were informed and passionate about their opinions. He told me that such conversations strengthen friendships, marriages, and countries. Dan loved to discuss current events. He wanted people to vote their beliefs even if they didn't agree with him.

Dan was a member of the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association. He was a

Brother Mason at Campbell Lodge No. 316 in Altavista and a 32 Degree Member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Lynchburg since 1975. He was a proud member of the American Legion for 42 years and a member-at-large with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His passionate determination to protect gun rights inspired him to become a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association.

Dan's health declined and he spent most of his time at home. He loved watching Mayberry with Andy Griffith on TV. He listened to bluegrass, gospel, and early rock and roll music on the radio.

He enjoyed playing with his cats and reading American military history books. When Sherry and her husband Gary Wien would visit from New Jersey, Dan would debate the Civil War and politics with them. He was determined to defend his stance.

One of Dan's favorite songs to sing was "Old Dan Tucker." The lyrics are "Old Dan Tucker was a fine old man. Washed his face in a fryin' pan. Combed his hair with a wagon wheel. And died with a toothache in his heel." Our Dan Tucker died at home in Gladys on November 2, 2017. After a lifetime with Dan, I think he was right. Dan wasn't stubborn, he was a determined man, and he left his mark on many hearts.

Thank you Dr. Robert Elliott for taking care of Dan as a physician and friend all these years. Thank you to the public servants who assisted me in my time of need. Our family is thankful to Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service for their thoughtfulness and professionalism. Thank you Pastor W. L. Pillow for your gift of song and words of comfort. I'm deeply appreciative to the members of the American Legion representing Altavista Memorial Post 36, Gretna Post 232, and Brookneal Post 52 for their presentation of Taps during military honors. I'm grateful to the Campbell Lodge 316 A. F. and A. M. for their presentation of Masonic Rites. Thanks to family and friends who attended the service and sent their thoughts and prayers online. According to Dan's wishes, those who want to make memorials can make donations to charities of their choice.

Events

NOV **Visitation** 01:00PM

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Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St., Altavista, VA, US, 24517

NOV **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

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Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St., Altavista, VA, US, 24517

Comments



“ Marian lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Marian - February 18, 2018 at 08:40 PM



“ Aunt Carolyn, Sherry and Gary,

Our prayers and thoughts are with you as we remember Uncle Dan. Great memories with the license plates and flea markets and with you all. What a touching tribute to his life.

We are thinking of you all and remembering Uncle Dan.

With love and sympathy,

Mike Tucker and family

Mike Tucker - November 27, 2017 at 06:17 PM



“ Nancy James lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



nancy james - November 25, 2017 at 06:37 PM



“ I worked with Dan 2 years while at the Campbell Co. Sheriff Dept. He was a great help to me learning the ropes and a real friend in the process. The family should be proud of his accomplishments even though I know you are grieving. God be with you as you move forward.

Dennis Shirlen - November 09, 2017 at 11:11 AM



“ Please accept our condolences. We are sorry to hear of Danny's passing.

Hugh & Lois Hoyle - November 08, 2017 at 08:19 PM



“ I met your husband when he worked for the Hurt Police Department. He was a good honest man. I was still a teenager. Little did I know that I would also choose a career in Law Enforcement. He served the citizens honorably and will always be remembered.

Cindy Parker - November 08, 2017 at 05:14 PM



“ Such a precious, precious tribute to your husband. May God bless you and comfort you in the days ahead.

Wendy Gilliatt - November 08, 2017 at 04:22 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family.

July 1, 1973 I joined the Campbell county Sheriff's Department and Dan was one of my first supervisors. While training I spent a lot of time ridding with him and recall how fascinated I was with all that he accomplished; he was very nice to me as he was to everyone else he met.

He talked about his family often; those were days before the cellphone so he would often stop by his home to check on the family.

Dan was fearless; I never saw him waiver or hesitate when encountering a dangerous situation, he was always the 'first to go in and the last out" because he was, as you wrote, determined!

Thank you sir for all that you did for God and country; rest in peace Dan.

Blessings; Gary W. Reynolds, Forest, VA

Gary W Reynolds - November 08, 2017 at 10:09 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Tucker I did not know your Mr. Tucker but I feel I must respond to what I believe is the best obituary ever written. No I did not know your fine husband but fell I know him now. You should write a book so all could know him. The book could be a best seller. This is a task I know you would be so capable. How Blessed you and your husband to have had such a great life together. You mam had a real man and a GODLY man to have given so much of himself to other. God Bless you and your family. You are blessed Sincerely I am Glenda Lyn

Glendalyn - November 08, 2017 at 06:42 AM



“ Thinking of you with sympathy and love.

* I was in your 3rd grade class at AES in the late 1960's. *



Anita Freeman Phillips - November 07, 2017 at 04:38 PM



“ Mrs. Tucker, I am very sorry for your loss. I remember Dan when he worked on the Hurt Police Force and always knew that he was a good officer and served his community well. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.



Eddie Pittmon - November 07, 2017 at 03:50 PM



“ Dan was a fine person & friend. I just learned of his passing & was saddened to hear of it. I offer My sincere Condolences to the family.

W.C. Quarles
Gretna, Va.

W.C. Quarles - November 07, 2017 at 02:56 PM



“ so sorry to hear about danny passing .we did not know about service because of moving back home to hurt . he will surely be missed .Dennis and Rosemary Dalton

dennis ray dalton - November 07, 2017 at 08:44 AM



“ Janet West lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Janet West - November 06, 2017 at 07:50 AM



“ Carolyn, you are in my thoughts & prayers at this difficult time.

Mary Edmonds - November 05, 2017 at 08:01 PM



“ Mary Edmonds lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Mary Edmonds - November 05, 2017 at 08:00 PM



“ Betty Gillespie lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Betty Gillespie - November 05, 2017 at 02:15 PM



“ Carolyn, so sorry for your loss. May God be with you during the days ahead. Bill and Betty Gillespie

Betty Gillespie - November 05, 2017 at 02:16 PM



“ Carolyn, Sherry and Gary, we send our sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you.
Richard and Margaret Wien

Margaret Wien - November 05, 2017 at 07:21 AM



“ Carolyn, our thoughts and prayers go out to you. Richard and Avie (sizemore) Johnson



richard johnson - November 04, 2017 at 07:16 PM



“ Nancy James lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



nancy james - November 04, 2017 at 07:00 PM



“ Christy & Nick Vopelak purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Daniel Stephen Tucker.



Christy & Nick Vopelak - November 04, 2017 at 04:26 PM



“ Christy Vopelak lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Christy Vopelak - November 04, 2017 at 04:15 PM



“ 60 files added to the album LifeTributes



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral and Cremation Service - November 04, 2017 at 12:49 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Daniel Stephen Tucker.



November 04, 2017 at 11:58 AM



“ Sandra Newman lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Sandra Newman - November 04, 2017 at 11:54 AM



“ Missy Roberts lit a candle in memory of Daniel Stephen Tucker



Missy Roberts - November 04, 2017 at 06:13 AM