



Roosevelt Tucker, Jr.

March 31, 1935 - December 8, 2025

On December 8, 2025, Roosevelt Tucker, Jr. passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family.

Roosevelt, Jr. (Junior) was born on March 31, 1935, in Fayetteville, NC, to Roosevelt Tucker, Sr. and Mildred (Gardner) Tucker. He was the second of seven children born to this union. At age two, the family left Fayetteville and moved to Greenwich, CT, and shortly thereafter settled in Port Chester, NY, where he spent the remainder of his youth.

Roosevelt graduated from Port Chester High School in 1953 and went on to attend New York University, where he was a member of the ROTC. He majored in English and graduated in 1957. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving as a First Lieutenant and Infantry Unit Commander. He served on active duty for two years and was honorably discharged in 1959 and served in the Army Reserves until 1964. After his military service, Roosevelt spent 34 years as an insurance claims adjuster, where he used his analytical skills, sense of justice, and desire to help others.

While stationed at Fort Knox, KY, Roosevelt—affectionately known as “Tucker”—met the love of his life, Phyllis (Phil), in 1958. They were married on July 23, 1960, and in November 1961, they moved to Chicago, Illinois, where they built their life together for more than six decades. They shared 65 years

of marriage, raising four children—Regina, Carolyn, Gregory, and Kimberly—as well as two “bonus daughters,” Rayetta and Michelle, whom they welcomed into their home during their teenage years.

Tucker was known as an honest and forthright man who loved the Lord and cared deeply for all of God’s creation. A lifelong dog lover, he had a gentle and compassionate way with animals.

He was blessed with many athletic, creative, and musical talents. An avid handball player, he also enjoyed archery—often using the beautifully sculpted bows he handcrafted himself. His keen attention to detail allowed him to excel in drawing, painting, sculpting, photography, and numerous home-improvement projects. Rarely without a camera, he spent countless hours capturing and documenting cherished family moments. Tucker also had a passion for music and was a gifted singer and guitarist. In later years at Smith Village, he became a regular participant in open mic nights and talent shows, where his voice and warm spirit brought joy to residents and staff alike.

As a child, Roosevelt attended Bethesda Baptist Church in Port Chester. As an adult living in Chicago, he was a longtime member of Holy Name of Mary Church, where he served faithfully as an usher. Later in life, he became an active member of New Hope Fellowship until his struggle with dementia made attendance difficult. Despite these challenges, his faith, love, and devotion—to the Lord and to his family—remained central to his life until the very end.

Roosevelt “Tucker” will be fondly remembered for his godly example of obedience, gratitude, humility, and sacrificial love for family and others. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Phyllis; one son and three daughters; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; his aunt, Allean Gardner; his

sister, Adrienne Troupe; his sister-in-law, Sandra Morrison; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Roosevelt was preceded in death by his parents, Mildred and Roosevelt Tucker, Sr.; his sister, Rose; his brothers, Price, Carlton, Russell, and Kevin; and his granddaughter, Angela Renée.

In lieu of flowers for Roosevelt Tucker, Jr. , donations can be made to the Agape Center either online at:

<https://give.cru.org/2270496>

Via check payable to:

Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ)

In the Memo section indicate:

"For: Agape Center"

Mail checks to:

Agape Center

342 W 111th St

Chicago, IL 60628

Previous Events

Prepast

DEC 19. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

DEC 19. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Funeral Service

DEC 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Burial/Interment

DEC 19. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W Hoff Rd
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

AB

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Tucker’s passing. I went to High School with Carolyn & Greg, and Mr. & Mrs. Tucker and their entire family were always loving and kind to me!
Sending prayers for strength and comfort to the entire family.

-Aaron Bradford-

Aaron Bradford - February 19 at 10:59 AM

DT

“ I still have a hand drawing of myself that Uncle Jr. drew more than likely back in the 90’s when I was in elementary school. He was a talented man.

Always in our hearts,

Danielle , Madison and Lena Rose Tucker

Danielle Tucker - December 19, 2025 at 04:53 PM

TM

“ Our sincere sympathy to Phyllis and their children and grandchildren. I remember living at 241 South Regent St. and Jr. lived in the apartment on the same floor. Cousin Mildred, his mother watched over me like I was one of her own children. Jr. was my big brother. I remember when he brought Phyllis home to meet the family, they were so happy.

Thinking of you all and wishing you strength and peace in the days ahead.

Toni (Spearman) Morton & Carl Morton, White Plains, NY

Toni Morton - December 19, 2025 at 12:54 PM

ET

“ Thinking of you & extending our heartfelt sympathy!
Elaine Tucker & family

Elaine Tucker - December 19, 2025 at 08:26 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julius Lewis Breckenridge - December 19, 2025 at 07:53 AM

ST

“ My Condolences to Phillis, and the entire family. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to visit cousin Roosevelt and his family through the years, I was saddened to hear that cousin Roosevelt passed. To my family "Earth has no Sorrow that Heaven cannot Heal"
Deacon Stanley R. Tucker Los Angeles, California



Stanley R. Tucker - December 19, 2025 at 05:35 AM

BW

“ PRAYING FOR ALL THE FAMILY, MAY GOD BLESSED AND KEEP YOU ALL IN HIS LOVING CARE, WITH SAMPATHY.,, Bonnie Pernel Wheeler, Louisville, Ky 🙏🙏🙏



Bonnie Pernel Wheeler - December 19, 2025 at 05:23 AM



TY Love you

Julius Breckenridge - December 19, 2025 at 09:01 AM

MV

“ *Our family sends their condolences and prayers of support.*

*With heartfelt sympathy,
The Vitale Family*



Mari Frances Vitale - December 18, 2025 at 01:46 PM

DS

“ Sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of ROOSEVELT TUCKER, JR. As the most senior, surviving representative of the Port Chester, NY, “Johns Clan,” I offer fond reflections of my time spent growing up among The Tuckers in the Washington Park Section of Port Chester. We were upstairs/downstairs neighbors in our humble abode at 241 So. Regent Street, and our families have remained connected throughout my lifetime. I especially recall the camaraderie among the “Three Amigos” in the persons of “Junior” Tucker, my Uncle Leroy Johns, and Sonny Hudson. They lived in the same neighborhood, served in the military simultaneously, and although their subsequent paths separated them geographically, they remained friends throughout their lives. Now they are once again reunited for all eternity in Heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the love, peace, and comfort of our living God surround Junior’s loved ones as they mourn the physical absence of their husband, father, brother, cousin, and friend.
God Bless you all.
Rev. Dr. Portia Scott [nee “Pat” Thomas]
15704 Dorset Road #303
Laurel, MD 20707



Dr. Portia Scott - December 18, 2025 at 12:51 PM

FA

“ From Lamont Tanya Shana & Angie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roosevelt Tucker, Jr..

From Lamont Tanya Shana & Angie - December 16, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Roosevelt Tucker, Jr..



December 16, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ Condolences to Phillis and children. Roosevelt was our cousin. We sorrow to hear of his passing. Barbar, Lewis and John Tucker and family, Fayetteville, N.C.

Barbara Tucker McCormick - December 12, 2025 at 11:03 AM



“ My Sincere Condolences to Phillis the children and the Tucker family. My neighbor's for about 50 years. Roosevelt and Jo-Jo will surely be missed.

Ernest L White - December 12, 2025 at 08:32 AM



“ Lydell & Rayetta Neal/ Michelle Wilson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roosevelt Tucker, Jr..

Lydell & Rayetta Neal/ Michelle Wilson - December 10, 2025 at 01:29 PM

LW

“ Lydell & Rayetta Neal/ Michelle Wilson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Roosevelt Tucker, Jr..



Lydell & Rayetta Neal/ Michelle Wilson - December 10, 2025
at 01:29 PM

EW

“ Mr. Roosevelt Tucker was a wonderful male role model and a very altruistic caring & step-in Dad for my sister & I. He took on a lot of responsibility to care for us & gave us plenty of love & structure to guide us & got me through H.S. before our mom past. He & his loving wife took on a challenging task to do what they didn't have to do, but being the beautiful Godly people they were, saved us. He was a great true head of his house hold. We will never forget him. He made a difference in our lives & we will love him forever & ever.
Ellen Rayetta Wilson-Neal

Ellen Rayetta Wilson-Neal - December 10, 2025 at 01:14 PM



I Love the Family! They took myself and my sister, Ellen Neal into their home when our mother passed away from breast cancer. I will always cherish the Tucker Family for the rest of my life! If it were not for Mr. And Mrs. Tucker, I don't know where I would be and with their Love and Guidance, I made it through one of the toughest times of my life!!
Michelle Wilson

Karen Wilson - December 11, 2025 at 09:36 AM

LG

My sincere and heartfelt condolences to you dear Phyllis and family. I truly wish I could have attended the funeral. The obituary is beautiful. My beloved Troy is in the same military cemetery since January 2025. May Troy and your beloved Tucker rest in eternal peace. 🕊️
With love and prayers,
Lucille Giles

Lucille Giles - December 18, 2025 at 12:33 AM

JB

My Condolences to Phillis, and the entire family. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to be in my Uncle Roosevelt and his family through the years, I was saddened to hear that Uncle Roosevelt passed. I remember times where i get that uncle lecture and i loved it. Oh yeah we went to Illinois for easter just go hunting for my easter basket it was fun we great times. Uncle me and the family will always cherish your memories. Til we meet again. RIP

julius Lewis Breckenridge - December 19, 2025 at 08:23 AM

DM

“ *I always loved cousin Tucker! I remember during the winter taking Mom to South Carolina to visit Aunt Donz. I know how much he loved our Lord and Savior. I would watch him feed the dog and made sure the dog prayed before he ate. That was always so special to me. Also, how he took care of Aunt Donz, Phyllis, and Sandy. I knew him always to be a loving father. He was a great example of generosity and caring, and taught those things to his children. I saw the evidence of it when my daughter moved to Nashville and Greg made a place for my daughter Aly and Grandson Zion. Take your rest cousin you've earned it!*

DELPHIA MACON - December 10, 2025 at 10:13 AM