



Emerson Tolle

August 6, 1917 - December 11, 2014

Emerson Tolle, 97, of Wenatchee, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2014. He was born on August 6, 1917 near Maysville, Kentucky (oldest of seventeen children) to Gus Linn and Iva (Carpenter) Tolle. His father was a farmer and his main crops were tobacco, corn and hogs.

Emerson worked with JC Penney as a shoe salesman in Maysville, Kentucky. He enlisted in the Army in August 1941 just before being drafted. He completed basic infantry training at Camp Roberts in California just prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. He passed the tests at March Field, California for Army Air Force pilot training in January 1942 and graduated from flight school in August 1942 as a Pilot and Second Lieutenant. He completed pilot training for the B-17 Bomber in Spokane, and then transferred to Walla Walla to help train B-17 combat crews. While in Walla Walla he fell in love with June Reeve. They were married on June 27, 1943. June passed away on May 12, 2013 after almost seventy years of a great marriage.

In August of 1943 he was transferred to the new 463rd Heavy Bomb Group as Assistant Group Operations Officer to help organize and train the group for overseas assignment. In early 1944 the 463rd "Bomb Group was sent to the Fifteenth Air Force in Northern Italy. Prior to departure from the U.S. he was promoted to Captain and as Squadron Commander of the 774th Squadron. In May of 1944 he was promoted to Major.

In January of 1942 he was a private in the infantry, two and a half years later in June 1944 he was promoted to Major in the Army Air Corp.

After completing his combat tour of fifty one missions over Europe he returned to the U.S., learned to fly the B-29 Bomber and became the Director of Flight Training for B-29 combat crews at Kirkland Field in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

During his combat tour he was awarded the: Silver Star; Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medal (4); Croix De Guerre with Palm; American Defense Medal; Southern France Star; Theatre Ribbon with Italian Star; Oversea Service.

In 1946 he returned to JC Penney as a Salesperson Special in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. In 1950 promoted to Assistant Manager of a new store in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1951 promoted to Manager of the JC Penney Store in the home office building in New York City.

In 1952 transferred to the Corporate Headquarters Planning and Research Department with the assignment to develop Standardized and modernized merchandise inventory control and reordering systems for the company.

In 1962 he was promoted to a new position Merchandise Financial Planning and Inventory Control Manager for the company, retiring from JC Penney in 1977.

1977/1985 Emerson did some consulting work for some retailers in South Africa, Brazil, Italy, England and U.S.A.

1990/1992 President Three Lakes Golf Club Board of Directors

1993/1994 Secretary/Treasurer YMCA 1993 YMCA Volunteer of the Year
Honorary Kentucky Colonel

Survivors include his children, Janice Moran of Cumming, Georgia, Russell Tolle of Ashburn, Virginia and Thomas Tolle of Provo, Utah; his 10 grandchildren and his nine great grandchildren; his six brothers, Ned Tolle, Jerry Tolle, Don Tolle, Frank Tolle, Bill Tolle and Ronnie Tolle; his two sisters, Allene Parker and Virginia Rottinghaus.

Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2014 at Jones & Jones ~ Betts Memorial Chapel with Military Honors. Private Burial will be held at Wenatchee City Cemetery. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Wenatchee City Cemetery

1804 N. Western
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Previous Events

Service

DEC 19. 1:00 PM (PT)

Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home
302 9thStreet
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 662-1561
dante@jonesjonesbetts.com

Tribute Wall

TL

“ I had the good fortune to meet Mr. Tolle and his friend Mike Hughes on Mr. Tolle's trip to Georgia on Alaska Airlines this past summer. He was on his way to celebrate his birthday with family. I was honored to meet this accomplished man. Please accept my sympathies for your loss. - Terri Lane, Flight Attendant, Alaska Airlines



Terri Lane - December 30, 2014 at 06:59 PM

BF

“ There aren't many people who have had such an impact on this world as Emerson did. I met him one year ago and he will be someone I will remember forever. He made me want to be a better person, and we can all only hope to have that same impact on others. I am honored to call him my friend and will miss him greatly, but know he is at peace and smiling down on all of us. Great condolences to his friends and family.



Becky Fevold

Becky Fevold - December 23, 2014 at 03:43 PM

BK

“ Our sincere condolences to the Tolle family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Bill Keech

Bill Keech - December 19, 2014 at 03:02 PM

BC

“ Our condolences to the family of Emerson Tolle. A true American hero has passed!

Knowing him as a neighbor has been an honor and a privilege. We have a great deal of respect for Emerson's first-class integrity, dignity, character, and dedication.

Emerson was very approachable and quite engaging in conversations, whether at the mailbox, in an aisle at the grocery store, or during the annual neighborhood sprinkler system "winterizing" time. His wit and humor was enjoyable to experience.

His life is an inspiration for all of us! Bob and Sue Clarke

Bob Clarke - December 18, 2014 at 03:52 PM

BA

it was our privilege and pleasure to know Emerson at Columbia Heights. We enjoyed his book, smile and up beat personality.

jerry and barbara

barbara - December 19, 2014 at 08:23 PM

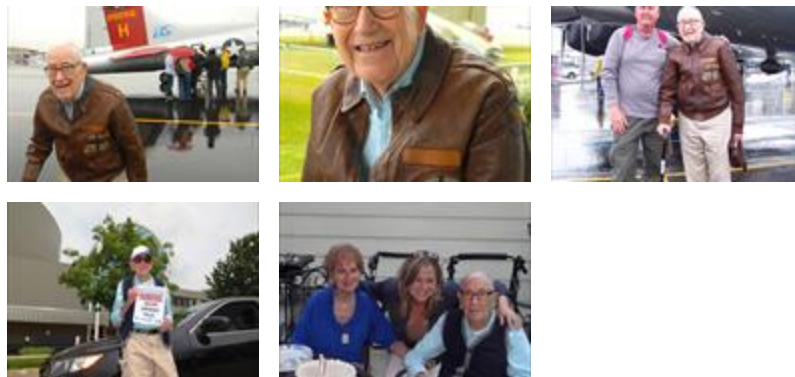
MH

“ Emerson came and visited us at the Bunker (Vets serving Vets), He was an inspiration to us as we visited. We were totally impressed with his record keeping. We have lost a real hero and his name will be added to our plaque of fallen warriors. RIP Major Tolle

Mark Harler - December 17, 2014 at 02:00 PM

MH

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Mike Hughes - December 16, 2014 at 07:05 PM