

## Raymond Francis Tucker

June 17, 1934 - October 4, 2020

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Raymond Francis Tucker, 86 died peacefully at home in Corvallis, OR at 8:08pm on October 4, 2020, on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, enveloped in the arms, love and songs of his children and his children's children. Ray was born on June 17, 1934, the 5th child of a working cowboy and the local one-room schoolteacher. He spent his childhood in Sacramento CA graduating from Christian Brothers High School in 1952 and, in 1954, graduating from Sacramento Community College with an AA in Engineering. In 1954 Ray left Sacramento, hitchhiked to Reno NV. and enrolled in the University of Nevada Reno, graduating in 1955 with a BS in Civil Engineering. A superb athlete, Ray left all three academic institutions bemedaled with track and football honors.

In 1955, serving as the best man for his best friend's wedding, Ray fell head over heels for Geraldine Kennedy, the Maid of Honor, a feeling that proved mutual.

Ray and Gerrie were married in January 1959 in a union that created seven children, fourteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren in a family that continues to grow.

Ray spent four years in the US Navy Civil Engineer Officer Corps serving in Fallon NV and Portsmouth NH. Following discharge Ray worked for the State of California as a Senior Bridge Engineer assigned to the MacArthur Freeway

Construction Project in Oakland CA. followed by assignment to the State Bridge Survey Team. In 1962 Ray was hired as the Project Engineer for the Gemini Space Ground Support Equipment Program. In 1966 Ray went to work for Boise Cascade Corporation and embarked on a long and very distinguished civil engineer career focused on safe construction and fire/disaster safety in recreational vehicles, mobile homes, and modular houses.

In 2010 Ray retired to Corvallis OR where he became very active in Scottish Dancing, served on numerous boards at the Church of the Good Samaritan and generally enjoyed the culture of a small college town, the wondrous Oregon beauty and the opportunities to travel.

The Benton County OR Habitat for Humanity was Ray's enduring Corvallis passion.

Ray was the Staff Civil Engineer and from 2012 to 2018 served on the Board of Directors. Ray often commented that work he did for Habitat for Humanity proved the most satisfying of a long and satisfying professional life. Ray proudly showed off their work to his kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. The last of his siblings, Ray was preceded in death by our mother, Geraldine Kennedy Tucker (1938-1989), his second wife, Marion Varey Tucker (m. 1996-1998), his grandson Jason and his son-in-law Anton.

Ray is survived by his children: Craig and wife Elizabeth, Brian and wife Therese, Kari and husband Rick, Michael and wife Christie, Marybeth, David and wife Karen, James and wife Margaret; his grandchildren: Conor and wife Danae, Katy and husband Chris, Eilish and husband Ryan, Delaney, Isaac and wife Sarah, Rosie, Alex and fiancé Easton, Maddi and husband Jake , Michael Ray, Sarah, Dylan, Karoline, Kimberly; his great-grandchildren: Gwenni, Catriona, Artemis, Aislin, Clare, Caleb; and his wife Susan Smyth.

In lieu of flowers or gifts please remember Ray with donations to the Benton County Habitat for Humanity or to your local Habitat for Humanity.

Ray's memorial service is 2pm PDT on October 8, 2020 at the Church of the Good Samaritan 333 NW 35th St. Corvallis, OR 97330.

Family members and friends unable to celebrate Ray's life in person are welcome to join a live stream:

Here is the live stream link for Oct 8 at 2pm:

<https://youtu.be/Tjis4UySItl>

Here is a backup link if we lose connection to the original link.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9yQMHxgSmKiJ17OAOKNKhw> (refresh channel page)

At the wishes of our Dad his final journey home will be complete when we inter him with our mother in Colorado this December.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 8. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan  
333 NW 35th St.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

# Tribute Wall

MF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all! Though I only had the pleasure of meeting Ray briefly a couple of times I have seen the strong, kind compassionate family he had raised! You are all truly a testament to the man he is! I know that this will be a painful, difficult time for you all but because he did such a great job you WILL hold each other up.

*Peace and Prayers, Mary Finsness*

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**Mary Finsness** - October 08, 2020 at 04:32 PM

SS

*David, Karen and Family... We are saddened to learn of your Dad's passing. We never met Ray but have heard so much about the amazing Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather as well as his friendships to all who knew him. May comfort you all at this difficult time and may you keep all your cherished memories close to your heart. Thank you Karen and Dave for sharing a piece of him with us in stories you shared. God Bless you all 🙏❤️🙏 Scott and Svea Suckow*

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**Svea Suckow** - October 09, 2020 at 05:39 PM

ST

“Ray had a long and wonderful life: I was honored to spend the last 16 years of his life with him. We met Scottish Country dancing, and I was enchanted with this tall handsome man in a kilt. He made each day count, we went on lots of “ventures” as he would say, exploring our beautiful state of Oregon.

*He volunteered his times and his skills to Habitat for Humanity, helping to create the first passive house in Oregon for Habitat which is an energy efficient home with a reduced environmental footprint.*

*I will love him and miss him. He was a wonderful person, loving and supportive husband and step-father to my children and their family. I wish him calm and joy on his next “venture”.*



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**Susan Smyth Tucker** - October 08, 2020 at 02:16 PM



*These are great pictures, Susie. Thank you for sharing them. May Ray's memory be a blessing to you and his love and light bring a smile to your heart.*

*Deepest sympathies, Your neighbors Melissa & David*

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**Melissa Carter-Goodrum** - October 08, 2020 at 06:03 PM

CD

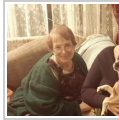
“ Ray was the husband of my dear cousin, Gerrie. When we lived in Kentucky in 1975, Ray & Gerrie were our "surrogate parents". When we'd visit, Gerrie and I would sit at the kitchen table all night talking and Ray would get up with all the kids. The Tucker's were the most fun family -- we loved being with all of them! I saw Ray at Marge's funeral in Boise and it was wonderful to reconnect with him. The world will be a sadder place without Ray Tucker!! ❤️❤️

Celine O'Brien Derick - October 08, 2020 at 09:30 AM

MT

Celine, thank you for the kind words and memories of Dad! He brought much wisdom and joy!  
Love, Michael

Michael Tucker - October 08, 2020 at 10:15 PM



Susie I'm sending my love and comforting thoughts your way. I'm so glad I was able to meet Ray and you in your beautiful home. Your home was full of love and laughter. He was so happy and busy with the Habitat for Humanity projects which he shared along with his scrapbooks of family pictures. He was a wonderful husband and father. I hope your memories bring you much comfort.  
Mary Nessel.. Portland, Oregon

Mary Nessel - October 11, 2020 at 11:28 PM