



William Fenner, Jr.

May 16, 1924 - September 2, 2015

Public graveside service for William Fenner, Jr., age 91, of Decatur, will be Saturday, September 5, 2015, 10:00 a.m. at Roselawn Cemetery with Rev. Jess Montegudo officiating and Shelton Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Fenner, who died Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at NHC Healthcare - Moulton, was born May 16, 1924, in Raven, VA, to Will and Virgie Fenner. He grew up in Mountain City, TN, with his eight siblings. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Martha (Eckard) Fenner, one daughter, Karen (Fenner) Beans, two brothers, Paul Fenner, and his twin brother, Clarence Fenner, and four sisters, Mae Loggins, Vernalee Gentry, Beatrice Jeff, and Gladys Barlow.

William Fenner enlisted in the United States Navy in 1941. He served in WWII in the Pacific theater aboard the USS Hornet CV-8 (Yorktown-class aircraft carrier). Bill was present on the deck of the USS Hornet in April, 1942, when Jimmy Doolittle's Raiders took off on a top-secret mission to bomb Tokyo, demonstrating that Japan was vulnerable to American air attack. Bill also fought in the Battle of Midway, the Solomon Islands Campaign, Guadalcanal, and in the Battle of Santa-Cruz Islands. In the latter battle, the USS Hornet was attacked by enemy dive-bomber and torpedo planes. In addition, two of the dive-bombers deliberately crashed into his ship, adding to her extensive damage that resulted in the aircraft carrier being sunk. The

crew members were picked up by escorting destroyers. Bill also served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

Bill attended services at First Christian Church and First Bible Church. He retired both from NASA and Bechtel Corporation, where he served as a quality control inspector. He spent many years coaching little league baseball and rooting for the Tennessee Vols. He was a skilled woodworker and spent his retirement years constructing small lighthouses in memory of his daughter, Karen.

He is survived by one son, David Fenner (Dawn) of Decatur; one daughter, Laura McWhorter (Joel) of Decatur; one brother, Harold Fenner; one sister, Loretta Lowe; seven grandchildren, Will Fenner, Eric Fenner, Shane Beans, Sarah Beans, Samuel Beans, Michael McWhorter, and Anna McWhorter; and three great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn Beans, Karlee Fenner, and Ivey Fenner.

The family would like to thank the staff at Westminster Assisted Living where Mr. Fenner lived for the past two years. They would also like to thank the staff at NHC in Moulton and Hospice of the Valley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Neighborhood Christian Center, 619 Bank Street, Decatur, AL 35601.

Tribute Wall

FB

“ Please correct Margaret to Martha in the condolence I left a short while ago. Please remove this note which I left by accident in Martha's condolence.



FRED BRANYAN - December 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Thoughts and prayers to all of you. Your dad was such a special man and I was blessed to spend time with your family growing up in Merritt Island, Florida. As a good friend to Karen, I got to be part of your family.. spending the night, riding in the boat, playing Beatle records so loud!, drinking your mom's great tea!! Many happy memories and your dad was always so sweet to me! I have a lighthouse from your dad.. it is lit all the time. I will never forget. You are all in my heart. Love. Bonnie Ezzell King.



Bonnie King - September 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Laura, Dave and Family - thinking of you at this time. I loved serving as Bill and Martha's Associate Pastor at First Christian Christian Church (DOC) for ten years. I had many wonderful times with them and made lasting memories. I pray that your precious memories will carry you as you press onward. Bill was a wonderful man and shared of himself so unselfishly. I will never forget his kindness to me. Sincerely, Carol Hallman



Carol Hallman - September 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Dave I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad! Sounds like he lived an amazing life! Take care and you are in my thoughts & prayers!* ”



Linda Montgomery - September 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *To all the family we pray peace and comfort and share the joy we found in Bill over the years. Goodbye dear old friend.* ”



Pat and Ted Winsett - September 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM