



Juan Ray Tucker

November 14, 1932 - August 29, 2019

Juan Ray Tucker, of Atwood, Oklahoma passed away quietly on Thursday, August 29th after, 86 amazing years as a teacher, cattle rancher, father, grandfather, great grandfather and most importantly, husband to his wonderfully tolerant wife of 67 years Ruby.

Juan was the first and only Son of Chester Nickell and Edna Culver and was born on his Grandfather's farm in Atwood on November 14, 1932; the same farm Juan would spend his lifetime rebuilding.

Born of the Great Depression, Juan enjoyed a youth of no running water, no electricity and an abundance of hard work. He loved it all; he loved that place he called home. At an early age his mother and step father moved him and the family to Northern California on the great migration depicted in the Grapes of Wrath, when many Okies, displaced by poverty, sought opportunity in the orchards near Sacramento. Juan had fond memories of this experience and seldom talked of the adversity they endured during this chapter.

Sometime in his late teens he returned to Atwood and came across a beautiful high school basketball player walking home after practice. Offering her a ride they began a journey that lasted the rest of his life. Ruby McDaniel would soon become Ruby Tucker in a double wedding with Bob and Joyce Treat on April 25, 1952. The two couples remained lifelong friends.

Juan was part of the National Guard and then joined the Army, ultimately being stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1953. His beloved daughter LaJuana was born in Holdenville on October 13th of the same year while he was stationed afar.

After the Army, Juan used his GI Bill to go to College at East Central College in Ada where he earned a Bachelors and Masters of Teaching degree in Industrial Arts. Upon receiving his teaching certificate in 1958, Juan, Ruby and LaJuana headed to Parker, Arizona to start the next chapter of their lives as Educators. They brought in tow with them their next child, Andrew, who would be born 3 months later.

Living in the middle of the Mohave Desert, alongside the Colorado River, was a long way from Atwood, but they made their life there for the next 25 years. Juan loved Parker, teaching and the people of the Desert and Reservation. But Juan's love for his beloved Ranch never lessened and he spent every summer of every year back in Atwood being the rancher he always dreamed of being. His vision was undeniable.

He was a man of many talents, teacher, bus driver, sports score keeper, roofer, remodeler, vacuum cleaner salesman and he even had his own carpet cleaning company along the way. He was driven to provide for his family, spend his summers in Oklahoma and rebuild his Ranch. He seemed drawn to hard work so long as it helped him achieve his dream. In 1965 they were blessed with the addition of their last son David. David was born on May 28th, which coincided with the end of school, which always coincided with Juan coming to Atwood. This year he gave Ruby one extra day to rest and on the 29th, the day after giving birth to their new son; they loaded up and made the 1200 mile drive to Atwood. Maybe Juan wasn't the only tough member of this family!

They loved Arizona but Oklahoma was home. Upon an early retirement in the early 80's they left Parker for the last time and headed home for good. Within months one would never know Juan had ever left Atwood or that he had ever been a professional teacher. He became a fully fledged rancher. Cowboy hat, leather boots, a herd of cows, a good string of horses and some cow dogs, he was truly home. He now cut hay, ran his bulldozer, fixed fence, built barns and continued to acquire more property. He always felt a man was not really a rancher until he owned over 1000 acres and by 1990 he accomplished that goal.

He continued to enjoy his rural lifestyle, the hard work and long hours the ranch offered. He developed a nice herd of Brangus cattle and loved to sell young bulls to neighbors. He was an accomplished maker of wooden writing pens and we believe he made well over a 1000. Some he sold, but most he gave to special people in his life. If you received one of his pens he thought a lot of you because he did not take giving a gift lightly.

Juan was not always an easy man but he was a good man. He was tough and he had high expectations of others. He was frugal to a fault and he could make a dollar last. His success was defined by his hard work, his vision, his love of family and ultimately the little ranch his grandfather started so many years ago.

His journey was a great journey and it continues in those he leaves behind. Juan's legacy includes his wife Ruby, children, LaJuana and Dave Duncan, Andy and Claudia Tucker and David Tucker. Six grandchildren, Chase, Dustie, Kawika, Aaron, Joy, Luke, Matt, Kelly and Brenda. And five Great grandchildren, Zachery, Ryan, Hailee, Carmen, and Sailor. His siblings, Floy Rogers, Johnny Tucker, Loretta Culver, Audrey Culver, Glenn Nickell and Retta Gadbury and a host of nieces, nephews and friends

He was proud to be a lifelong member of the Masonic Lodge.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the First Baptist Church of Allen, Oklahoma.

Active pallbearers will be Ryan Winters, Zachary Smith, Chase Alcaida, Luke Tucker, Matt Tucker and Scott Sartain.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Jim McDaniel, Bill McDaniel, Kelly McDaniel, Kenny McDaniel, Dave Duncan, Kim Ray, Ken Chesnutt, Bill Culver, John Tucker and Art

Fox

All services will be under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah, Oklahoma and officiated by Rev. Nancy McDaniel with Col. Jim McDaniel assisting. Memorials in memory of Juan may be made to the Allen Masonic Lodge #81, Allen, OK 74825.

Online condolences may be made at www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com.

Events

AUG 30 **Viewing** 12:00PM - 08:00PM
Parks Brothers Funeral Home
301 N 3rd Street, Okemah, OK, US, 74859

SEP 2 **Viewing** 04:00PM - 06:00PM
Parks Brothers Funeral Home
301 N 3rd Street, Okemah, OK, US, 74859

SEP 3 **Viewing** 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Allen First Baptist Church
305 E. Broadway, Allen, OK, US, 74825

SEP 3 **Service** 01:00PM
Allen First Baptist Church
305 E. Broadway, Allen, OK, US, 74825

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Parks Brothers Funeral Home - August 30, 2019 at 04:47 PM



“ What a beautiful tribute to your father. My thoughts and prayers are with you laJuana and your family.

Tim - August 30, 2019 at 06:18 PM



“ Mr Tucker was my 8th grade teacher in 1958-59 in Parker Arizona. He was a wonderful teacher. I can remember he was always there for anyone that needed extra help. When we were all getting ready to graduate out of 8th grade. We were all excited and I am sure we were a handful but I never reminder him ever losing his patience with our class. I remember him being a very loving soul. I graduated from high school in 1963 but along the way if anyone needed anything he would be there for you. I can remember him going fishing, whenever he got the chance and always having a smile on his face My love and prayers go out to his family and all of his friends. Hearing of his passing will bring a sad moment but will bring back many wonderful memories of Mr Tucker and his family to everyone in Parker.

Mae Harrison Parker - August 30, 2019 at 09:46 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Tucker was one of my teachers in grade school. I enjoyed his way of teaching. He will be dearly missed by all of us.

Hector - August 31, 2019 at 12:58 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss may God be with you all he is now a angel watching over us he will be missed he was a great uncle I am going to miss his smile rest in peace uncle Juan

Alisa Ford - August 31, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Tucker - September 03, 2019 at 08:07 PM



“ Juan 1947

John Tucker - September 03, 2019 at 08:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



john Tucker - September 03, 2019 at 07:12 PM



“ I have so many memories of my uncle . Going to Parker to visit and one day When I was about 12 Juan and I was out on the front porch and he was chewing on some tobacco. He was making it look so good. That he gave me some told me to pack it in . Oh my God it was the worse thing I ever tasted. No wonder he spit it out . I did too. Never again did I try it.

My second memory was on the farm Juans birthday I bought a cake put cows and horses on it snd bought him a belly dancer doll and a raccoon hat. But that wasn't all I blew up alot of balloons and filled his truck up with them and put streamers all over it. When he opened the truck balloons came out he smiled so big and laughs. The cows freaked out with the balloons blowing in there field. Jusn then Yom me in his truck yo go see grandma T in Allen balloons were still blowing out as we were driving in Allen. We both laughed all the way there. No wonder way I was his favorite neice. It wasn't cause I was his only one. He will be missed dearly. I love you uncle Juan.



Darlene Culver - September 03, 2019 at 02:07 PM



“ Juan Tucker is one of the truly good ones - a soul which will live on due to the tremendous impact and legacy he leaves. The laughter he provided, the mischief he incited, the love he ignited, the special memories and imprints he leaves on the hearts of all those who crossed his path. Knowing him was such a gift! I was infatuated with him and Ruby from the moment we met, and so cherished the moments I spent with them. The twinkle in his eye shined for all he loved, but was especially brilliant when she was around; her bright laughter at everything he said or did brought sunshine to the darkest room! I remember sitting with them the night before his heart surgery, taking it all in as they giggled and cuddled like newlyweds. That moment is cemented in my memory under the category, "this is what true love looks like". How lucky were they - how fortunate were we to witness it. Thank you, Tucker family, for sharing Juan with me.
Sending love, sympathy and gratitude your way.
Peace,
Patti Barker
Tulsa

Patti Barker - September 02, 2019 at 10:51 PM



“ Juan, my oldest brother, always loved to raz people. From the time I was young and ongoing us siblings would sit around the table with Juan being the ring leader, and usually one person was picked out by him, and I have to say picked on. It was actually great fun and done in jest with just enough truth to it to try to get to them a bit. We all learned how to joke with one another and have a great time of it. I think Jake, my second to the oldest brother, came in second as having the requisite skills of such great jocularly. I kind of wonder how Jake greeted Juan inside the gates of heaven, as he passed on two years ago.

Loretta "Lori" Baxter (not Culver)Haa - September 01, 2019 at 06:14 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Juan Ray Tucker.



September 01, 2019 at 02:58 PM



“ Juan was blessed to live in interesting times; and as a member of the greatest generation was an active participant in the events that shaped not just current day Oklahoma but the history of our nation. As a very young man in the Worst of Times, he experienced the hardship, and I suspect prejudice, of the most extensive displacement/migration in our country’s history. Despite the hardship of starting his life’s journey with nothing, or arguably less than nothing; Juan persevered and realized his dream of returning to his ancestral home and reclaiming what his family had lost.

The first time I met Juan, I saw first-hand the focus and drive of a man who was able to achieve such an accomplishment. With Andy, Luke, Matt and I in his pick-up, he showed me his cattle; stopping to get out and spread hay; pointing out to me that an abandoned pumping unit was not currently paying any rent and that he was not running a free storage lot. Juan showed me his workshop and the trees he used to make pens. Juan was very generous man with me, and I am the proud owner of several of Juan’s original pen designs – gifts that I cherish.

Despite his enormous accomplishments, it is Juan’s beaming, warm smile that made the biggest impression on me. I was fortunate to see this smile on many an occasion, whenever Juan caught sight of his children, grandchildren, or his beloved wife Ruby. His smile, holding hands with Ruby at Luke’s graduation from OU.

Juan I salute you for a life well lived, a true American success story, and most importantly as an example for your family and us all. Your contagious smile is with me now as I write this, and will be so always.



Tim Baker - August 30, 2019 at 06:38 PM



“ Janice Linker lit a candle in memory of Juan Ray Tucker



janice linker - August 30, 2019 at 06:10 PM



“ He was the best teacher ever. I remember when u were not behaving u had to put your nose on the blackboard. John Baldwin was always chewing gum and Mr. Tucker made him stand the whole class time. We use to laugh at John. I will never forget Mr.Tucker. !!!!



Marri Mattice Connor - August 30, 2019 at 04:18 PM



“ I'm wondering if this is the Mr Tucker that taught woodshop at PARKER Elementary in the late 50's? If so, I remember him well. He was an excellent shop teacher. I got paddled by him a few times, I'm sure I deserved it.

richard lopez - August 30, 2019 at 04:27 PM



“ He was definitely one of best ever..many many find memories as he and the family were my close neighbors right up the street.. lots of tales of Andys stardom heh heh ... I know he helped straighten me up with my behaviour . that famous paddle of his administered with a tale fitting the crime and punushment ,, very enlightening kessin in life..most all the boys in his classes got a swat or two as deserved from his wooden duck with no wings. He had to replace the one prior that looked like a cricket bat with lots of holes in it. he said they were desgined into the project to decrease the wind resistance and it worked great too ,, we fiund out later it was to leave little red hills formmarks on ur butt where the hide pushed up thru them.. so we couldnt hide it from the folks that we were caught misbehaving in class ...lol.. but it finally gave in to the regular usage and broke in half during a swat session so he needed a new one quick and he replaced it with an unfinished shop project ... A carved wooden wall decoration that would have been a duck we were making in shop class.. He said the shape of the ducks head and neck gave him a good grip.. "Just right. kinda like a golf club with a good follow thru "he said...lol .. He had a great way with the kids.. Very highly respected and loved man for us all,, an entire lifetime for me. My family moved to Parker in 1956 just a couple of years before the Tucker family did. No one I know who attended school or had kids that did ever had a complaint of any sort or anything but the best to say of Mr Tucker .. he gave us all more than we realized at the time.. i always have a smile recalling those days and back then the whole class would always be laughing and joking thru the swatting events ,even the receivers of the swats.. He knew how to get a point across to anyone even the worst behaving ..we all loved him.. Im gonna miss him.. my deepest condolences to the family for this great loss..my heart goes out to you all..

Mike - August 30, 2019 at 10:17 PM



“ 86 files added to the album LifeTributes



Parks Brothers Funeral Home - August 30, 2019 at 03:33 PM



“ God has took home a wonderful man. Loved him dearly always had great story to tell. Wise and talented man



Debbie Suiter - August 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM