



Mr. William "Bill" Decker

June 23, 1925 - June 22, 2019

William Dawes Decker, son of Harold and Susan Decker, was born on June 23, 1925 in Bozeman, Montana and passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 22, 2019. He was one day shy of 94 years old.

Bill grew up in the mountains of Montana, where he spent his days fishing and boxing. On Christmas Eve 1941, shortly after the attack at Pearl Harbor, Bill, at only 16 years old, enlisted in the US Navy. He served throughout World War II on five separate ships. While on leave in the Houston area, he met the love of his life, Dorothy Nell Tompkins of Beckville. Bill and Dorothy married on October 18, 1944 and lived happily together for 64 years, until her death in 2008. Bill and Dorothy eventually settled in Henderson, where they raised their three boys. Bill was a printer by trade and worked as a loyal employee of Parks Printers until he and Dorothy purchased the company. Together they owned and operated Bill Decker Printing Company for 24 years. Bill was raised in Masonic Lodge Clinton No. 23 and was a member for over 50 years. He was also a Shriner and a member of the original Sharon Mini Patrol of Henderson. Upon retirement, Bill and Dorothy found themselves traveling the US by RV, fishing wherever they could find water, and square dancing with their many friends. After Dorothy's passing, Bill enjoyed making new friends and reconnecting with old buddies at Brookdale Retirement Home in Henderson.

Bill was a loyal man and a proud Navy Veteran. He always had a glint in his eye and a story to share. If you took a moment to listen to one of his stories, you gained a friend for life. In his last years, Bill loved spoiling his friends with snacks and trying to convince his sons he needed another dog. He was dedicated to everything he did, a trait that was passed down to his sons. He will be missed by those who knew him.

Bill is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law: Denny and Lane Decker, Terry and Paula Decker; grandchildren: Brad Decker, Gary and Hannah Decker, Shannon and David Hodges, Kristal and Bill Clay, Sarah and Judson Knight; 11 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren; as well as a host of cherished nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy and eldest son, Barry, as well as his siblings: Alverd Decker, June Hoadley and Peggy Mowry.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 25th from 5-7pm at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home in Henderson, TX. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 26th at 10am at the Crawford-A. Crim Chapel with the Rev. John Woody officiating. Burial will follow at the Youngblood Cemetery in Beckville under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Bill Clay, Zac Clay, Cameron Clay, Matthew Clay, Barry Decker and Judson Knight. Honorary pallbearers are Gary Decker, Brad Decker and Robert Saffell.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff of Brookdale for their dedicated care and love during Bill's last years.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, 815 Market St, Galveston, TX 77550.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Cemetery Details

Youngblood Cemetery

FM 124
Panola County, TX 75631

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 25. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Service

JUN 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall



“ Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - June 25, 2019 at 03:09 PM

YC

*To Dennis, Lane, and all the family,
We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Decker was such a nice man. May your memories comfort you and give you peace.
Jerry and Yvonne
Chamberlain*

yvonne chamberlain - June 25, 2019 at 08:18 PM

MD

So glad Barry will see his daddy (William Dawes Decker) rest in peace. Sympathies to you boys and your families, kids, grand kids, and mine and Barry's kids and grand kids, and great grand kids. Barry is not alone anymore, he has his mother and daddy. God be with the family.

mary jane decker davis - June 25, 2019 at 09:43 PM

RM

Im so sorry to learn of my uncle Bill,s passing. My mom, aunt june and my uncle alverd are all together again with uncle Bill and aunt Dorothy.

Robert Alverd Mowery - January 09, 2020 at 01:58 PM

PC

“ *Paula Crim lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker*



Paula Crim - June 27, 2019 at 04:55 PM

DS

“ *I remember his stories and the loving SMILE on his face.*

Donna (Boatwright) Saffell - June 26, 2019 at 10:19 AM

SS

“ *Stephen And Rhonda Stanfield lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker*



Stephen and Rhonda Stanfield - June 25, 2019 at 11:46 PM

TE

“ *Fond memories of visiting with Bill & Dorothy over the years! Love and best wishes to the family.*

Terry & Lori Tyson



Terry - June 25, 2019 at 05:07 PM

RD

“ Denny, Terry and family, thank you so much for sharing your daddy with us at Brookdale! We ALL loved him dearly! Fly High, Dynamite!
❤️

Rachel Dessecker - June 25, 2019 at 04:10 PM



“ 76 files added to the album LifeTributes



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - June 25, 2019 at 02:05 PM

JY

“ Jim & Wilma Young lit a candle in memory of
Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Jim & Wilma Young - June 25, 2019 at 11:44 AM

KB

“ Kenneth And Sandy Burns lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Kenneth and Sandy Burns - June 25, 2019 at 11:09 AM

TJ

“ TRACIE JONES lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



TRACIE JONES - June 25, 2019 at 10:53 AM

CW

“ Our condolences on the death of your dad. We know he will be missed.

Cyndi Walker - June 25, 2019 at 09:34 AM

AM

“ We are remembering Bill Decker today -- a sweet man in the sweetest of families. Our memories of him are wonderful. Love to Terry, Paula, Sarah and the whole family. Dr. Mike & Anne McCrady

Anne McCrady - June 25, 2019 at 09:32 AM

CR

“ Charles & Cindy Rush lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Charles & Cindy Rush - June 25, 2019 at 08:50 AM

YM

“ Yesica Martinez lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



yesica martinez - June 24, 2019 at 11:52 PM

DF

“ Diane Flanagan lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Diane Flanagan - June 24, 2019 at 12:29 PM

CK

“ Cathy Green Kovschak lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Cathy Green Kovschak - June 24, 2019 at 10:39 AM

DN

“ Donna Newman lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Donna Newman - June 24, 2019 at 09:31 AM

PP

“ Pud Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



pud patterson - June 24, 2019 at 07:23 AM

RR

“ Rhonda Blevins Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker



Rhonda Blevins Roberts - June 23, 2019 at 11:32 PM



“ *Bill and Dorothy Decker were both such sweet folks. We enjoyed their friendship at the Oak Hill Methodist Church. They are both united in Heaven now. Terry, Denny and family, we are so sorry for your loss and will remember you in thought and prayer.*
Cyndy and Gary Broadus
Martha “Sippy” Morton



Cyndy Broadus - June 23, 2019 at 06:35 PM

WR

“ *The Deckers printed many forms, etc. for my employer. They were great to work with. Sincere sympathy to Bill’s family.*



Winnie Ramey - June 23, 2019 at 05:47 PM

NG

“ *Nancy & Mark Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker*



Nancy & Mark Gibson - June 23, 2019 at 03:11 PM

KT

“ *Mr. Bill was a fine gentleman. I attended church with him and his wife at Oak Hill Methodist. He was at church 2 weeks ago today. He was kind, interesting, good family man, loyal friend and the finest example of a Christian. He loved our coffee time and Doughnuts. He always had a smile and was happy to be at church. We will miss him greatly his coffee mug will not be used. He had a mug with his name on it but I know he is in heaven and at peace. We loved him very much.*

Kay Trammell - June 23, 2019 at 01:34 PM

TA

Condolences to the Denny and his family. We met Bill on a couple occasions while visiting. He was a great conversationalist and we enjoyed meeting him.

Terry & Goldie Arnold - June 24, 2019 at 09:43 PM

CC

“ *Chris Cavaliere lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker*



Chris Cavaliere - June 23, 2019 at 11:49 AM

PA

“ *Patricia Allred lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker*



Patricia Allred - June 23, 2019 at 11:49 AM

BH

“ *Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Decker*



Bob & Sue Henderson - June 23, 2019 at 10:07 AM

BH

“ *Denny and Terry and their families, sorry for the loss of Mr, Decker. He was a interesting man to talk and listen to. I am sure he will be missed by many folks in our community and abroad. May God be with you and yours at times like these.*



Brent Hale and Kathryn McGehee

Brent Hale - June 23, 2019 at 08:33 AM

VI

“ *Bill and Dorothy (our former neighbors-just those 3 boys and me on our street) gave me my first job at their printing shop. \$1.45/hour was a wonderful salary for a 16 year old. I loved them like family. Bill always called me 'Ginger.' The last time I visited him, he was still quick to have something funny and nice to say. He was a good man who worked hard and lived a good life.*

Virginia Irwin - June 22, 2019 at 06:21 PM