



Jerald Randolph Debenport Jr.

January 10, 1928 - April 19, 2025

Services for Jerald R. Debenport, Jr., 97, of Tyler will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 11:00 am at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Dr. Pike Wisner and Larry Wickham officiating. Burial will follow at Tyler Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Debenport passed away April 19, 2025, in Tyler. He was born January 10, 1928 in Tyler to Jerald R. Debenport, Sr. and Maurine Teller Debenport.

Jerald graduated from Tyler High School in 1945 and immediately enlisted in the United States Navy where he served as a Seaman First Class. After his service, he continued his education beginning at Tyler Jr. College, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas, and finally landing at East Texas State Teachers' College. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in 1953.

Jerald worked in different capacities during his life. He worked as a salesman for Nash Motor Company, IBM, Combined Underwriters, Self-Employed/Tiny Tent Co., and Tyler Jr. College.

As a 4th generation Debenport of First Baptist Church-Tyler, Jerald accepted the Lord at age 12 and followed in baptism. While being part of the FBC family, Jerald taught Sunday School for 60+ years from elementary age to Senior adults. He went on countless trips with youth groups, choir groups, and

mission trips in Mexico and throughout Texas. He helped build facilities and dorms for various churches. For his own church, he was quick to volunteer to build sets and scenes for programs and holidays. Jerald was ordained as a Deacon in February 1959, the youngest to be ordained at that time.

Jerald Debenport volunteered for and was a member of the Bethesda Clinic, Salvation Army, Tyler Kiwanis Club, and Experimental Aircraft Association. He was elected to the Tyler City Commissioners from 1968-1970, with six months of that time as acting mayor.

Jerald married Martha Sue Allsopp August 12, 1950. They had two sons, Cliff and Don. After Martha passed away in October of 2010, Jerald found love and companionship again and married Sue Edwards in March 2014. Sue passed away in July 2024. Others that preceded him in death were parents: Jerald and Maurine Debenport, sister-Corrine Wells, and brothers-John Debenport, Fred Debenport, and Frank Debenport, and son-Cliff Debenport. He is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Don and Maggi Debenport of Chandler; granddaughters-Sara Suggs (Matt) of Chandler and Amber Reynolds (Jeff) Texarkana, TX; great-grandchildren-Eric Suggs, Emma Suggs, and Anna Kate Reynolds; sisters-in-law-Janie Debenport (Arlington) and Sandra Debenport (Texarkana, TX); several nieces, nephews, and even more friends.

Honorary Pallbearers will be: Matt Suggs, Eric Suggs, Jeff Reynolds, Dan Debenport, Tony Debenport, Steve Debenport, Russ Debenport, Richard England, Scott Sturrock, Bob Couch, Steve Davis, Bruce Burnham, Donald Dudley, Brad Roberts, Les Berryman, Robert Watson, Lloyd Lumpkins, Larry Lumpkins, and Bryan Penny.

Visitation is scheduled from 10-11:00 am on Monday, May 5 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701(<https://hospiceofeasttexas.org>) or The Salvation Army, 633 N. Broadway Ave., Tyler, TX 75702 (<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/Tyler>).

Cemetery Details

Tyler Memorial Park

12053 SH 64 West
Tyler, TX 75704

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jerald Randolph Debenport Jr.



Stewart Family Funeral Home - May 05, 2025 at 10:48 AM

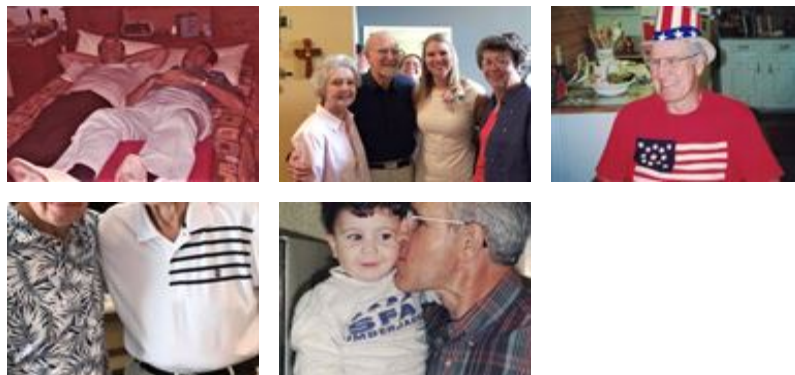
CL

“ Mr. And Mrs. Debenport lived across the street from us when Dad went to Viet-Nam the first time in 1966. They were wonderful friends for Mother that year and she thought the world of them both. We are saddened for the family’s loss and we send our sincere sympathy. Curt Liles and family

Curt Liles - May 20, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ 110 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - May 05, 2025 at 10:31 AM

AL

“ Thank you for being a Christlike example for all to follow. Thank you for your kindness and gentleness show to me over the years.

Andy Lynn - April 30, 2025 at 11:58 AM



Wonderful picture! Don you favor him. Always friends & dedicated to FBC Tyler. Saw him in SS maybe 3 Sundays ago & got along fine on his walker & classmates bringing him. Always faithful to FBC. Will not be able to attend the funeral. Carolyn Halbrooks Bain

Carolyn Bain - April 30, 2025 at 05:22 PM

DA

“ Sincere condolences to the family ! I met he& wife Mrs.Martha D. Over 35 plus years as a neighbor! They were truly great neighbors friends, and basically like a family! I definitely knew that God was a vital part in their lives! He will definitely be missed.A servant gone home to a prepared place! Continued prayers for you family! Dan & Charlotte

Dan & Charlotte Ates - April 25, 2025 at 08:43 PM

DD

Thank you , I remember ya'll well. He really loved have you as a neighbor.

Don Debenport - April 28, 2025 at 09:12 PM

JW

“ In early 1982 my now deceased husband and I joined FBC Tyler and one of the first couples we met was Jerold and Martha. We shared so many fun times together when then it was the couples class, later to become the CIA class. I cherish those wonderful memories and loving friends.

Joanne Williams - April 22, 2025 at 01:50 PM

DD

*Thank you, Dad Loved the CIA class and all the members.
Don*

Don Debenport - April 23, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ *I am so sorry for y'all's loss. Jerald and Martha were close friends with my Mom and Dad (Ed and Ann Oliver). Jerald was there for my Dad when he was diagnosed with ALS. He even 'tricked' out a cargo van by putting an elevator in it and floor straps. He will be missed by many and by FBC Tyler.*

Jana Mueller - April 21, 2025 at 01:57 PM

DD

Thank you! I well remember your family and that van!

Don Debenport - April 23, 2025 at 01:42 PM