

George James Tonner

September 7, 1925 - June 8, 2022

George James Tonner, 96, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2022. Born on September 7, 1925, to the late Callista (Reiff) and Paul Tonner, he spent his childhood with his six brothers and three sisters. He attended St. Augustine Catholic School, St. Joseph's Academy and Butler University.

In 1943, George enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He earned his wings as a Navigator on the B-24 bomber along with the rank of Lieutenant. After the war, he became co-owner and operator of Superior Cleaners and later Tonner Motors, both of Rensselaer. In 1952, he married the love of his life Elizabeth "Betty" Feldhaus who survives.

George lived a life of service to many organizations. He was a life-long member of St. Augustine Catholic Church and twice served as parish council president. He belonged to the Rensselaer Rotary Club for over 50 years and was a past president. He was a member of the American Legion Post 29 for 70 years and a former bugler in the 50-member Drum & Bugle Corps.

George served on boards for the St. Joseph's College Presidential Fellows and was a charter member of the Jasper County Habitat for Humanity. He loved playing golf and was a member of Curtis Creek Country Club for over 70 years, scoring aces on two separate occasions. He served as a Boy Scout

merit badge counselor to Rensselaer troop 152 and was an officer of the newly formed Chamber of Commerce in 1947.

In addition to golf, George enjoyed working daily crossword puzzles and playing with his golden retrievers, Rex and Duke. In 2004, George and Betty were selected as co-grand marshals of the Lil' Cousin Jasper Festival.

George led a Christian life, and his family meant everything to him. He is survived by his wife Betty, their five children: Jeffrey (Cynthia) Tonner of Phoenix, Gregory (Kathy) Tonner of Chicago, Edward "Ned" (Shari) Tonner of Rensselaer, Ann (Timothy) Finnegan of Lake Forest, IL and Christopher (Julie) Tonner of Riverwoods, IL. 17 grandchildren: Matthew, George Andrew, David, Eileen, Michael, Joseph, Paul, Elizabeth, Laura, Emily, Joshua, Colette, Lauren, Nicholas, Graham, Michael, and Katherine. Great-grandchildren Cora, George, and Hallie. Brothers, Donald, twins Harold and Gerald, sisters, Carolyn Grube and Suzanne Wright.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Pauline Cody, brothers Leo, Robert, and Arthur, and twin infant daughters Mary Ann and Mary Elizabeth.

Visitation will be held at Jackson Funeral Chapel on Monday, June 13, 2022, from 2:00 - 5:00 PM CDT with Rosary Service at 5:00 PM. A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 10:00 AM CDT at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Rensselaer, with Father Joshua Bennett officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Rensselaer, with full military rites.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fuller Center for Housing (formerly Habitat for Humanity) or St. Augustine Catholic School.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery - Rensselaer

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 13. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Rosary

JUN 13. 5:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Funeral Mass

JUN 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of George James Tonner*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - June 13, 2022 at 11:33 AM

BD

“ *Mr. Tonner was one of the great men in our State of Indiana - He sets the bar high for our future generations - With love, Sonia & Brad Davis*

Bradley Davis - August 12, 2022 at 12:55 PM

PM

“ *Sending love and prayers to the Tonner family. Much love, Patti and John Mullin*



Patricia Mullin - June 15, 2022 at 11:03 PM

BL

“ *It was such a pleasure to care for George on Alternacare and to see his determination to get better! I pray for Betty and the family that you will feel God’s presence surrounding you. I am so glad that this family journeyed across my path. God bless you, and keep you and make His face to shine upon all of you.*

Betty Lawley

Betty Lawley - June 13, 2022 at 09:57 PM



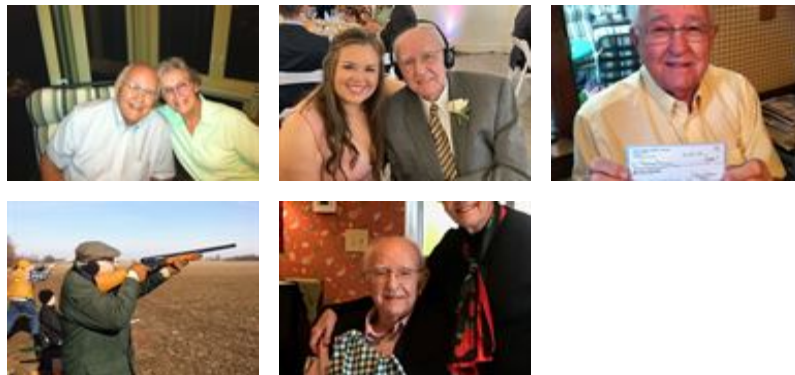
“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of George James Tonner.*



June 13, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ *108 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - June 13, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of George James Tonner.*



June 13, 2022 at 10:01 AM



“ *Barrett & Robert purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of George James Tonner.*



Barrett & Robert - June 13, 2022 at 09:36 AM



“ *Lockheed Martin - Red Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of George James Tonner.*



Lockheed Martin - Red Team - June 13, 2022 at 09:27 AM



“ *Jeffrey Hobbs lit a candle in memory of George James Tonner*



Jeffrey Hobbs - June 13, 2022 at 09:12 AM

DW

“ *Our sincere sympathy to all of you.*



Don and Gloria Waymouth - June 12, 2022 at 10:30 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George James Tonner.*



June 12, 2022 at 07:14 AM

ML

“ *Marilyn Lowry lit a candle in memory of George James Tonner*



Marilyn Lowry - June 11, 2022 at 10:05 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of George James Tonner.*



June 11, 2022 at 02:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George James Tonner.*



June 11, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of George James Tonner*



Judy Burvan - June 11, 2022 at 11:13 AM



Such a wonderful man who lived a perfectly wonderful life ❤️

Judy Burvan - June 11, 2022 at 11:13 AM



“ *Our sympathy to Cousin Betty and family. We will be keeping you in our prayers.*

Doris and George Schuman

Doris Schuman - June 10, 2022 at 09:16 AM

DG

“ Dianne Malone Gilbert sent a virtual gift in memory of George James Tonner



Dianne Malone Gilbert - June 10, 2022 at 09:08 AM

DG

Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Dianne Malone Gilbert - June 10, 2022 at 09:13 AM

SM

“ Betty and family. God received a true angel when he brought George home! Rest in peace. Thinking of the entire Tonner family with hugs and prayers.

SHELLI MAXWELL - June 10, 2022 at 08:10 AM

MB

“ I am so sorry to hear of George's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of his family. What a wonderful man George was. He was always so nice to me growing up.

Myles Beeching

Myles Beeching - June 10, 2022 at 08:10 AM

GB

“ Gloria Baier lit a candle in memory of George James Tonner



Gloria Baier - June 09, 2022 at 10:45 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of George James Tonner.*



June 09, 2022 at 09:04 PM



“ *George will be greatly missed. I grew to love and respect him in the short time that I knew him. Thoughts and prayers for the family.*

Sandy McMillen - June 09, 2022 at 07:58 PM



“ *Prayers are with the Tonner family. George was a great supporter of Saint Joseph's College. A true gentleman. May he rest in the peace of Christ. Fr. Jeff Kirch, CPPS*

Jeffrey Kirch - June 09, 2022 at 05:08 PM



“ *To Ned and Shari and your family, you have my deepest sympathies. It is so hard to say goodbye to the man you so looked up to. Much love and God's comfort to you.*

Donna Waymire-Barko - June 09, 2022 at 04:42 PM

SD

“ Uncle George was a Blessing to my family. My father, Otto Schreeg ,died with heart issues in 1975. My husband, Terry Davisson, was killed in a car accident 1977. My children had no male role model. George soon became one. His major contribution was assembling a huge train set that Santa had brought! After that project, I was afraid we never see him again! However, he was always available! We went to the Insurance company to settle the car insurance. Wow! "Tonner Motors " knew all the right questions to ask. So many "Blessed Memories". Rest in Peace my dear friend.
Love, Sharon

Sharon Davisson - June 09, 2022 at 04:14 PM

MH

Warm hugs from the Butch and Helen (Feldhaus) Burns family. So many wonderful stories of their times together and, of course, the laughter. Rest In Peace George, and may those you join in Heaven... rejoice! Comfort to you all. Tim, Mary Pat, and David Burns

Mary (Burns) Horn - June 09, 2022 at 06:45 PM

BC

I hope all the kids and grandkids know the story about George graduating from German class at St Joe.....I chuckle every time I heard him tell that story.....what a fast thinker he was!!.....

Butch Claussen - June 11, 2022 at 12:32 PM

SC

What a clever idea to bring your dog to Autumn Trace for George to enjoy.
I remember when you and George were in high school every time we cross over where the iron bridge use to be.
You and your great family will have many wonderful memories.

Sandra Culp - June 17, 2022 at 05:52 PM