



## Orville Louis Toler

July 9, 1932 - January 19, 2021

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July 9, 1932 to January 19, 2021

Orville Louis Toler was born July 9, 1932 in Kelso, Missouri to William Franklin and Agnes Magdalena (Weissmueller) Toler. Following high school he joined the US Coast Guard and was stationed out of Hawaii serving from 1951 - 1954 throughout the South Pacific and into the Bering Sea during the Korean War. He received the following medals for his service: National Service Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal USCG.

After 4 years of military service he attended Southeast Missouri State University on the GI Bill graduating with a BS in Physics. While working in Washington DC he met and married Olivia Walker Chase - they married in 1963 and shared a 57-year marriage.

In 1968 he started a career with Hewlett-Packard as a sales engineer and retired from HP.

In 1988 he and Olivia sailed mostly in the Bahamas for 20 years. They established a second home in South Florida in 2006.

Orville accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior on December 23, 2020 and passed to glory on January 19, 2021 in Ft. Myers, Florida.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers Earl, Irvin, Edward, Norman, John and Jim. He is survived by his wife Olivia (Chase) Toler, his son Bill and (Susan) Toler, his daughter E. Tamsin and (Chris) Serjak, three

grandchildren: John Toler, Ethan and Ana Serjak, 4 sisters-in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Orville Louis Toler*

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October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Orville Louis Toler*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM

“ *Orville Louis Toler*  
*Written by*  
*Daughter and Granddaughter*  
*E. Tamsin and Ana Serjak*  
*In Loving Memory*

*Orville Louis Toler, a long-time resident of Brown County, Indiana, passed away on January 19th in Ft. Myers, Florida, at the age of 88.*

*Born on July 9, 1932 in Kelso, Missouri, he was the middle son of William and Agnes (Weissmueller) Toler, with six brothers in St. Louis, MO. Growing up during the Great Depression taught him that nothing should be thrown out. He developed a knack for repairs and repurposing, musing that “if it couldn’t be fixed with binder twine or duct tape then it couldn’t be fixed at all.” He delighted in telling stories about life with his brothers, each story more outlandish than the one before. He marks the end of the “Toler Boys” generation.*

*Joining the US Coast Guard after high school he was stationed in Hawaii and given a post in the ship’s engine room. Service in the Coast Guard granted him access to the new GI Bill. He was the first of his family to attend college, earning a degree in Physics from Southeast Missouri State University. While working in the Washington DC area he met the love of his life, Olivia, from Cape Cod who was working in the secretarial pool at the Pentagon. Aged 25 and 30, they wasted no time and were married within 6 months to kick off their 57-year marriage.*

*In 1967 Orv and Olivia moved the now complete family with two children, Bill and Elizabeth, to Brown County, Indiana. They purchased an 1860 farmhouse with 10 acres and soon added another 90 acres to the farm long known as “Cherry Hill”. At that time the farm was planted with Christmas trees, but would later be replaced with a grass landing strip to complete Orv’s vision. Neighbors will remember a two-year period when an airplane tail could be seen sticking out of the garage as Orv rebuilt a vintage*

*Luscumbe aircraft. The plane was a 1937 two-seated, tail dragger observation plane used during World War II. Over the years, on warm summer nights, Orv would often perform acrobatic feats of loops, spins, cork screws and stalls above the farm in what he called "my airspace." Olivia would unknowingly stop mid-sentence when she heard the airplane stall during various aeronautical maneuvers, only to pick up where she left off once the engine caught again. The horses on the farm also knew that if they ever left the property again, Orv would soon be overhead herding them back to their pasture.*

*Orv spent most of his career as a sales engineer for Hewlett-Packard's test and measurement division. Commuting from the farm to his office in Indianapolis, he drove 90 minutes each morning and evening, a testament to his love for Cherry Hill Farm and the life it provided him and his family.*

*Once retired, Orv and Olivia bought a 46' sailboat, "Carina," spending the first 20 winters of retirement sailing mostly in the Bahamas and once to the Virgin Islands. Orville took great joy in entertaining fellow sailors by broadcasting over marine radio a morning limerick/poetry reading after the daily weather report. They later simplified to a power boat named "Cheerio's" and eventually a land-bound home in Ft. Myer's, Florida. Every summer they returned to the farm at Cherry Hill to tend their gardens and mow the runway.*

*Orv will be missed by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, calmness under pressure, ability to fix anything, and an enduring love for his family, especially his wife, Olivia.*

*He is survived by wife Olivia, son Bill Toler and his wife Susan of Indiana, and daughter E. Tamsin Serjak and her husband Christopher of Massachusetts. He also leaves behind three grandchildren, John Toler and Ethan and Ana Serjak, 4 sisters-in-law along with numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held this summer in Nashville, Indiana at Brown County*

*Presbyterian Fellowship. Funeral arrangements have been make through [www.Gendronfuneral home.com](http://www.Gendronfuneralhome.com).*

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**Ami McKinney** - January 28, 2021 at 01:41 PM

ST

“ Orville Louis Toler

Written by

Daughter-in-law

Susan Toler

*I met Orville in 1996 a few months before Bill and I were married. I was immediately impressed with his warm smile, his intelligence and common sense, his acceptance of others and of course his humor. I came to understand his very deep love he had for his wife, Olivia, and his pride and love he had for his children and grandchildren. I learned to listen to his stories of flying, of captaining his boats from Florida to the southern Bahamas and back and hunting mushrooms or spearing lobsters.*

*My favorite story which he recounted numerous times was about flying his family and Olivia's parents to the Bahamas in one of his planes for a vacation, he shuttled his family from Florida to one of the islands and then returned to Florida to take Olivia's parents and luggage and supplies to the Bahamas for the week. Orville has explained to all of them that they couldn't take unnecessary items due to weight limits for the plane to fly. Olivia's Mother was bringing a bag of fruit with her and Orville kindly requested that she leave it in Florida due to the weight limit. She declined his request announcing the bag of fruit would not be a problem because she would hold it on her lap. I could only imagine how this physicist tried to respond to his mother-in-law. He told tons of funny jokes, sang songs I had never heard, quoted limericks some from books and some he had written himself, and whistled often. We were even able to whistle to a quail enough to lure one to his screened in porch at the farm. Orville and I spent a fair amount of time together by ourselves during the final 8 years of his life watching episodes of The Big Bang Theory, NFL football, college basketball (my influence on him and especially for Purdue basketball), and during these past couple months boxing.*

*As a family with Olivia and Bill, we took walks, played board games and sang songs. My inability to sing, earned me sideways looks from Orville. He enjoyed eating and would often ask what I called a dish and I would just tell him it was chicken stuff, pasta stuff or*

*whatever stuff and his response would be well it's good Stuff. He enjoyed cooking Chili together and also liked evening ice cream treat time but mostly oatmeal raisin cookies.*

*He walked into the ER on January 6th, 2021 and a few days later he was not very alert receiving a diagnosis of extensive and metastatic cancer. He passed away about a week later with no suffering. I am grateful for this.*

*I cherish things we did together, things he told me, an uncommon approach to treating others that did not involve yelling at them, and I always thanked him for saving my life in the Bahamas during a ride in the dingy that I was convinced would result in being dumped into high waves from all directions coming into the I will miss him.*

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**Susan Toler** - January 28, 2021 at 01:11 PM

JG

“ *I have great memories of Uncle Orville our summer trips to Cherry Hill, his plane and swimming in that pond. When you all came for visit to our house and the New Years Eve party's when we were young. He was always a wealth of knowledge and humor. His laugh will stay will them forever. Love you All 🥰*

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**Jeanne Toler Griffin** - January 27, 2021 at 06:43 PM

ES

“ Thanks Dad,

*For making enough memories to last a lifetime.*

YOD,  
Tamsin



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**E. Tamsin Serjak** - January 27, 2021 at 10:14 AM

ES

“ 3 files added to the album *Memories of Orville Toler*



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**E. Tamsin Serjak** - January 27, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of *Orville Louis Toler*.



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January 22, 2021 at 11:20 AM