



## Willie Gene Tilley

August 29, 1927 - May 5, 2017

Willie Gene Tilley of Barclay, MD, died Friday, May 5, 2017, at the Caroline Hospice House of Compass Regional Hospice in Denton, MD. He was 89.

Mr. Tilley was born August 29, 1927, in Mount Airy, NC, the son of the late Hugh Tilley and Ollie Cleo "Shaw." Mr. Tilley spent a majority of his life serving his country at first in the Merchant Marines and then in the United States Navy where he worked as Chief Boatsman. Throughout his naval career, he served in World War II, Korea, and in Vietnam. In 1960, while still serving in the Navy, he moved to Maryland. After an honorable discharge, he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service working for 12 years in Edgewater, MD. On Jan. 2, 1953, he married his late wife, Myrtle Tilley. Eventually the two retired to Barclay, MD. Mr. Tilley was a member of the Masonic Lodge 89 in Annapolis, MD. He enjoyed collecting chainsaws and gardening.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Myrtle Tilley in 2011 as well as one brother, James A. Tilley, and two sisters, Mary Lee Greenwood and Betty Louise Cole.

He is survived by his friends from the Sunday morning breakfast club and the Tuesday evening dinner crew.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 12 p.m. in

Sudlersville Cemetery in Sudlersville, MD.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to any Humane Society of your choice to help with the rescue of animals. Online condolences can be sent at [www.fhnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com)

## Cemetery Details

### **Sudlersville Cemetery**

Sudlersville, MD

## Previous Events

### **Graveside Service**

MAY 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Sudlersville Cemetery  
Sudlersville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Willie Gene Tilley*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Willie Gene Tilley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Willie Gene Tilley*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I will miss seeing Mr. Tilley. I have known him for 40 years. He always had a smile and of course a kiss on my cheek. I loved to hear his stories of his Navy days and how he met Mrs. Tilley and his travels. Such an interesting man. I always told him he should have wrote his memoirs. It would have made a great book. My sincere condolences to the Tilley family.*



*Carolyn Walls*

Carolyn Walls - May 12, 2017 at 05:49 PM

RK

“ Mr. Tilley, miss you already. We have been so blessed to have had you as a neighbor for 40+ years, we could not have asked for better neighbors. You & Ms. Myrtle always greeted us with a smile, a hug & a kiss on the cheek. You watched my brothers and I grow up then you got to see my sons grow up then meet our grand daughter. We all think very highly of you and cherish all the stories about your navy days, all the plants as to where they come from and how to take care of them. We were a part of the 1/3 to receive vegetables and fruit, so many times I would come home or just open the front door to find bags of wonderful produce. We would give each other saplings & seeds as well as flowers. I am going to miss this so much. The world needs more kind and compassionate people like you. It was so heart warming the way you would speak of Ms. Myrtle, always referring to her as "my love" or "my sweetie", now you two are reunited once again.

Your neighbor & friend,  
Ruthie & Everett Kennedy & family

---

**Ruth Kennedy** - May 10, 2017 at 08:38 PM

MJ

“ Mitchell Gene Jessup lit a candle in memory of Willie Gene Tilley



---

**Mitchell Gene Jessup** - May 08, 2017 at 05:14 PM

WT

“ Mr. Tilley, will miss your information on gardening, and sharing sea stories with you.

Bill Taylor

---

**William R Taylor** - May 08, 2017 at 01:41 PM

CT

“ We loved Gene. My father was James Tilley, his younger brother. Gene earning money from the Navy, bought my father his first bicycle. They didn't have much growing up, and barely able to earn little money at a bottling factory in Mt. Airy, Gene joined the service. I'm aware he went to Antarctica in 1947 and Panama later on. He once told me as chief of his boat in Panama, it caught fire. While he I guess got in trouble for the fire, he was praised for getting the boat back. I was told he used to get in trouble more than a few times, but also had uniquely distinguished service with the Navy. I remember before he left the Navy, he told me he was teaching sail training to cadets at Annapolis. Before retiring, he was offered to be chief of the Presidential Yacht on the Potomac, but declined and retired. I'm aware Gene had completed his associates degree and probably the first of us Tilley's in our line to complete any college. After all his years with the Navy, Gene dreamed of growing things and when he got the opportunity, bought the land and built his home in Barclay. He loved gardening and horticulture. When I'd visit, he'd love to show off his roses and machines (chainsaws/tractors) he'd collected. He once told me he'd eat 1/3 of what he grew, gave away 1/3, and 1/3 went to the rabbits and other critters. He once grew what's known as a 'blue' rose and also pineapples among many other things. In his later years I knew him as a tender, sweet man, who dearly missed his departed wife and soulmate. Just last year, before he passed, he completed a new deck on his house! He was a testimony to an active life and will be deeply missed. - Chris Tilley, nephew.

---

Chris Tilley - May 07, 2017 at 05:05 PM

CT

“ 2 files added to the album *Photographs and Memories*



---

**Chris Tilley** - May 06, 2017 at 11:53 AM

CT

“ 6 files added to the album *Photographs and Memories*



---

**Chris Tilley** - May 05, 2017 at 07:57 PM

MW

“ *Really going to miss you Mr. Tilley!*

---

**Mary J. Wood** - May 05, 2017 at 04:24 PM