



## William Henry Speas, Sr

January 21, 1929 - January 5, 2018

William Henry Speas, Sr., 88, of Greensboro, passed away on January 5, 2018. Mr. Speas was born on January 21, 1929 in Forsyth County, North Carolina to the late William Worth and Vertie Hepler Speas. After graduating from high school he joined the United States Navy and later the United States Coast Guard where he served in the World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Mr. Speas retired from the military after 28 years of service. He married Irene Joanna Koc Speas on December 30, 1960. Mr. Speas moved with his family from Pasadena, Maryland to Greensboro 38 years ago. He was an avid gardner and well known around town as someone who could fix anything. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his son John Speas and sister Lillian Tennant. He is survived by his wife Irene, daughter Shirley Marie Smith (William) and son William H. Speas, Jr. (Annette) both of Greensboro, , grandchildren Clara Lituski, Rene Wright, Joseph Wright, III, John Speas, Jr., Kyle Speas and Emily Speas, great grandchildren Justin Jr., Cheyanne, Robert and Lilah. A visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday, January 12, and from 1:00 to 2:00 pm Saturday, January 13 in the Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home. The service will follow at 2:00 pm in the funeral home. Interment is in the Greensboro Cemetery. The family suggests contributions in Mr. Speas name to be made to the St. Judes Children's Hospital. To share memories and condolences please visit [www.fleegleandhelfenbein.com](http://www.fleegleandhelfenbein.com)



# Cemetery Details

## Greensboro Cemetery

311 N. Main Street  
Greensboro, MD 21639

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fleegle & Helfenbein Funeral Home  
106 W. Sunset Ave.  
Greensboro, MD 21639

## Visitation

JAN 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Fleegle & Helfenbein Funeral Home  
106 W. Sunset Ave.  
Greensboro, MD 21639

## Funeral

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fleegle & Helfenbein Funeral Home  
106 W. Sunset Ave.  
Greensboro, MD 21639



# Tribute Wall



“ *William Henry Speas, Sr*

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October 08, 2023 at 03:21 PM



“ *William Henry Speas, Sr*

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October 06, 2023 at 10:39 AM

BS

“ Uncle Bill was like a second father to me. What I remember most was:

He was an intelligent man. He was always reading...always learning which apparently started at a young age. He told me that when he was a little boy, he had to do his homework by candlelight or kerosene lamp. Wow.

He sang us songs like, "Old Dan Tucker".

When he worked hard during the day, he would a drink a cool glass of water and at night, he drank his buttermilk.

When he would tell us his stories, the main theme was that he never had a harsh word to said about anyone.

We shared a love of gardening. We could talk for hours about the nematodes, soil care, espalier fence/trees, pooktre etc. and time would fly by.

In Puerto Rico, he opened his heart and home again. He built benches in his

pick up truck with a cap to ride my sibilings and I around in comfort.

He took us to the lighthouse, Rain Mountain and Del Mar Beach. In Puerto Rico, was were I ate my first lobster thanks to my aunt and uncle.

But most importantly, he loved his wife, children, mother and sibilings. I remember when I

would spend the night with them, my aunt and uncle would talk and then segway into comradery play. She was so short and he was so tall. My aunt would say, "Come on

big boy." and my uncle would say, "Now, now, Irene." Then, we would all laugh and dance. I felt like a little woodland fairy dancing with fireflies and happiness; we really didn't need the tv..

I remember at Christmas time, Uncle Bill would go out and cut down a beautiful Christmas tree for Shirley..then, later for Shirley, Billy and Johnny. I remember on one Christmas, Shirley wanted a puppy and Shirely got Star. Wow. Shirley got a puppy : )

I remember when Uncle Bill came home from Puerto Rico and he was in our kitchen holding this beautiful little boy, Lit'l Bill. Uncle Bill was so tall and his hands were so big, yet he was so gentle in



*holding that little boy. I was fortunate to see this again when Lit'l Bill held his own beautiful little son and daughter.*

*Uncle Bill coined the phrase, John-boy. Later a tv show came out called, "The Waltons".*

*The only reason I watched it was because we had a John-boy. My siblings and I never felt any jealousy toward Shirley, Billy or Johnny...to us, they were just extra sibling to love...besides, they were just so darn cute. If you look at Shirley's children, Lit'l Bill's children and John's son, you'll know what I mean : )*

*When I was little and on this one day, I visited Uncle Bill's house, he said that he had a*

*surprise. I walked in and there was an elderly lady. Uncle Bill beamed with delight as he*

*introduced to me his Mom. All I remember was that she had Uncle Bill's beautiful blue eyes and wonderful smile and when she hugged me. it was like I was God's best gift to the world, I felt the same love that I got from Uncle Bill. I'll never forget her hugs.*

*Uncle Bill would lovingly mention his brother and sister that when I finally met them, I just called them as Uncle Troy and Aunt Lil. Uncle Bill enjoyed going to the Preakness with his brother.*

*There are far too many wonderful stories about Uncle Bill that I could share, but I will leave some space for others to share their stories. I did enjoy visiting Uncle Bill and reminiscing about those fun, happy times. Uncle Bill would graciously invite me back to visit of which I was so happy to hear and more than happy to oblige.*

*Uncle Bill, I will always remember you as loving husband to my aunt and proud father to Shirley, Billy and Johnny. You are a cherished uncle and second father to me. In my eye, you are the quintessential officer and a gentleman. I Love You and I Thank You for sharing your time and family with me. You hold a very special place in my heart. Bonnie*

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**bonnie shepke** - January 13, 2018 at 10:38 AM

BA

*I remember it all too just didn't want to overdo the memory wall when I wrote earlier. It was the times at Lake Shore and Puerto Rico with him and Aunt Porky. They were the best times of my youth. Yep never needed a TV with Uncle Bill. He will be greatly missed. I hope the grandchildren learned a lot from him like we did.*

Barbara - January 14, 2018 at 03:31 PM



*Thank you so very much. The warm thoughts make me smile through my tears. He is at peace but, boy, will he ever be missed!*

Shirley Speas Wright Smith - January 15, 2018 at 09:06 AM

CC

*Mr. Bill and Ms. Irene were Salt of the Earth people. Hands down the best neighbors of my life. They owned three or four properties in a row along Laurel Drive in the 21122. Mr. Speas taught me a lot just from watching him work around his property. I can't say enough about them. I would love to reconnect with Billy again.*

Charles Cox - March 19 at 05:15 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home - January 12, 2018 at 10:26 AM

MF

“ Mike Breliia and Family purchased the Sapphire Sadies Bouquet for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.



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**Mike Breliia and Family** - January 11, 2018 at 07:38 PM

RO

“ I remember all so much about Uncle Bill. But the memories that stand out the most was going to visit Aunt Porky and Uncle Bill at their Lake Shore home. Uncle Bill liked working with his hands. He built the beach houses behind the little white house. There I would sit on a little hill and talked to him about everything and anything while he was digging in the dirt. Uncle Bill would tell me stories about growing up on the farm. When I would spend the night with Shirley, Uncle Bill would read us stories out of the story books Aunt Porky had collected through the year. My favorite book chapter was about Jane and John. Some times Uncle Bill would make the characters come alive. His riddles where fun when you could figure them out. I will always remember his stories, his wonderful smile and helpful advise. Whenever something medical would happen to me and I would wake up in the hospital. The only people I would see were Mom, Dad, my favorite Aunt Porky and Uncle Bill. Seeing all of them, made me get well faster. I will miss you dearly Uncle Bill. I will never forget you because your memories will always be in my heart.



Roser

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**Rose** - January 08, 2018 at 11:37 PM



Annette Speas

*Rose, this is so touching. It really means a lot to my Bill 💕 Hope to see you. Annette*

**Annette Speas** - January 10, 2018 at 10:48 PM



*Rose, We are blessed with many great memories of an amazing man. He will be greatly missed.*

**Shirley Speas Wright Smith** - January 15, 2018 at 09:07 AM



“ *Memories to Treasure was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.*



January 08, 2018 at 09:55 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.*



January 08, 2018 at 09:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.*



January 08, 2018 at 05:44 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.



January 08, 2018 at 05:38 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.



January 08, 2018 at 01:34 PM



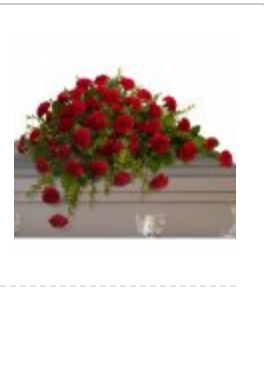
“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.



January 08, 2018 at 01:31 PM



“ *Adoration Casket Spray* was purchased for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.



January 08, 2018 at 01:27 PM

GT

“ *GES Kindergarten Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.*



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**GES Kindergarten Team** - January 07, 2018 at 01:31 PM

DT

“ *Dan Towers lit a candle in memory of William Henry Speas, Sr*



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**Dan Towers** - January 06, 2018 at 09:00 AM

SD

“ *Sharon Dennis lit a candle in memory of William Henry Speas, Sr*



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**Sharon Dennis** - January 06, 2018 at 08:02 AM

BB

“ When staying with Aunt Porky and Uncle Bill which we did a lot especially in the summer growing up he would say, " come on boys" and we would say, "Uncle Bill we're not boys we're girls." He treated us all the same and taught us a lot about fishing, crabbing and and the wild critters he ate as a child growing up in North Carolina. Will miss his many tales, stories, and riddles. Will remember the summers of crabs, him swimming and bathing with his bar of ivory soap in the creek in Lake Shore after a hard day at work.  
Love you Uncle Bill

Barbara Barnes - January 06, 2018 at 07:37 AM



Barb, We have some wonderful memories. He will be greatly missed.

Shirley Speas Wright Smith - January 15, 2018 at 09:08 AM

MS

“ Mike, Tracy and Chase Shepke purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Henry Speas, Sr.



Mike, Tracy and Chase Shepke - January 05, 2018 at 07:03 PM