



## Lyle S. Tennis

September 18, 1923 - October 10, 2023

Lyle S. Tennis, 100, passed away on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

Lyle was born September 18, 1923 in Unity, Wisconsin. He lived in Racine since 1952. Lyle married Mea Hollenbeck in 1944. Surviving are four daughters: Anne, Holly, Lynn (Ashmore) Edwards, and Melody (Michael) Coffey. Eight grandchildren: Nicholas (Nova), Dane, Mariah, Charlie, and Claire Coffey; Jordan and Abraham Tennis; and Tyler (Ashley) Edwards. One great grandchild: Jayden Edwards. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sylvester and Jessie Tennis. His wife of 73 years, Mea Tennis. And his sister/brother-in-law, Arlene and Richard Oudenhoven.

Lyle graduated from Whitewater State College in January 1944 and entered active duty with the U.S. Navy in March 1944. He distinguished himself during the invasion of Okinawa in World War II, as he was put in command of a Landing Ship while being attacked by Japanese Kamikaze planes. The United States government awarded him the highest Navy medal, the Navy Cross, as well as the Purple Heart, Unit Commendation, and World War II awards for his 28 years of service in the Naval Reserve.

Lyle was a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve and commanded the Surface Division 9-210 and Group Command 9-76 before retirement as a Commander.

He taught school at Deerfield and Manitowoc, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri; and 32 years in Racine Public Schools. Lyle was the Business Education Department Chairman for 19 years at the J. I. Case High School. He furthered

his education by earning a Masters of Art degree from University of Iowa in 1949.

Lyle was a life member of the WEA and NEA, and the Navy Club of the USA. He was a charter member of the U.S. Naval Foundation and Life Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Lyle has been a devoted member of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, where he served in a variety of ways. During his retirement years he volunteered at Habitat for Humanity.

Funeral services will be held at Holy Communion Lutheran Church, 2000 W. 6th Street, on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 11 a.m. Rev. Laura Fladten officiating. There will be a visitation at Sturino Funeral Home on Monday, October 23 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and at the church on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until time of service. Lyle will be laid to rest with his wife, Mea at South Bristol Cemetery in Kenosha County in a private ceremony.

Memorials may be given to Racine Habitat for Humanity, 1501 Villa Street, or to Holy Communion Lutheran Church.

# Cemetery Details

## South Bristol Cemetery

Bristol, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

## Visitation

OCT **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Communion Lutheran Church  
2000 W. 6th Street  
Racine, WI

## Funeral Service

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Communion Lutheran Church  
2000 W. 6th Street  
Racine, WI



# Tribute Wall

RN

“ Lyle served on the LSM-R 190 in the Pacific Front in World War II. My late father, David E. McCusker, was one of his shipmates. Dave McCusker was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, in 1925, and lived his life and raised his family in nearby White Oak, PA, before passing away in 2017. Dave remembered Lyle well, and in the 1970s, they reconnected via the LSM group, and saw one another at the reunions. I just found an address label with Lyle and Mae's contact information on it, among Dad's things, and know that they stayed in touch for many years even after the reunions ended. I used many of Lyle's online materials as references in the book I created, *Dave McCusker's World War II Story*. I extend the sympathies of the McCusker family to Lyle's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and gratitude for Lyle's exemplary service. The family is welcome to contact me at [rosemarynilles@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarynilles@gmail.com).

Rosemary Nilles - September 29, 2025 at 12:05 AM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Lyle S. Tennis.



October 20, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lyle S. Tennis.

October 20, 2023 at 10:41 AM

JP

“ *Condolences to the family, Anne. I often saw your dad at George Webs in recent years and would stop just to say hello. I could tell he was always there with the green car and the red, white and blue flag. I hadn't seen him there lately and was getting concerned. I always enjoyed coming over and seeing your parents. We had great visits and good conversations along with great laughs. Wonderful memories.*



Jan Phelps - October 16, 2023 at 08:51 PM

SB

“ *Condolences to all family members. We have fond memories of Lyle and Mia. Sheila and Maury Blada*

Sheila and Maury Blada - October 16, 2023 at 03:39 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lyle S. Tennis.*



October 16, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ *Doris Dudek sends her condolences to Lyle's family.*



David Herbst - October 16, 2023 at 10:12 AM

DD

“ Lyle...a terrific man in so many ways!  
My husband and I attended their wedding in Kenosha.  
The Hollenbeck's were neighbors on 23rd ave. Mia was a good friend to all of us. We kept in touch, now and then.  
My sympathy to all of the family.  
Dorie Dudek  
Dorie@wi.rr.com

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**Doris Dudek** - October 15, 2023 at 04:06 PM

JS

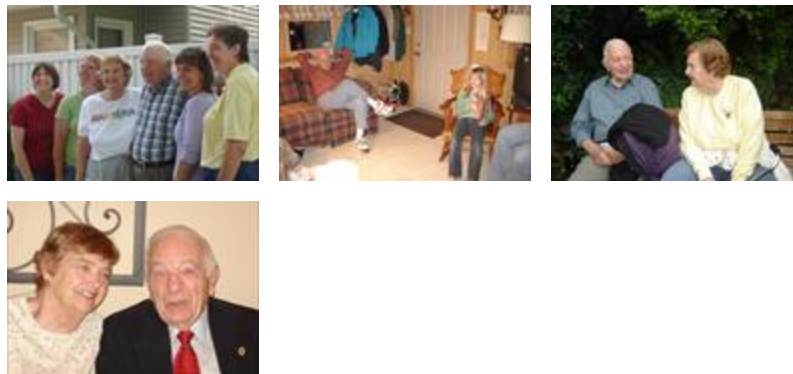
“ Lyle was department chair when I taught business classes at J I Case High School from 1966-1970. Our department had so much fun, mostly because Lyle was fun to be around! I learned a lot from him, as these were my first years teaching and I was a rookie!! We always kept in touch these last 50 years, even though I moved to Minnesota. He was an exceptional guy!  
Jane Spartz

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**Jane Spa** - October 14, 2023 at 03:26 PM

MC

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Mike Coffey** - October 13, 2023 at 04:49 PM

MC

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Mike Coffey - October 13, 2023 at 03:07 PM

MJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Marty Jacobs - October 12, 2023 at 07:54 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marty Jacobs - October 12, 2023 at 07:25 PM

MJ

“ 5 files added to the album Navy Club Ship 60 Photos



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**Marty Jacobs** - October 12, 2023 at 06:35 PM