

RELIGION

Student Builds a Foundation

18-year-old Nikolas Tucker has already built quite the foundation for himself, a fitting accomplishment since the recent high school grad wants go into land development. Tucker graduated top of his class at with a 4.0 GPA, ranking number 1 out of 74 making him class valedictorian.

The achievements don't stop there; the lifetime Northeast Portlander was awarded a 4-year community award from De La Salle North Catholic High School for his dedication to the school's community.

Starting this fall, Tucker will be attending Columbia University in New York City where he was accepted as one of only 30 of 6,000 applicants into the school's Academic Success Program. Here, the young academic will study architecture with a concentration in historic architecture and community development and hopes to gain his Master's Degree.



Nikolas Tucker

Tucker also plans to stay involved in community and volunteer work while in the 'Big Apple.' He wants to bring a diversity and inclusiveness camp for youth that he was involved in called 'Camp Odyssey' to the east coast and form it into a national organization.

When his college studies are complete, Tucker hopes to gain a real estate license and start a land development business where he can rehabilitate, and then resell homes in communities that have been ravished while "retaining pieces of history".

With a nod to his brother who has autism, he also hopes to create an organization dedicated to disabled individuals which can provide opportunities for community outings and bring some humanity to lives that often lack human engagement.

The young man says rough beginnings will continue to fuel his path to achievement, "I have grown up in a house without walls, without basic plumbing, and electricity," Tucker says. "Statistics would say that I shouldn't have made it, but my family and I have beaten the odds. I have the wisdom and love of my mother to thank for this."

In Loving Memory

Billie McKenzie

Billie McKenzie made her final transition into eternity with our Lord God Almighty, June 17, 2014, surrounded by her loving family.

Billie Joyce was born June 6, 1937 in Shreveport, Louisiana, the third daughter to Lee Graham Sr. and Mable Graham.

The family moved to Vancouver during the historic migration of workers employed in the shipyards during World War II. When the shipyards closed after the war, the Graham family relocated to Portland.

Billie graduated from Vancouver High School 1955. In 1962, she graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse from Portland Community College and began a career at Providence Hospital in the Emergency Department where she was known as "Mackie"



In 1978, she earned an advanced degree in nursing at the University of Portland and became a Registered Nurse and was employed at Kaiser Permanente, Head Start and Portland Public Schools. She retired from her employment in 2000, but never retired from nursing.

Proceeding her in death were her parents; a daughter, Cynthia McDonald-Ward; a brother George Lee Graham Jr., a cousin Hilton Levias; and best friend Elvin McKenzie Jr.

She leaves to mourn and cherish her memory, daughters, Rhonda, Sharon and Tracey McKenzie; sisters Thelma Johnson, Dorothy Reid, Martha Graham-Penn, Shirley Orr and Patricia Graham; brothers Raymond and William Graham; seven grandchildren, 17 great grand-children; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other family and friends.

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Funeral Services Scheduled Clara Young

Clara Young died June 25, 2014. She was born Feb. 2, 1923.

Funeral services are scheduled for Wednesday, July 2 at 11 a.m. at Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church, 5209 N.E. 22nd Ave. Arrangements are under the direction of Terry Family Funeral Home.

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