



## Hugh Earl Buchanan

February 15, 1924 - April 26, 2011

BUCHANAN, Hugh Earl. 1924-2011, age 87, died April 26, 2011. You were never far from a song when Hugh was in the room. Music permeated all he did and was only surpassed by the unbounded love he had for his family. Known as "Song Bird" during his 34 years working at Michigan Bell, Hugh sang the National Anthem at Tiger stadium multiple times and was a feature during the early years of the Freedom Festival, singing with his brother Will before estimated crowds of one million people on both sides of the Detroit River. A graduate of St. Mary's High School in Royal Oak, Hugh was stellar on the basketball floor setting league scoring records and leading his team to the Catholic League Championship. Entering the US Army in 1942, he was assigned to Eisenhower's HQ Company as a Tech 5 in the European campaign and found himself on stage in his off hours in USO clubs in front of many of the many big bands. He married Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Bradley in 1947 upon his return and discharge from service and soon began a family that eventually would include eight children, 38 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. He lived next door to his brother Will for 16 years in Sterling Heights. The dual Buchanan families were a cornerstone in the neighborhood and St. Matthias Parish which they helped establish. Betty Ann succumbed to cancer in 1998. Surviving Hugh is his brother Will Mary Buchanan and children Hugh A. Mary Ellen Buchanan, Kathleen Karl Fulks, Mary Ann Alex Marchwinski, Michael Donna Buchanan, Margaret John Bernia, Carol Stewart, Patrick Leslie Buchanan and James Grace Buchanan. Husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, Hugh graced the lives of all he met with his immediate charm, disarming smile and pure tenor voice. We will miss you Song Bird. Visitation Thursday April 28, 2011 4:00pm-9:00pm and Friday 4:00pm-9:00pm for Family and Friends with a prayer service time pending at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road 3 blks east of Van Dyke Utica. Saturday in state at 11:30 am until time 1:00 pm mass at St. Mary Catholic Church M-25 and Main St Port Sanilac. Burial St. Mary Cemetery, Sanilac. Contributions appreciated to St. Mary Catholic Church, Port Sanilac OR Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, Bloomfield Hills.

# Tribute Wall

SM

“*Hugh jr. You taught me nearly everything I know about men's spirituality and fellowship, and given the faith of your father, I now see where it came from. I'm sorry I could not make it to the funeral, but please know that you and your whole family have been in our prayers and thoughts. God Bless, scot*

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**Scot J. Mocerri** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RE

“*To The Buchanan Family, I loved your mom and dad, and am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was with me in the labor room each time when I had my three kids. Your dad was always filled with fun, and your home was always filled with love. I loved growing up with all the Buchanan's. You are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you all. Roni HumbachElwell*

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**Roni Humbach Elwell** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“*My Deepest sorrow to all you his children, we knew you all as you grew up, your Dad and I sang in the choir at St Mattias, enjoyed their company at many parties,we think of your family often "The Humbach's*

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**John&Laurel Humbach** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“*We had the great pleasure of knowing Hugh and Betty as friends. I also had the honor of working with Hugh and I cherish his loyalty and friendship. We know he and Betty are together again and we thank God for this blessing. They are both deeply missed. We will keep you all in our prayers at the loss of these two remarkable people. We will miss them always. God bless and keep their family. With our love, Jerry & Georgie Malinowski*

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**Jerome Malinowski** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PD

“*To the family of Mr. Hugh Buchanan, I worked with Hugh and found him to be a kind and generous person. I had many laughs with him. Paul Duggan*

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**Paul J. Duggan** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CC

“*May Jesus Christ comfort you and your family at this time. God bless*

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**chuck cook** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Buchanan family, I enjoyed reading Grandpa Buchanan's obituary this morning...what a celebration! Please know that our family is praying for yours; may you continue to have moments that celebrate a life well-lived and well-loved. And may Jesus continue to strengthen you with his peace and hope for our heavenly home. With love from the Winchell family

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**Missy Winchell** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Jim, my prayers are with you and your family. Try to remember the good times and glorify your dad's memory.

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**Dave Prince** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ To the Family of Mr. Hugh Earl Buchanan, My condolences to your families and all those who loved Mr. Buchanan. I did not have the pleasure/honor of meeting him. However, I do know Margie Berniahis daughter! I want to say that Margie is an amazing Godly woman who is full of love, kindness, beauty, caring, smiles, giving, goodness, compassion, and such a nurturing personality. I can only imagine she got these traits from her parents... Mr. Buchanan, Rest now with God our Father and all the Angels above! Our Father who art in heaven... Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you... AMEN!

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**Jacquelyn Geml** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Uncle Hugh will always be my uncle, even though we were never really related - only by love. I remember running over to the Buchanan house across the street and down 2 houses when we lived on Royal. There was always fun things to do there. When we moved, and the Buchanan family moved, fun times continued when you all lived in the green house near where we moved. Then on to Sterling Heights - singing, laughing, playing in the yard - and Uncle Hugh always, ALWAYS singing. He had a magnetic smile and a great, big laugh. I came to his 80th birthday with my dad, Phil. What a party... so many years, and so many memories. He's with Aunt Betty once again. All is well. You are remembered fondly.

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**Maureen DeFrance** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CR

“A life well-lived is a precious gift of hope & strength & grace from someone who has made the world a brighter, better place. A life well-lived is a legacy of joy & pride & pleasure, A loving, lasting memory our grateful hearts will treasure.”  
Hugh, your devotion & love for your family, friends & life itself is truly an inspiration to us all...you will be greatly missed but your loving spirit will forever live on in our hearts. Carrie Mary Hogue Buchanan's sister

Carrie E. Rowley - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ His legacy will live in our voices as he will sing with us from heaven.

Carol Stewart - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ To the Buchanan Family: When someone you love becomes a memory,the memory becomes a treasure. May memories comfort you and bring you peace,and the love you feel around you, help ease the ache in your heart. My condolences to you all. God's Love & Peace to you Love, Lynn

Lynn Hall - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Dearest Mary Ellen and family, My heart and prayers go out to you in this time of loss. Mary Ellen spoke to me of your last family gathering together and it is so obvious how blessed Mr. Hugh Buchanan must have felt. May God be with you as you mourn and celebrate the beautiful memories that all of you have had together Mr. Hugh Buchanan. With deepest sympathy, Kim Kramer

Kim Kramer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Dear Hugh and family, I can tell that Hugh Earl was wonderful just by knowing you. You are all in my thoughts and prayers as you lay this good man to rest. May God's peace and comfort be with you.

Rita Tinetti - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM