

IN MEMORIAM



Lewis Hill Jenkins, Sr.
April 28, 1926 - October 31, 2103

On Thursday, October 31, 2013, with the death of Lewis Hill Jenkins, Sr., 87, of Wilkesboro, North Carolina, the entire Buick community lost a loyal, distinguished and knowledgeable friend.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 3, 2013 at the Reins-Sturdivant Chapel, 270 Armory Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, 28697 (336-838-3178) with Dr. N. Nelson Granade, Jr. and the Rev. Brian Sampson officiating. Burial will be in Mountlawn Memorial Park, 196 Fan Key Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, 28659. The family will receive at Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home from 1:00 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. prior to the funeral service.

Lewis Hill Jenkins, Sr. was born in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on April 28, 1926, to Charles Edward and Sallie Vannoy Jenkins. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro. Mr. Jenkins was the chairman of the flood control committee that was instrumental in the building of the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. He was appointed by Governor Jim Holshouser to the Environmental Management Commission. He was a member of the Commerce Development Board. He had served on the Wilkes Regional Medical Center Board of Directors. Mr. Jenkins was currently serving on the Wilkes County Airport Authority Board. He was also a member of the Antique Auto Club of America and the Buick Club of America.

Mr. Jenkins was the past president of The National Building District Association and a past member of the North Wilkesboro Board of Education, Board of Trustees of Wilkes Community College and the Board of Governors at Appalachian State University.

During World War II, Mr. Jenkins served his country honorably in the Army Air Corps as the Captain of a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, flying multiple bombing missions over Germany. Mr. Jenkins successfully piloted his B-17 back to England saving the lives of almost his entire air crew after his Flying Fortress was struck by flack, killing his co-pilot and severely damaging the aircraft.

Mr. Jenkins' successful businesses included Jenkins Wholesale, Corporate Coach and his widely acclaimed automobile restoration business, known as Jenkins Restoration. Mr. Jenkins had been active at Jenkins Restoration up until just before his death.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Jenkins was preceded in death by a daughter, Nancy Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins is survived by one daughter, Mary Vann Swiggett of Thomasville; one son, Lewis "Hill" Jenkins, Jr. of North Wilkesboro; three grandchildren, Martha Vannoy Swiggett, Mary Elizabeth Buckner, Lewis Hill Jenkins, III; extended family, Elizabeth Susie Harris, Charly Harris Ferguson, Cassidy and Tre' Lowe.

Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro, PO Box 458, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, 28659, or to Cub Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 86, Wilkesboro, North Carolina, 28697.



LEFT: October 1, 2010 - Buick enthusiasts everywhere knew Lewis Jenkins as a leader in the automobile restoration business. With the emphasis of his business on vintage Cadillacs and Buicks, Jenkins Restorations created nationally recognized, award-winning, renowned restorations. In this photo, from left to right, Buick enthusiasts Gary Truant and Vince Truant consult with their long-time friend Lewis about work being conducted at Jenkins Restorations.

RIGHT: October 1, 2010 - Gary and Vince Truant review the progress of their upholstery at Lewis' trim shop, known as Jenkins Interiors, where interiors and convertible tops of legendary quality and authenticity were produced. At Buick events everywhere, "Jenkins Tops" and "Jenkins Interiors" are recognized as being the very best.





LEFT: July 28, 2009 - From left to right, Buick enthusiasts Douglas A. Schenck, James V. Dingell, Jr. of the BHA's Board of Directors, James V. Dingell, III and Lewis Jenkins review recently completed interior trim pieces.

RIGHT: July 28, 2009 - James V. Dingell, III tours the Jenkins Interior trim shop with his father and Douglas Schenck.



LEFT: July 28, 2009 - Lewis Jenkins intently inspects the on-going work at his trim shop, where he always insisted upon uncompromising quality and authenticity.



LEFT: A 1957 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible interior in its early stages of completion.

RIGHT: Mr. Jenkins' legendary antique Buick and Cadillac collection.



LEFT: From left to right are Lewis Jenkins, BHA Board of Directors member David M. Landow and George McNeil. George was responsible for all of the mechanical restoration work that was conducted at Jenkins Restorations. In this photo, taken at the 2012 Buick Club of America National

Meet, held in Concord, North Carolina, David Landow congratulates Lewis on the many awards that Lewis' customers received for Buicks that were faithfully restored by Jenkins Restorations.