



## Tucher L. DeGroat

March 18, 1967 - May 12, 2019

Wantage - Tucher L. DeGroat, age 52, unexpectedly passed away on Sunday, May 12, 2019 at his residence. Born and raised in Sussex, Tucher lived in Arizona for several years before moving back to Sussex County twenty years ago. He was a graduate of High Point Regional High School and participated in wrestling and football. Tucher was known for his wrestling ability and was top in the county. He still supported the school's wrestling and attended matches when he could. He was the owner and operator of Tucher DeGroat Specialized Hauling and also enjoyed welding. Tucher loved to have fun; especially with his grandson, Kaleb, but always put the needs of others before his own. He also enjoyed tractor pulling. He was predeceased by his mother, Patri (Guinaud) Rhinesmith; his paternal grandfather, Willard "Bill" H. DeGroat; and his maternal grandparents, Leon and Barbara Guinaud. Tucher is survived by his girlfriend of 25 years, Laurie Guadagno of Montague; his grandson, Kaleb Barretto of Montague; his son, James Lee Bush of Arizona; his father, Willard "Hap" E. DeGroat and his wife Sherry of Westtown, New York; his sisters, Tammy Decker and her companion, Larry of Cuddlebackville, New York; Hope Decker and her husband William of Westtown, New York, Tara Johnson of Ocala, Florida, and Marlene Smith and her husband John of Wantage; his paternal grandmother, Eileen (Blackmore) DeGroat of the Plumsock section of Wantage; his step-father, Harold Rhinesmith of Florida; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at Sussex Fire Department, 25 Loomis Avenue,

Sussex. Friends may pay their respects to the family one hour prior to the service from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Private cremation services have been entrusted to the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations may be made in Tucher's memory to High Point Wrestling, P.O. Box 699, Branchville, NJ 07826. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

**Private Cremation Services**

## Previous Events

### Memorial Visitation

MAY **25**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Sussex Fire Department  
25 Loomis Avenue  
Sussex, NJ 07461

### Memorial Service

MAY **25**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Sussex Fire Department  
25 Loomis Avenue  
Sussex, NJ 07461

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ I met Tucher ( I always spelled it Tucker, but he never corrected me) through his work on our farm, in Minisink Township. My brother Mart told me that he was a good mechanic, so over the years, as he worked on my car or truck, I got to know him.

*He first worked on my old Saab 900, when he had a good setup on Lower Road, with the motor home all nicely stowed in back of that big building on the Kim's farm. I remember him greeting the kids as they got on or off the bus; they liked the big mountain man.*

*He worked over in Pine Island a while, and helped a black dirt farmer keep his equipment running, alongside fixing cars. It was over there he helped a neighbor sell an older Ford Explorer to me, for a good price; buyer and seller were happy, and I don't believe Tucher made a dime on that.*

*The next year, he had a good place down on 565 past the airport, where there's a motorcycle dealership in front: he rented a fine big shop in the back, with an office and everything. I gave him one of our Re-Union mugs for that office, I recall, and invited him to come up to the next one ( we did a bit of talking while he was working on the vehicles!).*

*It was down there, ten years ago, that I saw his “ practical compassion “ at work. He'd been repairing the rusty brake lines on that Ford, and then he told me about a safer, more economical car on sale nearby, if I moved quickly.*

*It seems that there was an older man who rented a room near that complex, who had no one to look after him, and he couldn't walk hardly at all, so he drove an old garden tractor around to get things and to check in with Tucher. This fellow, I heard, needed money to take care of some basics, but much of his fortune was invested in Tree Care trucks and a 1999 Saab hatchback. Tucher knew I drove a lot for my job, and figured the car would work out for me, so I bought the car and it was a good one for me, and the cash in hand*

*was very helpful to the older friend of Tucher's ( who, I learned, had no other real friends).*

*I always figured Tucher ( Tucker) would call back when I left a message on his cell, even though I never heard his voice on that outgoing message. I'm gonna miss you, man.*

*Ty Lain  
Town of Minisink*

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**Ty Lain** - May 25, 2019 at 09:26 AM

CD

“ *Tucher and I became good friends in high school. I will never forget playing football, and lifting weights with him at his dads shop during the off season. I still remember the truck he drove in high school, it had a wooden bumper and he craved the word "Maybelline" in it with a chain saw.*

*He was a great friend and I wish that the miles between us after high school weren't so many and we kept in touch. He will forever be in my heart! I only wish I could have spoken to him again.*

*Please accept my deepest sympathy, and know that he touched many hearts.*

*Rest in peace my friend, and know that we will all be together in the end.*

*God Bless  
Chris Davey*

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**Christopher Davey** - May 20, 2019 at 12:29 AM



*Thank you Chris.*

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**Tara Johnson** - May 23, 2019 at 02:57 PM

DK

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the entire DeGroat family. Just thinking of Tucher makes us smile .... laugh.... he had the kindest heart, soft spoken, gentle soul, always had time for everyone. He would help you out, fix anything, just lend a helping hand. The world was a better place with Tucher in it. We will miss him greatly, and remember him always.  
Coach and Mrs. Karnas

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**Don Karnas** - May 19, 2019 at 05:49 PM

RM

“ I've known Tucker for 47 years or so, since I met him in Degroat brothers work shop next to the old Jaegers market where the Dare Devil Deli is now, riding three wheelers with Bill Crown in the early 70's. we would bump into each other a lot with our muscle cars, I've always had my 69 charger R/T, and he usually had a mustang. Over the years we stayed friends and helped each other. Every time I would sell one of my many car trailers to pay the bills and feed my family, I could always count on him to tow all my cars I was restoring and selling. Just recently he towed a 72 charger R/T to my house and as we were loading it he asked me to kook up the chain for him cause he "just didn't feel good at all". I told him to get checked out. I'm very sorry to hear that my friend has passed. One thing about Tucker, if he said he was going to do something, he'd do it. And if he couldn't make it, you would get a courtesy call back letting you know. He would help you if he could. I called him about 4;00 pm one day last September, when a timing chain went in an old ford pick up I was driving, and I told him where I was, over by the Vo-Tech school on the side of the road. He said "I'm doing a tow right now, i'll be there as soon as I can" I don't think it was even 6;00pm when he arrived. He pretty much dropped everything to help me. Tucker was a good guy. R.I.P. my friend.

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**Rory Mayers** - May 18, 2019 at 10:47 AM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Stephen Kessel** - May 18, 2019 at 07:41 AM

SK

*Jeff Hull's tribute captures Tucher perfectly. A character among characters.*

*I first met Tucher when we had to wrestle each other at the Sparta Open the summer before our freshman year. Even at that young age Tucher (and his dad) was intimidating to see on the other side of the mat. I honestly forget who won (my money is on Tucher) but after the match Tucher approached me and I could tell right away what a great guy he was. We quickly realized that we were soon going to be teammates on football and wrestling and we quickly became friends.*

*A funny story and follow up to Hull's, I was in a bar in Florida not long ago and struck up a conversation with a guy who happened to be from NJ. We started connecting the dots and as soon as I mentioned I went to HP, the first thing he said was that one of the craziest things he ever saw was that HP showed up to a wrestling match with this giant chicken! All I could do was grin and say I was one of the guys carrying the crate.*

*Tucher's legacy lives on.*

*My sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones. He will be missed.*

*RIP Tucher*

*Steve Kessel*

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**Stephen Kessel** - May 18, 2019 at 09:17 AM



“ Tucker you were a good guy to me showed me how to work on old vehicles and tractors I thank you for that you never looked down on me for my pass always showed me love you will be missed.... rob Norman

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**Robert Norman** - May 18, 2019 at 12:01 AM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Tucher L. DeGroat.



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May 17, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ As Jeff said, there has been quite the cast of characters in the HP rasslin room and Tucher was certainly one of the best! He was great teammate who would push you to your limits! I recently ran into him at a match up at HP this season. It was great to catch up with an old friend and teammate. I'm thankful for those few moments we were ale to share.....RIP Tucher.....

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**Marc Grossman** - May 15, 2019 at 09:25 PM



“ Tucher, ,I am at a loss for words . We had a lot of good times , just talked to you 5 weeks ago. Love you BROTHER!! , RIP Mitchell

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**Mitchell Chasmar** - May 15, 2019 at 04:24 PM

“H.P. Rasslin was always known for having a team that was flavored with a cast of characters and Tucher was the most colorful of them all. There were very few places that we wrestled that Tucher's reputation wasn't known. On a team of bigger than life personalities Tucher was the front man. He was known as a "pick em up, throw em down and pin em" guy. Even now, if you attend a H.P. match you will hear wildcats yell "HOIT": when they toss a competitor thru the air. This is tribal yell was started by Tucher who launched more than his share of opponents. In the summer of 84 Tucher made wildcat history by winning the Henry Boesch Trnmt. (pinning 4 opponents) followed by a 1st place trophy behind the wheel of the Plumsock Special at the tractor pull along with winning the Lumberjack competition the following day. A man of many talents. Tucher was also the surrogate father of the legendary wildcat mascot, "Herc." The day of Newton match in 85 we walked into the wrestling room to find a cage with a chicken in it accompanied by dumbbells, treadmill, and jump rope. Tucher proudly announced that this would be our mascot for the remainder of the season. We had a grudge match with Vernon on a cold February night and Tucher decided it would be inspirational to haul Herc up to the match in the back on Maybelline. Herc arrived and was snuck in the back door of the Vernon gym and promptly defecated on the recently polished gym floor. Unfortunately the administration in Vernon saw no humor in this. As 85 went on we were involved in a battle for the SCIL championship which included a match with LV. This show down came down to the 2 guys at the end of the bench. One was Tucher and the other Max. The LV fans were harassing Tucher and Max all night and as surprising as it may seem Tucher did not respond until it was time to wrestle and then he attacked "hoited" and destroyed his opponent followed by Max who followed with a barrage of pain and suffering. We left to silent group of LV fans and as SCIL champs. Although Tucher did not win every match he wrestled you could be sure that he inflicted damage on every opponent. We knew, that if we were in a match where we needed Tucher to win it, he would always come thru.

*These are only a few of the stories surrounding the legend of Tucher. If you talk to any H.P. rassler they will all have stories about this bigger than life team mate. He will be missed and never duplicated. One of the best ever!*

*RIP Tucher*

*Jeff Hull*

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**jeffrey hull** - May 15, 2019 at 11:54 AM

TA

*What an amazing tribute to the memory of who my brother was. Oh the Maybelline, he made me drive that from Unionville to Sussex once when I was 17 and didn't know how to drive a stick. He said don't worry, I'll going to tell you what to do. He sure did, we made it. I remember that year he did it all, I was only 10 or 11 and I thought he was the most amazing thing in the world.*

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**Tara** - May 15, 2019 at 12:08 PM

DD

*That was a beautiful tribute Mr. Hull! It truly captures how we will remember him! RIP Tucker!!*

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**Dominica DeMario** - May 19, 2019 at 11:02 PM

RR

“*Sending my deepest condolences to the entire family, and all those who knew Tucker. There is the family you're born into, and there's also the secondary family that is formed in the wrestling room. Today there is an unfillable void in the High Point wrestling family. RIP, Tucker.*”

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**Rob Reynolds** - May 14, 2019 at 10:55 PM

SC

“ Another one taken way before his time, Tucker helped me out when I didn't have anyone else to turn to,he would give you his last dollar if you asked .I will truly miss this gaint of a man with a heart as big.Just a simple man with a heart as big as he was .RIP Tucker till we meet again my friend

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**Steven castimore** - May 14, 2019 at 09:09 PM

DS

“ We are SO very sorry for your loss!! I am at a loss for words.Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Such a Tragic loss.

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**Don Slate** - May 14, 2019 at 08:50 PM

BB

“ My Condolences to the DeGroat family as well as extended family! He will be missed by many. So many good memories running around with that guy & never a dull one! Rest in Peace my Friend

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**Bruce Bihn** - May 14, 2019 at 08:34 PM

ML

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. He was always had a friendly smile and kind word. We spent many moments talking agriculture and tractors. Those lives he touched will be forever changed. I pray that God provides his healing touch and offers comfort and peace to those that are hurting. Big hugs to all who knew and loved this mountain of a man. RIP Tucker 🥹

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**Michelle Rapole Lyons** - May 14, 2019 at 06:22 PM

JP

“ So many old memories come flooding into mind, football practice, watching wrestling matches, borrowing his mustang one day, hanging at the Shop to mention a few. My deepest and sincerest condolences to my old friend Hap and the rest of his family, so sorry for your loss

*Joe Polyi*

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**Joe Polyi** - May 14, 2019 at 06:22 PM

SD

*Scott used to see him alot and bullshit he fixed Scott's truck a few times for him remembered when Scott used to come down to his dad and uncle Rogers shop with his dad pap Dingman when was were the library is now well close*

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**Scott Dingman** - May 21, 2019 at 10:36 PM