



Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield

October 10, 1938 - April 11, 2019

Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield, 80 of Carbondale, passed away, Thursday, April 11, 2019 at home. A terribly aggressive brain tumor, found only a month ago, took him from us. At every step on the path it moved faster than predicted. His family was at his side and we believe he waited until the last of his children arrived to depart.

He was born October 10, 1938 to Dennis and Laura (Thornsberry) Morefield in DuQuoin.

Bob married Betty Benson on June 27, 1959. They shared 59 years of making memories.

After supporting his family in the early 60's selling shoes at the Bootery in Carbondale IL, he walked around the corner and got a job at General Telephone (GTE). He worked for 30 years at GTE until his retirement. He remained close with his co-workers throughout his retirement.

The first thoughts that come to mind when considering our father was that he was just generally a nice guy. We never knew of a single person that didn't like our Dad.

He was not just a nice guy but also a leader.

After graduating from Boy Scout to Scout Master, he led the DuQuoin troop for years. During his son's time in scouting he served as Assistant Scout Master of the Murphysboro troop. He was recognized in scouting with the Order of the Arrow.

His love of history brought key roles in both the Perry and Jackson County historical societies. In addition to producing numerous books on the local area, he served as Treasurer. He was awarded the Outstanding Community Citizen award by the DuQuoin IL School District in 2009 recognizing his work on the history of the city.

His passion for genealogy pushed him to travel to states as far away as Virginia, meeting with long lost relatives, searching graveyards and government records to document our family. We have one of the most complete family histories, with photographs, that we've seen.

In his research he discovered that one of our ancestors had a role in the revolutionary war. This meant he was able to join the Sons of the American Revolution. So naturally he became the Illinois state treasurer for the SAR and was responsible for validating all applications to join. He was to receive an award for his work later this year from the DAR to recognize his contributions.

His strongest interest was his life-long fascination with astronomy. In high school he built his own telescope and took second place at the state science fair. He was endlessly proud of that scope. He was also the long-time treasurer of the Astronomical Association of Southern Illinois.

"C-Q, C-Q, this is Whiskey Alpha Niner Hotel Alpha Bravo." This was the regular Saturday morning chatter we heard as kids in the 70's while Dad exercised his HAM radio outfit.

Then there was photography. To further his genealogical work he began copying and restoring old photographs. This led to a part-time business helping others preserve their family history in photos. He wound up with a collection of cameras that ranged from an old Brownie to an 8x10 sheet film camera. A large portion of the basement was used as a darkroom for years.

Another group Dad was President of: The Jackson County Anti-Horse and Mule Thief Association. Members built their own flintlock rifles and muskets and used them to re-enact Revolutionary war battles and activities. This meant as kids we got to melt lead to make bullets, throw hatches and knives, and hang out with guys dressed in buckskins.

We are so glad he was our husband/father/grandfather.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Betty Morefield of Carbondale; children, Kimberly (Dennis) Goforth of Carbondale; Kevin (Denise) Morefield of Portland, OR; and Kristal (Rodney) Bell of Crystal Lake; grandchildren, Dustin (Breanna Trexler) Goforth of Denver, CO; Melissa (Brad) Minks of Farmington, MO; Mitchell Goforth of Champaign; and Alex and Samantha Morefield of Portland, OR; great-grandchildren, Cranston; Dylan; Serene; Ethan Minks all of Farmington, MO; sister-in-law, Jane Morefield, Agoura Hills, CA; other relatives and a host of friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Dennis Edward Morefield.

A Memorial Service hosted by the family will be Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 11:00 am in the Murphysboro United Methodist Church with Pastor Larry Gilbert officiating. Private family inurnment was held on Sunday, September

15, 2019 in IOOF Cemetery in DuQuoin.

Visitation will be from 9:00 am until the hour of service at the church.

Memorials can be made to Jackson County Historical Society, DuQuoin Preservation Committee or Murphysboro United Methodist Church.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of cremation arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 27. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church
1500 Pine St
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2317

Service

APR 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church
1500 Pine St
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2317

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Bob may you rest in peace. It's been a pleasure working with you and knowing you and Betty. Will miss your friendship and times we shared a cup of coffee. You will be well remembered*

Jesus Rosado - April 28, 2019 at 08:36 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield.*



April 26, 2019 at 03:50 PM

RJ

“ Bob was a co-worker (Jackson County Historical Society), but more than that, a friend. I thought the world of him. He was always there to help me at work. If I needed to find something or wasn't sure about something he was always there to help or to reassure me that he had confidence in me that I would do it the right way. He was so dedicated to work that even when he didn't feel good he would come in.

Every time I walked in the door at the Historical Society, he would say, “Here comes the dessert lady,” because I usually brought in something I had baked for everyone to eat. We would sit and eat our lunch together before we started work and visit. Bob would always “sneak” one of the sweets, knowing he wasn't supposed to.

Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed.

Regina Jones

Regina Jones - April 26, 2019 at 09:58 AM

MA

“ Bob, I know of your background through the words written by your son for the newspaper. I have played tennis with your lovely wife Betty for the past couple of years and she shared events of your recent and quick demise. I know that you shared a long, happy and productive marriage and I commend you both. RIP Bob, and my condolences to Betty and the rest of your Family. Mike Auman

Michael Auman - April 26, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield.*



April 24, 2019 at 07:35 PM



“ *I remember Bob when we did vounteer work at Headquarters when it was located in the east side part of Olga's basement ! He was a wonderful man and I feel fortunate to have known him ! Ralph W.McBride*

Ralph W. McBride - April 22, 2019 at 10:44 PM



“ *Betty and family our condolences to you. Cherish the memories that you shared. May God strengthen you in the days ahead. Craig and Marlena Burton*



Marlena Burton - April 21, 2019 at 10:12 PM

KP

“ First, my deepest condolences to Bob's family in your loss. I share the grief all of you are feeling with his departure.

Bob and I originally met as ham radio operators, on the air, many years ago. Our ham radio relationship developed into a great working relationship, he as a GTE switch technician and me as a radio operator/radio technician at Illinois State Police headquarters in Du Quoin. In the old days a great deal of radio traffic from remote parts of southern Illinois was carried via copper telephone circuits. Often these circuits would develop trouble and that's when Bob shined. I would call him on the "special" number he gave me and we proceeded to work on the problem, bypassing the usual trouble ticket reporting process. I hope he knows just how much I appreciated his kind gestures. Without Bob's help at GTE, communication failures would impact the state trooper's ability to talk to headquarters or the radio operator to them. He and I both shared the importance of restoring radio traffic quickly and he worked hard, sometimes using copper wire magic on his end, to get the ISP a good R/T circuit sooner than later.

In closing, Bob I know you no longer need your telescope as you have a front row seat to any celestial body that looks interesting. You likely no longer need your genealogy charts because you can talk to all those who preceded you and get the rest of the story you struggled to find here on Earth, right from the horse's mouth.

73, Bob and keep the RF gain control turned up for me. I'm sure the ether will appreciate it very much.

*Kevin Van Pelt, WA9VXX
Mesa, Arizona*

Kevin Van Pelt - April 21, 2019 at 03:45 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield.*



April 18, 2019 at 10:49 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield.*



April 18, 2019 at 05:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Ray Morefield.*



April 18, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Bob Baer - April 18, 2019 at 09:56 AM

AS

“ So sorry for your loss Betty. You're in my prayers, Alice Shaeffer

alice shaeffer - April 17, 2019 at 11:17 AM

EH

“ Though I did not know Bob, I know his work. As an archivist at John A. Logan College, I come across Bob's wonderful photography every day, including some of his prints in our archival collections. I will do everything in my power to preserve his important legacy. I offer my condolences, and wish the Morefield family the best. - Elizabeth Hartman

Elizabeth Hartman - April 16, 2019 at 03:50 PM

JB

“ Jim and I were so sorry to hear about the loss of your father, grandfather and husband. We continue to remember you and your family in our prayers and thoughts. I remember Bob as a very quiet gentle person with a wide range of interests and so very knowledgeable. We continue to think of you all, and send our sincere sympathy for your loss. Love you all, Jim and Esther Buitt

James Buitt - April 16, 2019 at 05:28 AM

MH

Thank you for a beautiful tribute 4 Bob our class of 1958 classmate

Mary Haines - April 17, 2019 at 05:18 PM

JU

“ Our condolences and sympathy on the loss of your loved one. Leona Fulk Benbenek and Joy Whitson Upton.

Joy Upton - April 15, 2019 at 08:35 PM