



Bob Nelson

JUN 3, 1937 - JAN 23, 2024



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FLORAL HAVEN

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Dr. Robert (Bob) Nelson passed away at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa on Jan. 23, 2023. Bob was born in Hot Springs, Ark., on June 3, 1937, to Henry and Louise Nelson.

In 1952, shortly before he was supposed to start high school, Bob contracted polio. It changed the course of his life, requiring a year off school and making it impossible for him to pursue a career in the Navy as planned. Bob went on to graduate from Will Rogers High School, then attended the University of Tulsa for his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Bob married Elizabeth (Betsy) Berry on June 2, 1961.

Bob worked for Tulsa Public Schools for thirty-four years, eventually landing at the Education Service Center in the area of federal programs. His last role was the director of planning/assessment. Bob retired in Dec. 2002. He also taught statistics at Tulsa Community College for thirty years.

From the mid 1980's to 2014, Bob served on the board for TTCU Federal Credit Union. He was board chair twice and was named board emeritus when he retired.

An avid sailor, Bob kept a sailboat at Fort Gibson for many years.

Recently, Bob and Betsy had become members of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church.

Betsy would like to thank those who helped with care in recent years. Thank you to Steve Lockhart (God Son), Kathy Chitwood (God Daughter), Gina & Roger Lloyd (life-long friends), Isaac Green, and Senior Helpers Janet, Marsha and Olivia.

Bob is survived by his wife, Betsy, of the home, and his sister, Ann Nelson, of Pueblo, Colo. He was predeceased by his brother, Larry Nelson, of Memphis, Tenn.

A private family service will be held. Bob will be cremated and arrangements will be handled by Floral Haven. Memorial donations may be made in honor of Bob to the Foundation for Tulsa Schools 3027 S New Haven Ave, Tulsa, OK 74114.



Tribute Wall

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Kenneth W Gray posted:

Bob, our dear brother-in-law, will not be forgotten. Kenneth and Kathryn Gray

January 27 at 6:02 PM



Janice Young February 9 at 7:36 AM

Bob was a valuable asset at Tulsa Public Schools. One time, he was sent by TPS administration at the ESC to "walk the halls" and help identify the endemic problems at a school where I worked. It didn't take him long.



John Hamill January 31 at 4:20 AM

Bob was a valuable mentor when I joined TPS as public information officer. He helped me understand many details of public education--testing, evaluation, and administration. It made me a better resource for the news media. I later worked with him on the history of TTCU--a project I was proud to author. Our lunches after his retirement were always memorable--his humor and insight were remarkable. He always laughed at the nickname given by Superintendent Sawyer (since Bob delivered state test results to him): Bad News Bob. I cherished our friendship.



Chuck Reed January 30 at 9:39 AM

Bob was a man with a fine mind and a good heart. He served for many years as a board member of TTCU Federal Credit Union. A friend to so many of us.



Jan Berry January 28 at 9:14 AM

An early memory of Bob was climbing East River Mt. together, it was something he wanted to do and accomplished. Thinking of Betsy with love and prayers. Joe and Jan Berry



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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