

Louis Bell

July 16, 1941 - February 17, 2016

Louis Donald Bell was born July 16, 1941, in Bokoshe, OK to Freida Emma Lindenaugh Bell and Walter Earnest Bell. He spent his youth hunting, fishing, and romping through the woods of his beloved Oklahoma with his nine siblings.

If you were from Oklahoma, you knew him as “Buck”, and if you met him in New Mexico or elsewhere, he was “Don.”

“Buck” graduated from Bokoshe High School in 1959, and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he spent six years sailing the Pacific on board the air craft carrier USS Ranger. He was extremely proud of his service in the Navy and remained a lifelong patriot, who loved America deeply.

After his tenure in the Navy, “Don” settled in Eagle Mountain California. It was there that Carolin Merchant accepted an invitation to a blind date with “an ol’ Okie”. That blind date changed their lives and, six weeks later, they were married in Las Vegas, NV. At the time of Don’s death, they were married just 4 months shy of 50 years.

They welcomed their firstborn son, Donald Earl, on March 31, 1967, in Wichita, KS. On September 23, 1971, in Indio, CA, their second son, Kevin Ray was born.

Don's long and varied career path took him from California to Oklahoma to Alaska to New Mexico to Wyoming and then to Roswell, where he settled in 1984. He worked numerous large construction projects all over New Mexico, was a foreman on the Trans-Alaskan pipeline project, worked as a truck driver, operated heavy equipment for a mining company in Wyoming and both Chaves County and the city of Roswell. He also administered CDL skills tests to many nervous truck drivers.

Don was a beloved Scout Master for Troop 28 in Riverton, Wyoming. He used those same leadership skills working with the local Royal Rangers post in Roswell and Southeastern New Mexico.

In 1984, he was invited by Rev. Dee Hubbard and Mr. Asa Paschall to Bethel Assembly of God Church in Roswell. He attended services there and it changed his life. He became a devout Christian and spent the rest of his days serving in any capacity he could at Bethel, then New Covenant Fellowship, and finally at First Assembly of God. He loved Jesus and cherished his time in the Word of God.

Don never met a stranger. He loved talking to people and had an infectious sense of humor. He was always looking for a way to make people laugh and have fun.

He was a giant of a man both physically and spiritually and he will be greatly missed by all those who know him.

He was preceded in death by both his parents as well as his brothers: Walter Earnest Jr., Ralph, and Ray Lee, and sisters: Elizabeth Harwood, Lula Ralls, and Gladys Aary. He is survived by his beloved, Carolin as well as his sons: Donald "Buck" Bell and his wife, Kerri, of Green Cove Springs, FL, and Kevin

Bell and his wife, Edrina of Roswell; his 10 grandchildren: Brianne Bell of Socorro, Kayla Bell of Green Cove Springs, Abbigail Salyer and her husband, Brandon, of Sparks, NV, James, Eden, Zachary, Shepherd, Chaplain, Torah, and Canaan Bell, all of Roswell. He was excited to welcome his first Great-Grandchild, who is due to Abbey and Brandon soon.

He is also survived by his sister, Geneva Plank of Indianapolis, IN; Edward Bell and his wife, Zora, of Noble, OK; John Bell and his wife, Martha of Cameron, OK. Brothers-in-law, Darrel Merchant and his wife, Gloria of Phoenix, AZ; William "Buddy" Merchant, and his wife, Bobbi of Mesquite, NV; and sister-in-law, Jackie Gray and her husband, Harley of Globe, AZ. His brother-in-law, Michael Merchant preceded him in death.

He had numerous nieces and nephews whom he cherished, and who cherished him.

Viewing will be held Sunday, February 21, 2016, 1:00 to 5:00 PM and Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at the First Assembly of God in Roswell. Burial will follow at South Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be James Bell, Chad Merchant, Trent Merchant, Jeff Wagner, Ed Pharis, Louie Barrera, Jeff Weathers, and Jeff Tutor.

Obituary lovingly written by the family.

Please take a moment to share your love and support for the Bell Family in memory of Donald in the online register at andersonbethany.com

Anderson Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to be chosen to serve the Bell family in their time of need.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory
2609 South Main
Roswell, NM 88203
(575) 622-5888
abfh@andersonbethany.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Louis Bell*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *61 files added to the album Funeral Slide Show*



Buck Bell - February 23, 2016 at 07:02 PM



“ *We pray for each of you that God will comfort your hearts as you grieve the loss of your loved one. Bro. Bell was always so very friendly and he loved to ask us questions about our missionary service in Indonesia and assured us of his prayers. So friendly, outgoing and his love for the Lord so very evident.
Our Love & Prayers, Terry & LuLu Paschall*

Terry & LuLu Paschall - February 23, 2016 at 03:38 PM

BM

“ Don was a precious brother-law plus a deeply loved friend who will be greatly missed. We've shared many a sorrows, discussed America's path today several times a week and most of all laughed and enjoyed each other's company. You always left his and Sissys home knowing you were loved. Quite a legacy that will not be forgotten .

Bud and Bobbie Merchant - February 23, 2016 at 09:36 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Louis Bell.



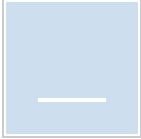
February 22, 2016 at 08:29 PM

JS

“ Uncle Buck always kept things interesting and fun. He was sweet, funny, warm, and obviously loved his family and the Lord. I know where he is and Who he's with.....I know he is whole, well and receiving his reward. I'm thankful to have known him for the past 28 years. I wish we could be there for his celebration service. Our hearts and prayers are with Carolin and family.

*With love,
The Sweetens
Kelly, Jennifer, Samuel, and Chandler*

Jennifer Sweeten - February 22, 2016 at 07:09 PM



“ _____ purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Louis Bell.



_____ - February 22, 2016 at 03:23 PM



“ Barbara Bell and All of your family in Phoenix,Az. purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Louis Bell.



Barbara Bell and All of your family in Phoenix,Az. - February 21, 2016 at 11:12 PM



“ I will miss him. I always adored his Love for God. He was a great person. I wish there were more people like him and have the kind of integrity he had.
Dave and Kathy Stone

David Stone - February 21, 2016 at 10:30 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Louis Bell.



February 20, 2016 at 05:35 PM

RB

“ Going to miss him. He was always there to shake my hand and ask how we was doing.

Ray W Brasher - February 20, 2016 at 04:11 PM