



Carney Rickman Bell

October 9, 1933 - February 19, 2013

Carney Rickman Bell, age 79, of Springfield, TN, passed away, Tuesday, February 19, 2013. Funeral services will be conducted Friday, February 22, at 11:00 AM at the First United Methodist Church in Springfield, TN with Rev. Jeff Fryer, Dick Moore and Charlie Brinkley officiating. Burial will follow in Bellwood Cemetery in Adams, TN with , Wilson Sims, Jr., Bruce Moore, Jr., Tyler C. Moore, Mitchell R. Moore, James "Davis" Rolfe, Jr., Nicholas T. Rolfe, Richard H. Rolfe serving as pallbearers. The family will receive friends at Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield on Thursday from 3-8:00 PM and on Friday at the church from 10:00 AM till the hour of service.

Carney was born October 9, 1933 in Nashville to the late Robert Henry and Margaret Rickman Bell. He enjoyed laughter, much of the time at the expense of others, through his practical jokes. His passions in life were his family, flying, and his farm. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Springfield where he served on the Board. He was past Commander of The American Legion Post 48, Past President of the Springfield Kiwanis Club, 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner, organizer and the first Chairman of the Robertson County Airport Committee, member of the Kentucky and Tennessee Funeral Directors Association and the Gideon's International, former board member of John A. Gupton College, Past President of the American Cancer Society of Springfield, Past President of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Bellwood Cemetery and the Bell-Willett Charitable Foundation.

Carney, affectionately known by his family as “Pop”, grew up in Springfield and loved Robertson County, where he spent much of his time at the “Bell Bottom Farm”, his family farm in Cedar Hill. He graduated from Springfield High School and Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tennessee. He then joined the United States Navy and was commissioned as an officer, awarded his wings and proudly served as a Naval Aviator. After his tour of duty, Carney remained in the active Naval Reserve for 20 years and retired as a Commander. During this time Pop often shared his lifelong passion by flying his fighter jet, the A4 Skyhawk, as low as possible over the city of Springfield, of which stories are legendary.

After the death of his father, he returned to Springfield and served with the late Tom Austin as owner and operator of Austin & Bell Funeral Homes, becoming sole owner after Mr. Austin’s death. He was a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer. He continued working at Austin and Bell until his retirement in 2009. For the remainder of his life the “Bell Bottom Farm” became the happy gathering place for the extended family, children, 14 grandchildren and their friends. Carney and Bonnie built a “dormitory” for the six children and grandchildren. Many an hour was spent by the fire known as the “pit of wisdom” sharing life, laughter and friends.

In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by his brother, Robert H. Bell, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Lynne Davis Bell; his sister, Linda Bell (Woody) Sims of Nashville; sons, Robert H. (Mary Lee) Bell, III of Springfield, John M. (Vanessa) Rolfe, Jr. of Nashville, James D. (Mary K.) Rolfe, Sr. of Dallas, TX, Richard T. (Michelle) Rolfe of Franklin, TN; daughters, Karen Bell (Bruce) Moore of Nashville, Sperry Bell Stadler of Nashville; grandchildren, Tyler Moore, Blake Stadler, Margaret Anne Moore, Mary Briley Bell, Mitchell Moore, Davis Rolfe, Quinn Rolfe, Anne Rickman Bell, Becca Rolfe, Nicholas Rolfe, Richard Rolfe, Jenna Rolfe, Campbell Rolfe, and Analeese Bell.

We would like to give a special thanks for the extraordinary care provided to our family by the loving staff at the Blakeford.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to the Vanderbilt LifeFlight or Nashville Rescue Mission. All donations may be sent in care of Austin & Bell Funeral Home. AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME IN SPRINGFIELD IS IN CHARGE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS (615) 746-4433 www.austinandbell.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Austin & Bell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carney Rickman Bell*



Austin & Bell Funeral Home - December 03, 2014 at 02:35 PM

DS

“ *Sorry to learn of the passing of Carney. He was an exceptional man. I had the oppertunity to work for him in the early 80's, just out of mortuary school. I will always remember he laughter and witt.*

Dale Shelton - April 15, 2013 at 11:10 AM

NL

“ My thoughts and prayers have been with you this past week. I had written a tribute but decided to scratch it. I am glad I did not know that Carney and Bonnie were in such high society in Nashville until his death. However, I feel that he showed no respecter of persons just as God does. I always thought of him as a big brother as I grew up at Henry and Bell Furniture store. Carney let me be with him alone when he AND I closed Daddy's casket. His calling my son "Little J.B." was special. The first person I saw when I went to my sister-in-law's celebration of life at a packed Calvary Methodist Church in the reception area was Carney Bell. He immediately came to me, my sister, and son. He made sure I got safely in and seated due to my knee surgery 9 days before. I will always have warm memories in my heart for a man I admired for his Christian walk. We all have our thoughts of what he is doing in heaven besides worshipping God. I think the Henry & Bell family have had a wonderful picnic. Mother fixed banana pudding like she always did for Carney. Good bye my friend. My tears are for joy (I keep telling myself that but I have missed you at the A&B and will.) Joy that you are healed and having a wonderful time with all the saints. Heaven is a wonderful place!!

Nancy Williams Lewis - February 24, 2013 at 10:02 PM

JF

“ We were so sorry to hear of the loss of Carney. He was a wonderful friend for many years and will be missed greatly . We are keeping the family in our thoughts and prayers. Jack & Rachel Holman Julie, Mark, Amy and Lisa

Jack & Rachel Holman & Family - February 22, 2013 at 02:47 PM

JH

“ Bonnie, I feel fortunate to have been able to run into you at the Vandy Children's Hospital a few weeks ago. I had good intention about bringing my dad, Johnnie Harris over to visit with Carney. He was such a special person and had affected so many lives in Springfield and Robertson County. He will be missed but there are so many good memories. Take care of yourself. Love to you and all of the children.

Jayne Harris - February 22, 2013 at 10:11 AM

T(

“ May God be with you.

Tom & Ouida Sttarbuck (53E) - February 21, 2013 at 09:41 PM

CR

“ I wish to extend to you and to members of your family my deepest sympathy on your loss. May the Lord's loving promises comfort you and give you strength as you walk through this difficult time. On behalf of a grateful nation as an expression of appreciation for the honorable and faithful service rendered by your loved one. (If you wish a personalized memorial card mailed to you with history of playing of taps, 21 gun salute, meaning of each fold of the flag as a keepsake, Send for request to: Chaplain Richard Reuer, Honoring Those Who Served Ministry, 1206 6th St SW, Minot, ND 58701 or click on "CONTACT ME" to email me your mailing address.) (This service is free to all veteran families). Thank you for your serving from one veteran to another – Thanks!

Chaplain Richard Reuer - February 21, 2013 at 06:49 PM

DE

“ Sorry for your loss.....Saying prayers for the family and friends for comfort and peace through this time.....

Deloris Edwards - February 20, 2013 at 08:50 PM

LH

“ Sperry you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Praying that God gives you comfort and peace during this time.

Lynda Hogue - February 20, 2013 at 05:21 PM

CP

“ Comander Carney "Pop" Bell the members of The American Legion Post 48 Springfield Tn. gives you a SALUTE of Gratitude not only for your censer and award winning service to This Great Country of ours, your community, the American Legion's Post 48 Past Comander and too many other services to mention. You were indeed a Humanitarian who will be remembered and live in our hearts for generations to come. We thank you. To your Family and many loved ones and friends I pray " That God our Loving Heavenly Father will hold them in his Loving arms and comfort them all and give them peace, love and understanding for now and for evermore, AMEN
Chaplain Fred Parkhurst American Legion Post 48 Springfield Tn

Chaplain Fred Parkhurst - February 20, 2013 at 03:19 PM

SP

“ Dear Aunt Bonnie, Karen, Spreey, Bob, John, Jim and Dick, What a truly wonderful man! And what an amazing legacy he has left behind! We love you all and will continue to keep you in our prayers. Thank you for being such a loyal and faithful friend to my father and our entire family. We are going to miss you Uncle Carney! The Woodfin Family

Shannon Parsons - February 20, 2013 at 01:42 PM

CH

“ *To a very caring,passionate and very fun person to be around,Your truly going to be missed and see you on the other side. With Love and Care,Our lifetime Friend...The Holland,Stagner Family*

Chris @ Renee "Stagner" Holland - February 20, 2013 at 01:25 PM

LH

“ *Bonnie, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayer during this very difficult time and always.*

Lou Harrell - February 20, 2013 at 10:50 AM

JM

“ *Carney Rickman Bell*

Jim L. Maxwell - February 20, 2013 at 08:56 AM

BB

“ *We are thinking of your family and praying for you all.*

Barbara Baggett - February 20, 2013 at 08:13 AM

JT

“ *carney was a very caring man and will be missed by many carney you rest in peace*

joe tate - February 19, 2013 at 08:33 PM

PS

“ *Such a kind & gentle man. R.I.P. Carney*

Patricia Smith - February 19, 2013 at 08:25 PM

MD

“ *Dear Bob & Family,
Just a little note to let you know that Terri and I love you and your family. Our prayers are with you my friend. Mr. Bell was always so kind to me and he helped me beyond measure in my ministry. May our Lord richly bless you and your family in the days ahead. Thanks for being our friend!*
Michael & Terri Duff

Michael Duff - February 19, 2013 at 07:55 PM