



Dr. Kirk Oren Wells

January 7, 1958 - September 20, 2025

Dr. Kirk Oren Wells, 67, of Springfield, Tennessee, passed away unexpectedly at his home on September 20, 2025.

Kirk was born on January 7, 1958, in Jackson, Tennessee, to Dr. Van Henry and Ruth (Streeter) Wells. He was the second of six children. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Mark Streeter Wells and Chris Alan Wells, and is survived by his siblings Kevin Lee Wells, David Keith Wells, and Ruth Lyn Wells.

In addition to his siblings, Kirk is also survived by his wife, Danielle, and three children, Chelsea Elise (26), Kieran Daniel (22), and Rylee Grace (21), who were the joy of his life.

Raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Kirk graduated from Ridgeway High School in 1976. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1980, followed by his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in 1984. A gifted student, Kirk was recognized with honors at every stage of his education.

Dr. Wells began his dental career in Springfield before establishing his longtime practice in Portland, Tennessee. What began as a small office grew into a trusted place of care, where patients traveled from across the country—

some from as far as Maine—to see him. More than a dentist, Kirk used his work as a mission to serve others. He gave of himself endlessly, often setting aside his own needs to meet those of his patients, friends, and community. His faith guided his hands and his heart, and those who knew him saw both his skill as a dentist and his compassion as a Christian neighbor.

Kirk's greatest sacrifices, however, were made quietly and daily for his family. He poured his life into giving them stability, security, and love—never hesitating to put them before himself. His children will always carry the memory of a father who gave his all so they could thrive.

Beyond his work and family, Kirk found his peace and joy in the outdoors. He loved to hunt and fish most of all, passions that kept him close to God's creation and gave him some of his happiest moments. Whether on the water with a rod in hand or in the woods with a rifle, Kirk treasured those times as gifts to be shared with those he loved. He also enjoyed skiing, softball, and golf, but the outdoors was always where he felt most alive.

A graveside service to celebrate the life of Dr. Kirk Wells will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025 at Liberty Church Cemetery in McNairy County. The family will receive friends on Wednesday evening, September 24, 2025, at Austin and Bell Funeral Home, 509 Walnut St, Springfield, TN, from 4–7 pm, and again on Thursday evening, September 25, 2025, at George A. Smith and Sons Funeral Home, 2812 North Highland Ave, Jackson, TN, from 4–7 pm.

Kirk will be remembered for his deep sacrifice, his love of family, his joy in the outdoors, and his unwavering commitment to helping those who needed him most.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-

509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Cemetery Details

Liberty Church Cemetery

1005 N Liberty Road
Michie, TN 38357

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 24. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Visitation

SEP 25. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

George A. Smith & Sons Funeral Home
2812 N Highland Avenue
Jackson, TN 38305

Graveside Service

SEP 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Liberty Church Cemetery
1005 N Liberty Road
Michie, TN 38357

Tribute Wall

DT

“ *Praying for the family and friends of Dr. Wells during this difficult time in our lives. He's with the Lord now and surely excited to be there. However we will miss him greatly here on earth.*

My family was one of his very first patients so many years ago when he started his practice in Portland. I now live about 120 miles away from that area, but continued to make the drive for our dental care.

Doc was such a kind and gentle man, so full of knowledge about just about everything. I could just tell him what was on my mind at the beginning of my visit, and lie back and listen to the knowledge and wisdom that just flowed out of him while he cheerfully worked away.

He was truly a great man and I have always felt blessed to have him as a dentist and a friend. We miss him already, and will continue to miss him until we see him again one day, probably talkng to Jesus and smiling his joyful smile. God Bless his family for sharing him with us all of those years.

Doris Green Thompson

Doris Green Thompson - September 26, 2025 at 10:16 AM