



Judge Robert Lynn Echols Sr.

January 13, 1941 - August 2, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of Robert Lynn Echols, Sr. on Saturday, August 2nd, 2025, after a courageous battle with dementia. Robert was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend whose legacy of integrity, service, and kindness will live on in the many lives he touched.

Born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Robert's early years were marked by a vibrant spirit and a drive to excel. He attended South Side High School and Southwestern (now Rhodes College), where he distinguished himself as both a scholar and an athlete. His exceptional talent in baseball and football earned him a place in the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame and he was president of the SAE fraternity. Robert continued his academic journey at the University of Tennessee School of Law, graduating in 1964.

Robert's commitment to service extended beyond the classroom. In 1966, he joined the US Army Tennessee National Guard, embarking on a military career that spanned nearly four decades. Rising to the rank of Brigadier General, Robert served with honor and dedication, cherishing the camaraderie and purpose that military life brought him.

After a brief time in Washington, D.C., Robert settled in Nashville to begin a distinguished legal career. As a founding member of the Dearborn & Ewing

law firm, he quickly established himself as a trusted advisor and advocate. His expertise and integrity led to his nomination by President George H. W. Bush to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in 1991. After his confirmation, Robert served with distinction, including as Chief Judge from 1998 to 2005. He continued to serve the court as Senior Judge until his retirement in 2010, and later practiced law with Bass, Berry & Sims and the Aubrey Harwell Law Firm until his final retirement in 2019.

Robert's professional achievements were matched only by his devotion to his family. He shared a loving and enduring partnership with his late wife, Marcia Austin Echols. Together, they built a home filled with warmth, laughter, and unwavering support. Robert was a proud and nurturing father to Susan Marie Echols, Robert Lynn Echols Jr., and John Austin Echols, guiding them with wisdom and love. His grandchildren, Robert III (Bert), Anna, and Mayme were a constant source of joy and pride.

A man of deep faith, Robert was a founding member of Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville, where he served as both Deacon and Elder. He was a pillar of his church community and gave generously of his time and talents to numerous charitable organizations and boards, always striving to make a positive difference.

Robert is survived by his children, Susan Marie Echols, Robert Lynn Echols Jr. (Christy), and John Austin Echols; his cherished grandchildren, Robert Lynn Echols III, Anna Catherine Echols, and Mayme Austin Echols; and his sister Anne Echols Murphy (David) and nieces and nephews.

He is reunited in heaven with his beloved wife, Marcia Austin Echols; his parents, Jim and Carrie Abernathy Echols; his brother and sister-in-law, James and Evelyn Echols and brother-in-law Thomas Ewing Austin Jr.

Robert's life was a testament to the power of integrity, service, and unconditional love. Though he will be deeply missed, his legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

The family will hold a private service and burial In Springfield, TN and a public celebration of Life/Gathering of Friends on Wednesday, August 6th, from 4-6 pm at Belle Meade Country Club, 815 Belle Meade Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37205.

In remembrance of Robert's remarkable life, memorial contributions may be made to Abe's Garden Community, 115 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee 37205.

With gratitude, we remember and celebrate a life well-lived, and a man deeply loved.

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

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-
509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

AUG 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Belle Meade Country Club
815 Belle Meade Blvd
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 385-0150

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Robin, Joslynne, and Bass planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge Robert Lynn Echols Sr..*

Robin, Joslynne, and Bass - August 05, 2025 at 04:58 PM

RB

“ *Robin, Joslynne, and Bass purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge Robert Lynn Echols Sr..*



Robin, Joslynne, and Bass - August 05, 2025 at 04:58 PM