



## James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick

December 15, 1946 - October 5, 2023

James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick, age 76 of Bowling Green, passed away Thursday, October 5, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00am Monday, October 9, 2023 at the St. Clement Catholic Church, with Fr. Henry Ussher officiating. Burial will be held at the St. Clement Cemetery with military honors being conducted by Missouri Military Funeral Honors, as well as VFW Post #5553. Visitation will be held from 3:00pm until 7:00pm on Sunday at the Bibb-Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green.

Memorials may be made to the VFW Post #5553 of Bowling Green or the Pike County War Memorial.

James R. "Bob" Kirkpatrick, 76, passed away on Thursday, October 5th, 2023, at his home. His devotion to family and helping others will always be remembered, and ultimately gave him peace.

Bob was born to the late Sterling and Freda (Kelley) Kirkpatrick on December 15th, 1946 in Cape Girardeau, MO. While in school, Bob worked summers from 1960-1964 on the Painton Plantation in Painton, MO. He also worked construction for Brown Construction in Dexter, MO from 1965-1968. After high school, Bob attended the former Southwest Missouri State University in

Springfield, MO and received his Bachelor's Degree in History Education. He went on to teach history in Buffalo, MO from 1968-1969 before being drafted to Vietnam. From 1969-1971, Bob was an Infantry Platoon Sergeant for the United States Army. After returning home from combat, he resumed teaching history and coached basketball at Advance High School in Advance, MO.

In 1975, Bob and his family moved north to Bowling Green where he took a position coaching and teaching physical education. The next year, he continued coaching but moved into the guidance counselor role after successfully obtaining his Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. In 1978, Bob advanced his career again becoming the Principal of the former Bowling Green Junior High School while also earning his Specialists Degree in Education Administration (Superintendency), which he completed in 1985. He would go on to be named the superintendent of Bowling Green Schools this same year, following the death of Murry S Smith.

Bob held the superintendent role for 5 years before moving into adult education, becoming the Tech Prep Coordinator, later the Director of Pike-Lincoln Technical Center in Eolia, MO in 1990. He remained in this role until his retirement from education in 2001. Acting on his desire to remain a positive influence for the community, Bob successfully ran and was elected as Pike County Clerk, which he held from 2002-2012.

After his tenure as county clerk, Bob returned to his passion for education and the development of today's youth, and was elected to the Board of Education, where he remained until his passing.

When Bob wasn't devoting time to his career passions, you could always find him playing basketball, fishing, hunting, or spending time traveling with family in their motorhome.

Bob is survived by his wife of 31 years, Diane, and his brother, Daryl (Nellie) Kirkpatrick. Also surviving are his children: Alana (Dean) Mesenbrink, John Kirkpatrick, Sarah Mitalovich (Andrew Sambuceto), Cody (Lara) Mitalovich, and Adam (Erica) Mitalovich. Grandchildren: Maura Mesenbrink, Kayla Mesenbrink, Dustin Kirkpatrick, Andrew Kirkpatrick, Hailey Kirkpatrick, Bradley Sambuceto, Sage Mitalovich, Noah Mitalovich. He is also survived by a host of beloved family and friends.

“Courage is the strength to do the tough thing well for the right reasons in the right way.” ~ Bob Kirkpatrick

You will be missed.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Clement Cemetery

St. Clement, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 8. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green  
606 West Main Street  
Bowling Green, MO 63334  
(573) 324-2211  
office@bibbveach.com  
<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Clement Catholic Church  
21509 Hwy 161  
Bowling Green, MO 63334  
<http://www.stclementmo.org>

## Burial

OCT 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Clement Cemetery  
St. Clement, MO



# Tribute Wall

RH

“ *My condolences to the family. I am sure Bob will be missed greatly by his family. I first met Bob when I was coaching at Clopton and Bob came to Bowling Green. We coach against each other for several years. But I really got to know him one summer at Kirksville, Bob and I and several EMO guys hung out together that summer. I was there when he had a incident on his bike. We became friends that summer. I always found Bob to be a gentleman and a very thoughtful person. I really had a lot of respect for him. We met again when we both had retired and were coaching Middle school basketball. Bob has left a great legacy.*

---

**Ron Hamlett** - October 11, 2023 at 09:53 AM

DH

“ *We were gone much of Friday and Saturday. I wish I could have played taps for Bob. Marilyn and I and our boys are keeping your family in our prayers.*

---

**don hamilton** - October 10, 2023 at 05:21 PM

NL

“ *A wonderful person. Bob will be missed.*



---

**Nathan Lilley** - October 10, 2023 at 10:35 AM

TD

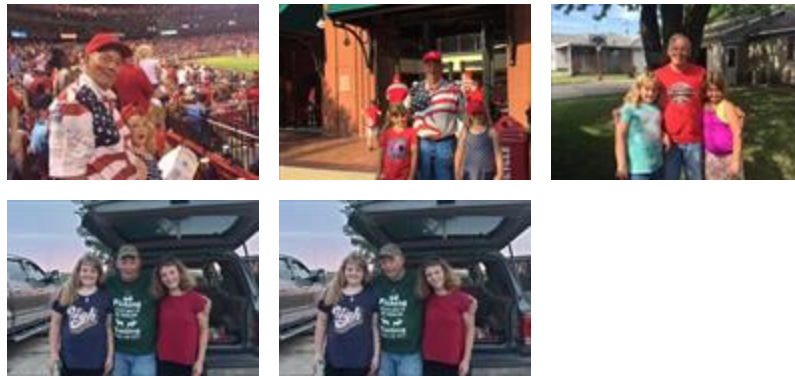
“ Thomas And Margaret Dunn sent a virtual gift  
in memory of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick



Thomas and Margaret Dunn - October 09, 2023 at 09:20 AM

AM

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Alana Mesenbrink - October 08, 2023 at 06:52 PM

AM

“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Alana Mesenbrink - October 08, 2023 at 06:16 PM

KT

“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Such a wonderful person. So thankful of having the privilege of knowing him. He will be missed.

Karen Tophinke - October 08, 2023 at 05:41 PM

LK

“ Bob and I grew up together in Advance, Mo. He was a grade ahead of me in school, but we took similar paths through life. We played together as we grew up. Our dads owned stores less than a block apart in Advance. We rode bicycles together playing cops and robbers. We played basketball and baseball together before and during high school. We both were drafted in 1969. We were in Vietnam at the same time, even though our paths never crossed during service. We were like brothers. Bob and I both became teachers, we both became administrators, we both served on boards of education. I lost track of Bob over the years until Dennis Griffith, a mutual friend, found out Bob and I were both from Advance. After that Dennis made up stories about us (only a couple were true). It had been over 56 years since I had seen Bob until Matt Frederickson, (Bowling Green's current Superintendent, and former student of mine from our days in Sullivan), set up a lunch for Bob and me and Matt about 1 1/2 years ago in Bowling green. A truly remarkable afternoon was enjoyed by all three of us. We promised to get together again. Unfortunately, we were never able to. Bob, (Advance class of 1964), dear friend, rest in peace. Keith Kinder (Advance class of 1965).



Leonard K Kinder - October 08, 2023 at 12:33 PM

JH

“ JOHN & LINDA HARMON lit a candle in memory of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick



JOHN & LINDA HARMON - October 07, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.

October 07, 2023 at 12:21 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.



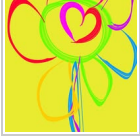
October 07, 2023 at 12:21 PM

JM

“ Joan and Carson and Georgia Marie purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.



Joan and Carson and Georgia Marie - October 07, 2023 at 10:47 AM



“ *Diane and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Such a wonderful, caring man. He will be greatly missed.*



---

**Donna Korte Wiss** - October 06, 2023 at 08:22 PM



“ *Oh how sad I was to hear of Mr. Kirkpatrick's passing! He was such a kind and supportive man and was my junior high principal. I fondly remember him being so caring and interested in how I was doing. My parents thought a lot of him as well.*

*My sympathy to his family,  
Deborah Crumes Speas*

---

**DebnBrian Speas** - October 06, 2023 at 06:18 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.*



---

October 06, 2023 at 04:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.*



---

October 06, 2023 at 04:07 PM

WP

“ Wilma & Homer Poor purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.



Wilma & Homer Poor - October 06, 2023 at 03:29 PM

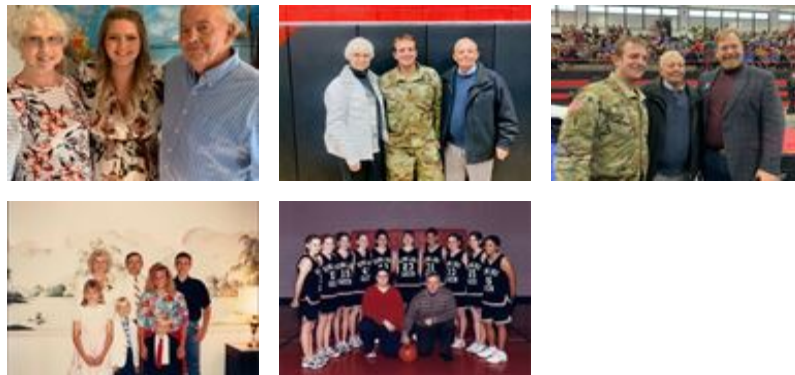
WP

“ Wilma & Homer Poor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.

Wilma & Homer Poor - October 06, 2023 at 03:29 PM



“ 88 files added to the album Life Tributes



Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC. - October 06, 2023 at 02:47 PM

MM

“ I miss you grandpa.

Maura Mesenbrink - October 06, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.*



---

October 06, 2023 at 01:00 PM



“ *Bob was such a very nice person. So sorry for your loss!*

---

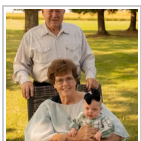
**Shelba Northcutt** - October 06, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ *Mr. Kirkpatrick was one of my absolute favorites. What a great Jr. High Principal he was. He was always kind and supportive and had the best sense of humor. Thinking of all the kids' lives he's touched, let alone adults. Thankful I had the privilege of knowing him. Deepest sympathies to Diane, another of my favorites, as well as the entire family,*

---

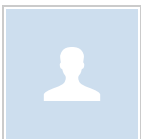
**Teri Traynor** - October 06, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies. John, your dad was very proud of you.*

---

**Elaine Dameron** - October 06, 2023 at 08:58 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.*

---

October 06, 2023 at 08:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.*



---

October 06, 2023 at 08:14 AM



“ *Gail Rutter lit a candle in memory of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick*



---

**Gail Rutter** - October 06, 2023 at 06:35 AM



“ *I am so sad to hear of his passing. He was such a wonderful man and good leader for the teachers and our school. I will always remember his advice and handling issues with good common sense. He will be missed.*

---

**Donicia Goheen** - October 06, 2023 at 12:33 AM



“ *Richard & Angela Roan lit a candle in memory of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick*



---

**Richard & Angela Roan** - October 05, 2023 at 08:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.

October 05, 2023 at 08:39 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.



October 05, 2023 at 08:39 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the family.



**Peggy Perkins** - October 05, 2023 at 08:38 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick.



October 05, 2023 at 07:43 PM

DE

“ So very sorry to hear of Bob’s passing. He was a good boss and a dear friend.. my sincerest sympathy to the family



---

**Deanie Ebers** - October 05, 2023 at 07:37 PM

CC

“ Bob Kirkpatrick hired me to teach high school English at Bowling Green in 1988. He was a supportive, caring Superintendent. My sincere sympathy to his family.

*Carolyn (Gatson) Collier*  
*Anchorage, AK*

---

**Carolyn Collier** - October 05, 2023 at 07:12 PM

AN

“ He is one of the best men I know. Great Father, husband, Christian, Leader, kind, example and love for his community and church. I know I will miss him every Sunday in Church and his warm, kind smile..Know all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

---

**Ansel Niemeyer** - October 05, 2023 at 07:04 PM

JL

“ Janet Lovell lit a candle in memory of James R. (Bob) Kirkpatrick



---

**Janet Lovell** - October 05, 2023 at 07:03 PM

JM

*So sorry for your loss. He was a very kind person and always had a smile. Enjoyed seeing and visiting with him. He will be greatly missed.*

**Jane McGeorge** - October 07, 2023 at 11:17 AM

EG

*Our family reaches out to yours on this sad occasion. Such a kind man*

**Ernestine Grimmett** - October 07, 2023 at 10:18 PM