



## Bobby Fields

January 20, 1945 - January 19, 2025

Bobby Ray Fields, 79, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Mercy Hospital. Bob was born January 20, 1945, in Granite City, Illinois, the son of Charles and Ruth Smith Fields.

Bob was married to Susan Ruopp on June 13, 1970, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and together they built a life filled with love and dedication.

Bob served his country proudly for 22 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as Captain. After his military career, he worked at Texas Medical Liability Trust for 25 years, where he made significant contributions until his retirement in 2011. He was instrumental in instituting medical liability reform which earned him the recognition from the Governor of Texas and physicians everywhere for his leadership and contribution to the law's passing.

In his leisure time, Bobby enjoyed playing golf and tennis, embracing the outdoors and staying active. He was also a faithful member of Immaculate Conception Church in Jackson, Missouri.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Susan Ruopp Fields; his daughter, Heather (Michael) Mayer of Beverly, Massachusetts; two brothers, Ted (Jean) Fields of St. Augustine, Florida, and Jim (Wanda) Fields of Dawsonville, Georgia; a sister, Wilma Bell of Cincinnati, Ohio; and two loving grandchildren,

Ethan and Brandon Mayer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Ruth Fields; his son, Charles Fields; two brothers, J.W. Jelks and Bill Fields; and two nephews, Roger and Christopher Fields And a grandchild, Wijan.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau, with Parish Prayers and Rosary at 7:00 pm.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Jackson, Missouri, officiated by Fr. Randy Tochtrop.

Burial will follow at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Charles (Chuck) D. Fields Scholarship Fund at Texas State Technical College in Bobby's honor online at [give.tstc.edu](http://give.tstc.edu).

Condolences can be shared online at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com)

Arrangements are under the care of Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 23. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Parish Prayers

JAN 23. 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Funeral Mass

JAN 24. 10:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
208 S. Hope  
Jackson, MO 63755

# Tribute Wall

DJ

“ I was sorry to hear the news yesterday about Bob's passing. I worked with him for many years as a board member at TMLT and I will always remember him as a great and descent person. When he retired as our CEO over 10 years ago, he had just lost a close friend and told me in so many words that this reminded him of his own mortality and he felt the need to do some different things with his life that were not quite as glamorous as running a multimillion dollar company. As I followed his life over his remaining years and saw him care for his son and wife I'm glad to say that he spent the time well.

God bless Bob and his family and all who had the honor to work with him.

*Dr. David Joseph*

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**David Joseph** - February 11, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ There are no words to express my heartbreak over the loss of this incredibly special man. When I first met Bob about 38 years ago, I had no idea of the impact he would have on my life. I did know we had a great time working together – becoming not just work associates but friends as well. But when he took over a leadership role in our company, his mentorship took not just the company, but all of us as well, to new heights. The wisdom and industry knowledge he shared helped me grow beyond any expectations I would have imagined. He motivated me to work harder and be better every day. Not only that – he had a wonderful sense of humor. We were able to have such fun amidst the sometimes very stressful environment in which we worked. I will always look back on the stories he told us every time we got together – of experiences we shared over the years, perhaps enhanced a little by his great storytelling skills – but always memorable and always bringing smiles. Bob always took time to recognize us for accomplishments and to let us know we were appreciated. I hope he knew how much I appreciated HIM. People like him are never gone. They live forever in the hearts and minds of those whose lives they impacted. Bob will always be with me. Fair winds and following seas my friend...Jill McLain

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**Jill McLain** - February 06, 2025 at 03:58 PM

MH

“ I am deeply saddened by the passing of Bob Fields, a leader whose dedication to protecting and advocating for physicians shaped the foundation of TMLT. At 79, he leaves behind a legacy of integrity, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the medical community through his service at TMLT.

*Through his service and leadership he helped to shape this company ensuring physicians had the support and protection needed to focus on their calling—caring for patients. His work was not just about liability; it was about building a safer, more secure future for those who dedicate their lives to medicine.*

*I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. His impact will endure in the lives of those he served, the company he strengthened, and the many professionals he inspired. I personally met him only a few times but his genuine smile and handshake are still remembered. May his memory be a source of comfort and pride.*

*With deepest sympathy,*

*Dr. Michelle Harden*

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**Michelle Harden** - February 01, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bobby Fields.

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January 28, 2025 at 11:42 AM

JM

“ As I sit here today, it is almost unimaginable to believe that Bob is gone. He was so influential in my life for over 37 years. He was a mentor, leader and most importantly my dear, dear friend. Bob was known by all to be a man of integrity and loyalty. For me my memories of him are so numerous. From the tennis courts to the golf course to the office and everywhere in between. All filled with so much love and humor. No one could tell a story like Bob. In telling many of his stories, he was actually sharing and/or teaching a lesson. I was so fortunate to work with and for Bob for 25 years. I learned so many work and life lessons from him and will always be grateful for his generosity. Bob believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. He pushed me to be better and do better and it forever changed my life. One of my favorite things about Bob was listening to him talk about his family. He was so proud of them and so devoted to each of them. Sue and Heather, I hope you know how much you were loved and how much so many of us loved Bob. He will remain in our hearts forever. Jackie and I are sending our thoughts and prayers. God Bless you.

*Sue and Jackie Mills*

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**Jackie and Sue Mills** - January 24, 2025 at 03:51 PM

ME

“ Max E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bobby Fields.

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**Max E.** - January 24, 2025 at 02:54 PM

MW

“ I worked with Bob for many years while he was at TMLT. He was one of the finest men I've ever known. He supported those of us who represented TMLT physicians, and even when he needed to ask us to change our ways (usually having to do with slow reporting) he did so with grace and humor. I thoroughly enjoyed working for him and hated it when he retired. He had knowledge and wisdom in equal measure, topped off with a great personality.

*Max Wright  
Attorney, Midland, Texas*

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**Max E Wright** - January 24, 2025 at 02:52 PM

SC

“ Sue and Heather -- my prayers are with you. I worked indirectly for Bob for many years. He more often than most leaders in a successful company would reach out with just a random call to say, "good job" or "don't worry about that, we'll take care of it." In every conversation we had that wasn't just about work, he always talked about you. Both of you were very, very special to him. Heather, he was so very proud of you and his grandkids. God Bless you all.

*Suzan Cardwell, Houston, Texas*

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**Suzan K Cardwell** - January 24, 2025 at 10:01 AM

DC

“ Bob and I were Fraternity brothers at SEMO, and fellow Navy Officer Candidates at Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island in the late 1960s. He was a month ahead of me and when I saw him in the mess hall I looked for him. We immediately made plans to see each other often and he was the greatest help for me in learning the Navy and what was next at the school. I don't know if I could have survived OCS if Bob had not been there. We saw each other several times since then, but not enough. He was a great guy and a great friend!!!

*David Compas Temecula, California*

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**David Compas** - January 23, 2025 at 10:39 PM

RE

“ Sue, you won't remember my wife (Rainy) and me because we didn't cross paths that often. But I was a good friend to Bob (and surprised to see he was called Bobby???). This memorial book isn't long enough for me to recount all that I can say about Bob. I was just one of his many defense trial attorneys that TMLT used but Bob and I went far beyond that. We were the best of real friends. He came to TMLT as a new adjuster and I met him as a baby attorney. We both grew together as our careers moved forward. But, much more importantly, we grew together as only friends could do. I owe so much to him. Boy, could I tell you stories about him and the fun we had together (all good, clean fun I want to add). He was an amazing man. Truly amazing. More importantly, he was such a good man. Putting aside all his talents and grit and vision, he was such a good man. A lighthouse, a beacon for us to follow. I'll stop now because I could go on forever about Bob, as I'm sure so many others could. If you ever want to talk about the side of Bob that I knew and loved, please call me at 210.722.0456. Be ready to sit down for hours because I've got so many great memories to share.

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**Rick Evans** - January 23, 2025 at 07:11 PM

JB

“ Susan & Heather you both have our empathy as you go thru this chapter of your life. Bob was a good man-You were lucky to have him. Let's try to touch base in the future. I left a private message on messenger. Love, Joyce B.

Joyce Burley - January 23, 2025 at 05:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bobby Fields.

January 23, 2025 at 05:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bobby Fields.



January 23, 2025 at 05:27 PM

DH

“ Donny Hurwitz purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bobby Fields.



Donny Hurwitz - January 23, 2025 at 01:44 PM

CZ

“ I had the privilege of working closely with Bob Fields for most of my 22 years at TMLT. He taught me so many things - he was one of the most honest, genuine and courageous people I've ever worked with. Bob had a way of making you want to succeed and do the right thing because he knew how to recognize and motivate that in people. He called me his “Radar O'Reilly” because I could often anticipate his requests, and he certainly was my Colonel Potter - always caring about those under his leadership and spurring us onto excellence. He was a good sport about being “roasted” on a few milestone birthdays and I will never forget his “be happy” speech to disgruntled employees (which we never had much of, to be honest). After his retirement, he shared with me that the scrapbook we put together for him with the personal messages and photos from all the employees was one of the greatest gifts he had ever received. He sincerely cared so much about the people under his leadership. To Sue and Heather, you have to know he was so proud and devoted to you, and his two grandsons were absolutely the joys of his life. He leaves a great legacy and will be sorely missed. Heaven is certainly richer today and I am sure he and Chuck are spending lots of time catching up! My sincerest condolences to all the family - may your sweet memories comfort you as well as the knowledge that he was so loved and respected by so many.

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**Christie Zarría** - January 22, 2025 at 09:17 PM

DW

“ Diana, Nora, Laura, & Mike Wisdom purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bobby Fields.



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**Diana, Nora, Laura, & Mike Wisdom** - January 22, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bobby Fields.

January 22, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bobby Fields.



January 22, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Jim & Elaine purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bobby Fields.



**Jim & Elaine** - January 22, 2025 at 04:18 PM

LR

“ I worked with Bob at TMLT. He was so good with people. The thing that I learned from him was that it didn't matter what your job in the company was, you were important. He made an effort to speak to everyone and know their names. He would remember things about each person and always ask about that one thing. What a lesson he taught to others by modeling this small act, basically, showing respect to all.

There were 4 or 5 of us that would occasionally play doubles tennis with Bob, after work. He used to tell us that he had paid a lot of money for his serve-and it was a good one. That used to make me laugh...still does.

Thanks for your leadership, kindness and fun, Bob. I wish you well on your next journey.

Sending healing thoughts to family and friends.

Sincerely,

Liz Ripley

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Liz Ripley - January 22, 2025 at 02:57 PM

RS

“ I worked with Bob for some twenty years. He, simply put, was our leader, and I will never forget the positive impact I derived from the relationship.

Bob served as CEO several years before he retired. During that time, while addressing the entire company, it was common for Bob to tell stories about his lovely wife Sue or his grandchildren. Rest assured that the women in the audience murmured a lot of “awwws”. The fact that he deeply loved his wife, kids, and grandkids was very evident.

Bob was such a great leader because he could expertly balance business with being a fun-loving and supportive friend. A rare quality.

What a great life. I pray for peace and comfort for all of you.

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Rodney Stephens - January 22, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Bobby Fields.



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January 22, 2025 at 01:51 PM

GH

“ Bob Fields was truly one of a kind. I had the fortune of knowing him for 35 years. He served as my boss for approximately 25 years. Gosh I learned so much from him over the years and marveled at his knowledge, communications skills, and especially his leadership. He played a huge role in getting tort reform passed for physicians in Texas which still exists today. Bob was also a very good storyteller and had a wonderful sense of humor. He basically served as a 2nd father and mentor to me as my dad died when I was 18 years old. Away from work he was an exceptionally gifted athlete and excelled in particular in tennis and golf. He played both for many years and well after aging normally takes its toll on abilities. I last heard from him on 12.31.2024 and am so saddened to learn of his sudden passing. Sue, Heather, and his family, I send my heartfelt condolences to you all. He loved you and his entire family so much and I greatly enjoyed all the stories he shared about his family and military service. The world, and especially my life, are blessed to have had Bob Fields for all these years.

Greg Harmon

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Greg Harmon - January 22, 2025 at 01:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bobby Fields.

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January 22, 2025 at 12:25 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Bobby Fields.



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January 22, 2025 at 12:25 PM

JS

“ *Janice Menzie Cathy Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bobby Fields.*

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**Janice Menzie Cathy Smith** - January 22, 2025 at 11:54 AM

JS

“ *Janice Menzie Cathy Smith purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Bobby Fields.*



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**Janice Menzie Cathy Smith** - January 22, 2025 at 11:54 AM