



Robert A. Burns

December 12, 2011

Dr. Robert Allen Burns, 75, of Cape Girardeau, died Monday, December 12, 2011, at Missouri Delta Medical Center, Sikeston. He was born November 16, 1936, in Neodesha, Kansas, the elder son of Francis and Treva Lee Burns. He married Linda Lee Lattin on August 17, 1968, in McPherson, Kansas. Bob graduated from Neodesha High School in 1954, attended Independence (Kansas) Junior College, and graduated with a B.S. Ed. in English from Emporia (Kansas) State University in 1958. After teaching English in high schools in West Mineral and Eldorado, Kansas, he enlisted in the Navy where he attended OCS, and served as LT(jg) in both the Atlantic and Pacific, instilling his love of travel. Following discharge, he returned to Emporia to attain an M.A. in English and, the love of his life, Linda. He then taught at Wyandotte (Kansas City, Kansas) High School before beginning to teach at Southeast Missouri State University in 1966. In his thirty-five year career at Southeast, he taught twenty-six different undergraduate and graduate courses and seven additional graduate seminar topics. He earned a Ph. D. in English Literature from St. Louis University in 1974. He was a published poet himself, and he served as General Editor of *The Cape Rock*, a poetry journal, for seven years. He obtained national recognition and an NEH grant for the re-design of that journal. He was the university's first Director of Writing Assessment and its first Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He also served as acting Chairperson of the Department of English from 1985-86 and as Interim Chairperson from 1994-95. After retiring as Professor Emeritus

in 2001, Bob and Linda enjoyed traveling abroad to Egypt, China, Peru, France, the Baltic countries, France, central Europe, and the Mediterranean. Bob enjoyed all kinds of games, the more complicated the better, but especially chess and bridge. To the dismay of his wife, he was an inveterate collector: games, coins, comic books, CD's, DVD's (and more DVD's). His sense of humor could be risqu, his puns could be real groaners, but his gentleness and fairness were beloved by all. Bob had played trumpet in his high school band, and his first major in college had been theater. Music and the theater became life-long interests. For years, he and Linda held subscriptions to the St. Louis Symphony and Opera Theater of St. Louis. They traveled frequently to New York to attend plays, musicals, and opera (and their favorite chocolate shop). When the River Campus opened, they were regular attendees of performances. Bob truly enjoyed the arts as well as grubbing in the dirt to plant daffodils. Survivors include his wife, Linda Burns, of Cape Girardeau; his brother, Randolph (Nancy) of Fredonia, Kan.; a nephew, Roger of Sebastopol, Calif.; a niece, Sherri (Jim) Strawn, of Rose Hill, Kan.; and two great-nephews, Reed and Gavin, and a great-niece, Jessica. He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service will be held at 11 am, Saturday, December 17, with visitation from 10 to 11 am, preceding the service at Ford and Sons Funeral Home on Mount Auburn Road. Memorials may be made to Butterfield Youth Services, P O Box 333, Marshall, MO 65340 or to the Robert A. Burns scholarship at Southeast Missouri State University, One University Plaza, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Tribute Wall

JF

“ My husband and I would like to express our sincere sympathies in the loss of your loved one. May the God of all comfort strengthen you now and the days ahead. He cares so much about our pain that he promised to wipe away the tears cause by the pain of death. (Revelation 21:3,4)

Jackson Family - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dear Linda & Randy, I,too,will miss Bob. I'm one of his 2 remaining aunts on this side of the family, have known and loved him from the day he was born. We were blessed to have him be a part of our family

Chris French - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Will always remember Bob for that gleaming smile and sparkle in his eyes. He was always kind to us younger cousins at the reunions and just seemed to love to chat with us. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Linda, Randy, and the extended family. May God grant you His peace, comfort and healing.

Mike & Patty Alexander - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I will miss Bob and always think of him fondly. My special memory of him is of being in Neodesha one weekend when Bob was home from college or getting ready for college I am not sure. Anyway the two of us went to a local cafe and ate and talked about what our future might bring. He was a good listener and had a wonderful smile. I pray you are at peace my sweet cousin.

Judy Alexander Wise - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Our sincere sympathies to Linda and Randy. Bob was a number of years older than me so I really didn't know him well. But, I do remember us cousins sitting around playing cards at family reunions. I'll always remember those wonderful family reunions. God's continued grace and mercy during this difficult time.

Terry Haas - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Seems like Bob had a good full life.

Jerry & Jeanne Domoleczny - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ My condolences to you all. I remember him from my years at Southeast as such a pleasant, fair man.

Vicki Michael - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead. I know I've reflected on the good times Bob and family spent as we grew up in Neodesha. Our thoughts and Prayers are with you and family at this time.

Charles Lee - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I met Bob when I first arrived on campus in spring 1996. He was wonderfully supportive of me, and I relied on his administrative experience and expertise until he retired from SEMO. He was a kind and considerate person, and I will miss him.

Carol Scates - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Dr. L. Burns: So sorry to hear of Dr. R Burns' death. I took his Victorian Literature course as a grad student when he had his broken leg. He took his hobbling around the classroom so good naturedly, as he did all aspects of the class. His charming smile is a true loss. I know your many, many memories will cheer you.

Chris Warren - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Linda, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Bob was a brilliant and kind soul who was always ready to help both new and established faculty. His star shone brightly at the University, and we miss his smile.

Susan Swartwout - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM