

Bobby enrolled in the University of Arkansas after his military service, and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Education. After a year of public school teaching and coaching, Bobby entered the business world, where his good humor and hard work propelled him quickly to advancement. In a few short years, he became a manager for Southwestern Bell (which was later incorporated into AT&T) and was a leader of that company in Fayetteville and Fort Smith for 27 years, including in 1979 being appointed Area Manager, Business Office Operations which covered a large section of the state. Because of his winning personality and communication skills, Bobby became Community Relations Manager in Fort Smith and often acted as a liaison with state legislators during legislative sessions in Little Rock. Bobby was active in several civic organizations in Fort Smith and Fayetteville, including Telephone Pioneers of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the Rotary Club, and the Elks Club. He received many awards during his career, and was honored with the Pioneer of the Year Award for his community service. Although he was openly frugal in his personal life, he was quietly generous in supporting his extensive family and friends in need and giving to worthy public causes.

Early in his SW Bell career, Bobby reconnected with a family friend from his youth, Kay Bullington, and in 1986 they were married. They shared an appreciation of a common sense of humor and caring for many causes during their 35 years of marriage, including rescuing and adopting numerous greyhound dogs, who are often put down following their racetrack careers. After his retirement from AT&T in 2000, Bobby and Kay returned to Fayetteville, where he began the third phase of his life as a public servant. Bobby was asked to become interim president of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure he was instrumental in promoting the growth of the local economy, and turned over a thriving Chamber of Commerce to current Chamber President, Steve Clark. He then continued his service to the city after winning election to the Fayetteville City Council. He was re-elected and served eight years on the Council, helping to guide the city government successfully through several controversial issues, during the period of the greatest growth the city had experienced. During his life Bobby was an avid sportsman with a special passion for fishing. As often as possible with his busy schedule, he would take time to join his many friends, and often his brother Richard, to spend an afternoon angling in local streams and lakes. He tried yearly to join a bird hunting excursion to Kansas. Many considered Bobby, nicknamed "Otis", as their best friend, and enjoyed his many humorous tales and jokes during these sporting ventures.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Mary Jude Gibeault, Edward Ferrell, and Rita Ferrell Keever. He is survived by his wife Kay Bullington Ferrell and siblings Bill Ferrell of Austin, Texas, Rachael Ferrell McGrew (Larry) of Little Rock, Richard Ferrell of Mountain Home, Ann Ferrell Wilson (David) of Fayetteville, Virginia Ferrell Russell of Fayetteville, Joseph Ferrell of Fayetteville, and Carol "Dubie" Duerr (Delmar) of Fayetteville. He is also survived by 23 loving nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Larry Phipps, Bob Prince, George "Bo" Morton, Bill Coleman, Harry Cross, and Frank Taylor.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Boy Scouts of America (www.bsafoundation.org) and Greyhound Pet Adoption (GPA), 2016 Arlington Terrace, Springfield, MO 65804

Livestream Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephfayetteville/live>

Robert Louis Ferrell "Bobby"



Born To Life

May 28, 1948

Born to Eternal Life

September 8, 2021