



James Robert Alexander

NOV 21, 1929 - MAR 6, 2025



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James Robert “Bob” Alexander was a man of strength, integrity, and unwavering dedication to his family. Born in Columbus, Mississippi, on November 21, 1929, to Amos Henry Alexander and Nora Ruth Ashby, he lived a life defined by resilience, love, and purpose.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 67 years, Joel Alexander, with whom he shared a lifetime of love and devotion. He was also predeceased by his brother, Wade Alexander, and his sister, Nina Southerland. His legacy lives on through his children, Scott (Nao) Alexander of Tokyo, Japan, and Laura (Ed) Austin of Bartlett, Tennessee.

A proud and loving grandfather, Bob cherished his grandchildren: Brandi (Zach) Davis, Paige (Matt) West, Taylor (Sara) Austin, Alex (Silvia) Austin, and Sam (Bre) Austin. His legacy extends even further through his seven great-grandchildren: Carter, Coen, and Calyx Davis; Otto and Ivan West; and Maverick and Madden Austin. A particularly special connection was shared with his great-granddaughter, Madden Austin, who was born on his 95th birthday. His youngest sister, Penny Cochran, also survives him, along with several nieces and a nephew. He is also survived by his sister in law, Joyce Keen.

Bob pursued knowledge and excellence throughout his life. He graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1953 before serving his country with honor in the United States Army for two years. In 1957, he embarked on a successful career in the insurance industry, where he built a thriving business before retiring in 1994 to embrace the joys of family and personal fulfillment.

Even in retirement, Bob never slowed down. He was a fierce competitor in the Senior Olympics, excelling in track and field, and he defied expectations by competing in bodybuilding well into his seventies—a testament to his discipline and determination. Bob loved to quote poetry and knew several poems by heart but one of his favorites was a poem “Jenny Kiss’d Me” by Leigh Hunt.



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In his later years, he found comfort and care in the devoted presence of his daughter Laura and her husband Ed, who lovingly ensured his well-being. James lived a long and full life, leaving behind a legacy of perseverance, kindness, and an indomitable spirit.

He will be laid to rest in Elmwood Cemetery during a private ceremony, where his life and legacy will be honored in quiet remembrance. Though he is gone, his strength and wisdom will continue to inspire all who knew him.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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