



Robert Scott Bell Jr.

October 30, 1946 - May 5, 2019

Robert Scott Bell, Jr. passed away on May 5, 2019, in Searcy, Arkansas. He was born to Major Robert Scott and Elwanda Hoofman Bell on October 30, 1946, at Rodgers Hospital in Searcy. He graduated with honors from Searcy High School in 1964 and attended Ouachita Baptist University and Arkansas State University where he was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corp. He left ASU to serve his country and enlisted in the army. He was assigned to basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and graduated as the Outstanding Trainee of the post. Because of a stellar performance there and because of his completion of the R.O.T.C. training at ASU, he received a direct commission and completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia, graduating with honors. From there, he was posted to Ft. Riley, Kansas, as a part of the 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red One). It was there he volunteered to serve in Vietnam. Before shipping out to Vietnam, he trained under the command of the late Colonel A.J. "Bo" Baker at the U.S. Army Jungle Warfare School in the Panama Canal Zone. Bell arrived in Vietnam in August of 1970 where he served as an infantry platoon leader and spent six months in the field leading search and destroy missions with 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

He then became company commander even though he was not the senior lieutenant in the battalion. This was highly unusual but demonstrated command's faith and confidence in his ability to perform leadership skills valuable in warfare. Bell was stationed at Firebase Mary Ann as a part of his

combat duty in Vietnam. A book by Keith William Nolan entitled *Sappers in the Wire: The Life and Death of Firebase Mary Ann* (Williams-Ford Texas A&M University Military History Series, Texas A & M Press, College Station, Texas, 1995) outlines information leading up to, during, and after the attack on the American detachment at this firebase. This battle has been designated as the last large battle in which American units served in Vietnam. In August of 1971, Bell returned home a decorated warrior. Recipient of the Army Commendation Medal with V for Valor, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster (two bronze stars), the Air Medal for 25 Combat Assaults, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Combat Infantryman Badge he decided that his service was complete, and he would get on about the business of life. He sought employment at the Arkansas Employment Security Division. He began as a veteran's counselor (rising to a supervisory position eventually completing a 29-year distinguished career there). He proposed to Rosemary Langley, who was a music teacher at Sidney Deener Elementary School, and they married in December of 1972. After retirement and part-time employment with The Lightle Law Firm, he felt the need to complete his college degree so on May 9, 2015, he graduated wearing an honor cord as a decorated veteran at the commencement ceremony at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. On November 5, 2016, Bell was inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, and over the years he spent numerous volunteer hours in schools and civic clubs sharing his military experiences. Bell was an active member of First Baptist Church in Searcy and served as a fourth grade Sunday School teacher, a co-teacher of The Bill Wood Sunday School Class, a trustee of the church, as well as a member of numerous church committees. Predeceasing him were his parents and a very special aunt, Laura Doris Hoofman Yarnell. His survivors include his wife of 47 years, Rosemary, their son, Robert Scott Bell III, and wife Kara Allison Bell, his grandchildren, Allison Langley Bell and Robert Connelly Bell, his brother, Arthur Watson Bell Sr. and wife, Jean Ann Langley Bell, his niece Laura Elizabeth Bell Bailey, her husband, Edward Lane Bailey, his nephew Arthur Watson Bell, Jr. and wife Michelle Bridges-Bell, and

a great-nephew and great-niece, Gowen Lane Bailey and BelleAnn Elizabeth Bailey. Visitation with the family will be on Thursday, May 9 at 9:30 am in the Searcy First Baptist Church Family Ministry Center with a funeral service to follow at 11:00 am under the direction of Powell Funeral Home. Interment will be in the White County Memorial Gardens. Dr. Brian Whitney, Pastor Emeritus David D. Crouch, and Reverend Bill Bennett will officiate. Serving as pallbearers will be Lane Bailey, Art Bell, Buzz Bolding, Bobby Davis, Richard Holeyfield, Don Raney, Dr. Kirk Reynolds, and Tom Webb. Acting as honorary pallbearers are members of The Bill Wood Sunday School Class. Colonel Tom Thomas will perform the military honors. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 105 South Spring Street, Searcy, Arkansas 72143. The family wishes to express sincere appreciation to each staff of Unity Health Hospital and Unity Health Rehabilitation, South Campus.

Cemetery Details

White County Memorial Gardens

Eastline Road and Park Avenue
Searcy, AR 72143

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church, Searcy
Spring & Center Sts.
Searcy, AR 72143

Funeral Service

MAY 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church, Searcy
Spring & Center Sts.
Searcy, AR 72143

Interment

MAY 9 (CT)

White County Memorial Gardens
Eastline Road
Searcy, AR 72143

Tribute Wall

BL

“ *Your Smith, Luxton, and Hilburn cousins from Texas send you our sympathy and love. Scott was a hilarious companion and was like our brother. We loved being with him during our get togethers in Searcy, and all over Texas. We will miss you and send our love to Rosemary and Watson and Jean Ann. Scott was irreplaceable.*

Betty Smith Luxton - May 09, 2019 at 04:25 PM

EG

“ *I feel lucky to have had such a great man for a leader in jungle combat, and a true friend in our post-war lives. Scott backed me up and rallied my buddies to my support to help me get my medals corrected. I do portraits of my personal heroes and Scott Bell truly qualifies in my book. God bless the Infantry. My sincere condolences to Rosemary and the family. Ed Gittens and Debbie*

Ed Gittens - May 08, 2019 at 08:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Scott Bell Jr..*



May 08, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Scott Bell Jr..*



May 07, 2019 at 10:41 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Scott Bell Jr..*



May 07, 2019 at 05:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Scott Bell Jr..*



May 07, 2019 at 02:30 PM



“ *It was a privilege to know Scott. He was a fine man who will be missed by all who knew him. Condolences to the Bell family.*

Roger Dobbins - May 07, 2019 at 08:49 AM

WN

It was an honor to work with Scott many, many years in the Employment Security Division, such a wonderful person and he will be missed by many of us. My Condolences to the Bell Family. May God bless and keep each of you.

Wanda V. Neal - May 08, 2019 at 09:07 PM

LN

“ *So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with your family.*
Lori Nielsen

Lori Nielsen - May 06, 2019 at 11:46 PM

MD

“ *Scott was such a fine person. He will be sorely missed. My sympathy and prayers for your family.*

Mearl Danner

Mearl Danner - May 06, 2019 at 11:42 PM

PA

“ *Rosemary and family, sending love, thoughts and prayers from Nashville.*

Phyllis Arellano - May 06, 2019 at 11:06 PM

JK

“ Dear Rosemary and Family.
Our sincere thoughts and prayers for you all. It was a pleasure to have you as neighbors in our Jamestown days.
Sweet memories of caring neighbors that helped raise our children.
Sweet memories of visiting with Scott in the driveway or on the steps, valuable conversations that just seemed to make your day right.
Much love.
Vickie and Joe Keeton

joe and Vickie Keeton - May 06, 2019 at 09:06 PM

IG

“ Rosemary, you and your entire family have my sincere condolences and my prayers go out for all of you. Irene

Irene Gray - May 06, 2019 at 05:05 PM

LT

What a blessing to have grown up around the Langley/Bell families! My deepest sympathies Rosemary, Watson and families. Lisa Fox Terry

Lisa Fox Terry - May 06, 2019 at 09:02 PM

PC

Our deepest condolences to Rosemary and the Bell family. Have known Scotty all through school. Taught with Rosemary for twenty years at Deener. Wonderful memories. Scotty was an outstanding man. God bless you all.

Love,
Paulette and Bob Choate

Paulette Choate - May 06, 2019 at 11:45 PM

ST

I am so sorry for you all. Lots of good times with El Wanda, Scott & Watson. Prayers for you all.

Sandra Moore Thorpe - May 07, 2019 at 12:31 AM

WK

The tribute to Rob was wonderful, and in all senses he was a hero. Although we never shared our Vietnam war experiences, the bond of brotherhood was always there. By far the most important testimony of Rob was his love for Jesus, his family, and his church. Until we meet again in the glory of heaven, Captain Wes Keith, USMC.

Wes Keith - May 07, 2019 at 11:23 AM

DO

My condolences and prayers for Rosemary and family. Scott and I were co-workers for over 20 years. His positive attitude was an inspiration to all of us who worked with him. He was a professional, but his quick wit and wonderful sense of humor made it a joy to work with him. He will be missed by his ESD friends.

Dorothy Oliver - May 07, 2019 at 01:08 PM