



Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021



Scan to Visit



**HOLMAN
HOWE**
FUNERAL HOMES

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021

Bobby Jessen passed away peacefully in his rural Fordland home with family by his side the afternoon of March 29, 2021. He was 85 years wise. The eldest of five children of Ullis and Elva (Partee) Jessen, he was born Bobby Ray Jessen on February 23, 1936, in Mountain View, Arkansas. He spent his youth in the Mountain View area and was a member of the Mountain View High School Class of 1954.

Bobby proudly served his country, joining the United States Air Force in 1955. On April 7, 1956, Bobby married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Norma Lee Ward, and to this union three sons – Mike, Edward, and Wayne – were born. Bobby and Norma shared fifty-four blessed and happy years together until her passing in July of 2010.

In 1965, the Jessens relocated to Springfield, Missouri, where Bobby first earned a degree from Drury University, then a Master's from the University of Missouri. He began his commendable teaching career in the early 1970s as a computer programming professor at Graff Vo-Tech, now Ozarks Technical Community College. Bobby retired from OTC in May of 2002, after 30 years of dedication to his students, staff, and school. For a time, he served as President of Springfield Teachers Association.

Bobby had moved his family to rural Diggins, Missouri, in 1969, and his sons attended Seymour schools. He was a devoted dad, always supporting his sons in school sports, and this enthusiasm continued long after they graduated. He was one of the most dedicated sports fans of Seymour school's athletics programs, rarely missing a game, and even being honored with his own seat in the school gymnasium.

As a younger man, Bobby really enjoyed golfing and played as often as he could. He farmed in the Grovespring, Missouri, area. He was mayor of Diggins in the 1980s.

Bobby and Norma were long-time members of Diggins Baptist Church and later, First Baptist Church in Seymour; he continued to attend until his health would not allow. In 1984, Bobby



Obituary

Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021

became an ordained minister and would be a fill-in pastor for area Baptist churches. He taught adult Sunday school and served as a deacon. He and Norma enjoyed attending and singing at church revivals.

In addition to his parents, waiting for Bobby with the Lord above were his beloved wife Norma, and their son Mike; his grandsons, Bryan Jessen, and Tanner Jessen; and four brothers-in-law, Bill Whitfield, Von Ward, Carol Ward, and Kenneth Ward.

Surviving Bobby are his sons, Ed Jessen of Diggins, and Wayne and Lisa Jessen of Fordland, and his daughter-in-law, Melanie Carden-Jessen of Springfield, Missouri; six grandsons, Robert and Arrica Jessen, Brandon Jessen, Michael Jessen, Derrick Jessen, Jeffrey and Shernell Jessen, and Tyler Jessen, and granddaughter Ashley and Justin Golay; seven great-grandchildren; his sisters, Faye Whitfield, and Sue and Weldon Duncan, and his brothers, Ralph and Karen Jessen, and Keith and Sonja Jessen; one brother-in-law, Fred and Joan Ward, three sisters-in-law, Billie and Lon C. Simpson, Betty Ward, Lila Ward; numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, extended family; and countless dear friends, neighbors and comrades.

Today we celebrate Bobby's life, his accomplishments, and his legacy. He was one of a kind, always smiling, and "The best guy you'll ever meet!" He will be sadly missed, but so fondly remembered by all those blessed enough to know and love him.

Memorials may be made to Seymour Booster Club or Union Chapel Cemetery and left at the funeral home.



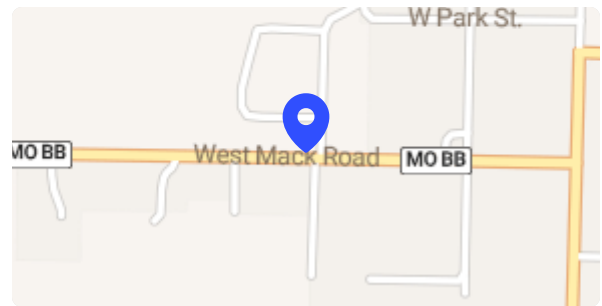
Events

Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021

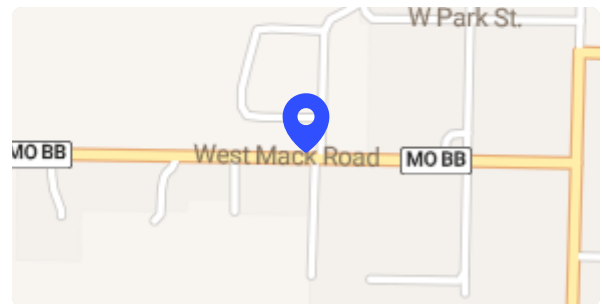
Visitation

- Friday, April 2, 2021**
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- First Baptist Church of Seymour**
605 W. Mack Rd., Seymour MO 65746



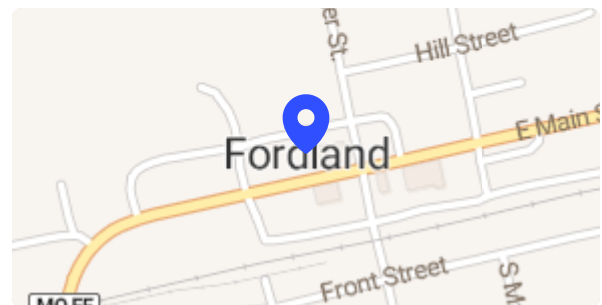
Service

- Friday, April 2, 2021**
- 11:00 AM CT
- First Baptist Church of Seymour**
605 W. Mack Rd., Seymour MO 65746



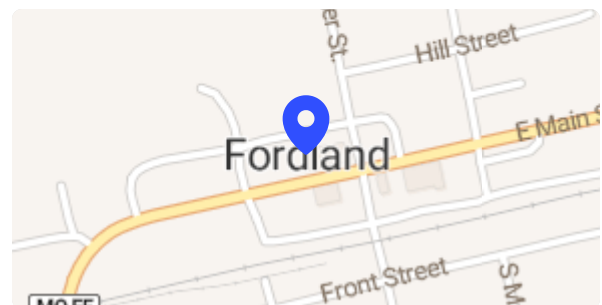
Burial

- Friday, April 2, 2021**
- Union Chapel Cemetery**
Fordland MO



Cemetery Details

- Union Chapel Cemetery**
Fordland MO





Tribute Wall

Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021

DE

Dave Ellingsworth posted:

I loved this guy. He was one of my instructors at OTC when I studied computers. He is a huge part of how my life turned out. He had an incredible smile and wit, and an open kindness to everyone who knew him. My condolences to his family, friends and former students.

December 30 at 5:19 AM

JR

Jerome Ransom posted:

Bob Jessen was one of the smartest individuals I know. The man didn't know a stranger and truly treated every person the same, he always had a smile on his face.

November 27 at 9:39 AM

LF

Lavonna L Franklin posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing he was my computer programming teacher in HS and offered me my first adult job, at OTC where he was the dean over the finance dept. He was so much fun to work with, you never knew what kind of jokes he would be up to, he made work fun. I was one of his girls when he passed the dove chocolates around every morning. Bob made the best coffee, I always said his was better than anyone else made. I can't tell you how many times a student would be upset because they couldn't pay their bill and they were going to have to withdraw from classes and Bob reached in his pocket and pulled out his billfold and paid their school bill. That is what Bob was like, always giving and seeing the best in the students. When he retired OTC lost a great one, the office could not be the same without his smile and his laugh, he made work fun. I was not able to attend the funeral but wanted the family to know I will be praying for them. Lavonna Franklin

April 12 at 4:50 AM

GN

Gail Newton lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

April 7 at 8:35 AM



JH

Jenifer Mcdaniel Helms lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

April 2 at 11:39 PM





Tribute Wall

Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021



Jenifer Mcdaniel Helms lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

April 2 at 9:43 PM



Valerie Hastings lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

April 2 at 5:00 AM



Ruby Jessen Woods posted:

He was a great father in law prayers to all I loved him bunches

April 2 at 4:51 AM



Debbie Owens lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

So sorry for your family's loss!

April 1 at 9:47 AM



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Jessen (Seymour) family.

April 1 at 4:32 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Jessen (Seymour) family.

March 31 at 1:19 PM





Tribute Wall

Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021

SD

Stacy Denner posted:

I'm so sorry to hear about your Dad. He was the sweetest guy I have ever met , Prayers to you all !

March 30 at 4:43 PM



Gary And Judy (Dearmond) Richter lit a candle in honor of Bobby.



March 30 at 4:05 PM

DO

Debbie Owens lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

I'm so sorry for your family's loss, sending prayers and love.

March 30 at 2:37 PM



SH

Steve Hannah sent a virtual gift in honor of Bobby.

March 30 at 9:57 AM



MC

Mike And Gena Cooper sent a virtual gift in honor of Bobby.

March 30 at 6:30 AM



TC

Tommy Claxton lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

March 30 at 6:06 AM





Tribute Wall

Bobby Ray Jessen (Seymour)

FEB 23, 1936 - MAR 29, 2021

WB

Wanda Blankenship lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

Cecil & Wanda Blankenship

March 30 at 2:59 AM



KD

Karen Dearmond lit a candle in honor of Bobby.

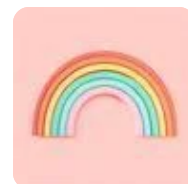
March 30 at 2:55 AM



AH

Aletta Fox Hutchins sent a virtual gift in honor of Bobby.

March 29 at 8:06 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

