



Robert Charles Bickley

October 21, 1938 - September 10, 2019

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

Robert Charles Bickley, 80, of Southaven, MS, passed away in his home on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. A visitation will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Graceview Presbyterian Church (ARP) (7660 Swinnea Road, Southaven, MS, 38671) with a Celebration of Life Service following at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Bickley was born on October 21, 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up in Wissinoming and Newtown, PA. Bob graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education. He was the band director of Hardy Junior High School in Jackson, MS until he took the position of General Manager of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, in Jackson, MS. He then moved on to managing the Jacksonville, Florida Symphony Orchestra and finally the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and Hawaii Opera Theatre. After leaving the symphony orchestra business he opened his own scale model railroad hobby shop in La Mesa, CA called Reed's Hobby Shop. He continued in the hobby industry as Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Advertising for Intermountain Railway Company in Longmont, CO. He also was the Advertising Director of Railroad Journal Magazine in Denver, CO. Most recently he began his own business in scale model railroad buildings called Mainline Laser Inc. He was a member of the Exchange Club in Jackson, MS, La Mesa, CA, and Honolulu, HI. Bob was the President of the Southaven, MS Rotary Club and Governor of the Rotary International District 6800 from 2014-2015. He led the Rotary Family Youth Initiative (FYI) in Shelby County, TN and now in Desoto County MS with leadership from Rotary District 6800 members and community leaders. Mr. Bickley served as choir director in several churches. He was a member of Graceview Presbyterian Church, (ARP).

Robert Charles Bickley is survived by his wife of 39 years, Susan Hoagland Bickley of Southaven, MS; sons, Robert L. (Debbie) Bickley of Brandon, MS and Sidney Charles (Ellen) Bickley of Olive Branch, MS; Grandsons, Randy Bickley of Brandon, MS and Ben (Lena) Bickley of Ridgefield, WA; Granddaughters, Caroline (Myers) Taylor of Olive

Branch, MS and MacKenzie Sloan of Cheyenne, WY; Sister, Peggy Rowe of Ottsville, PA. Mr. Bickley was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Margaret Bickley and sister, Janet Barfoot.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in honor of Robert Charles Bickley to the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at jdrf.org), Wounded Warriors Projects (support.woundedwarriorproject.org), Tunnel to Towers Foundation (tunnel2towers.org) or to Graceview Presbyterian Church (graceviewchurch.org)

Events

SEP **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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Graceview Presbyterian Church

7660 Swinnea Road, Southaven, MS, US, 38671

SEP **Celebration of Life** 12:00PM

21

Graceview Presbyterian Church

7660 Swinnea Road, Southaven, MS, US, 38671

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Coleman Funeral Home - September 18, 2019 at 03:52 PM



“ Mr & Mrs. Joshua Payne purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert Charles Bickley.



Mr & Mrs. Joshua Payne - September 20, 2019 at 10:57 AM



“ Condolences on your loss. Sounds like Mr. Bickley had a very interesting life. I was in the band at Hardy Junior High when he arrived and enjoyed his leadership. I played the bass (sousaphone), which I think he had also. I went with him to pick up an instrument that had been refurbished and really got to see what all the parts were about. He also talked my Mother out of letting me try out for football because he told her I might get hit in the mouth and mess up my embouchure and not get a music scholarship in college. I always wondered if he just didn't want to lose his bass player from the marching band! But I probably never would have gotten a football scholarship and I did have a music one for all four years of college, traveling lots of places with both the marching and concert bands. I pray you will enjoy all your wonderful memories of your husband, father, and grandfather.

Carl Wasson - September 18, 2019 at 06:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - September 18, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ Robert Bickley was my hero when I was at Hardy Jr High. Little did I know that when he started me on the drums in the seventh grade that it would be my ticket to college as one of the first girl drummers in the State of Mississippi. He impacted my life and so many others through band.

I know you remember the tornado that wiped out Candlestick Park. I was with Mr Bickley when that tornado hit. I had been in the gym for tennis practice and heard the storm and ran to the band hall to look through the windows. I found Mr Bickley frantically trying to get you on the phone because you lived only a few blocks from Candlestick. Even though it looked like midnight outside and the rain was blowing parallel to the ground, he grabbed his keys and took off to find you. He was quite a man, and my hero.

My prayers are with you and your family.

Pat Smith - September 19, 2019 at 10:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



randy bickley - September 17, 2019 at 09:38 PM



“ 63 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - September 17, 2019 at 05:41 PM



“ 19 files added to the album LifeTributes

Coleman Funeral Home - September 16, 2019 at 04:25 PM



“ Enjoyed working with Bob in various Rotary venues, especially Rotary on the Radio.

Tom Wilson - September 16, 2019 at 01:52 PM



“ Mr. B was the best! Taught me at Hardy Jr. High 63-65. Loved him. Mrs. B taught me piano and she is as nice as can be.

Nancy Sellers - September 16, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ He was my band director in the 9th Grade. I'm 67 now. I remember how cool I thought he was. Unusual for a 9th grader but Mr. B was an unusually bright and perceptive teacher. God speed Mr Bickley

Jimmy Suber - September 15, 2019 at 11:11 PM



“ I'm 65 years old, but “Bob” will always be Mr. Bickley to me...I was in the band in the mid 60's at Hardy Junior High in Jackson...female trumpet player, a rarity then....He was such a motivator of young people...I'm not sure how much he realized that...We had a Provine High band reunion in 2005, and I was so glad to find him through one of his sons..We were all even more thrilled that he came to the reunion...It was such fun to see him and reminisce...My prayers are with you all...RIP, Mr. B...

Mary Porter - September 15, 2019 at 03:55 PM



“ Hello to Suzie n family, Hugh n I are sorry for your loss. We are so thankful for our visits in your home. Also, nice of the many times you two stopped by our home while walking Jax. We rejoice that he would share his good time n happiness to be at Graceview with Pastor Chris.
Friends, neighbors n Rep. buds, the greens on Geoffrey

Hugh n Mittie Green - September 14, 2019 at 05:23 PM



“ On behalf of my wife Sally and myself, we want to convey our condolences to the Bickley family on Uncle Bob's passing.

Uncle Bob was my mom's younger brother. We lost touch but recently re-connected and were comparing notes on heart health, our family history, and our respective families. I was sorting through my parents pictures and came across some great old photos of Uncle Bob and some of his ancestors on the Bickley/Lindsay side of the family. I scanned and sent these to Uncle Bob along with a rough family tree of the family. We spoke a few times this past spring and he seemed in great spirits. So it is sad to hear of his passing. May the memories of his life be comforting to Bobby, Sid, Susan, and your families.

Harry and Sally Barfoot

Harry N. Barfoot III - September 10, 2019 at 09:28 PM



“ Linda and I are sorry to hear of Bob's passing. The last time we saw Bob was in San Diego in the early 90's along with my brother Glenn and his wife Carol Ann.

Roger McGehee Jr Madison MS

Roger McGehee Jr - September 15, 2019 at 11:14 PM



“ Mr. Bickley was a special man, teacher, and band director. There was never any doubt that he cared about his students and wanted the best for them. I will always cherish my memories of Hardy Jr. High Bank, 1963-66.

Houston Powers

Houston Powers - September 16, 2019 at 07:43 PM