



Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays

October 3, 1943 - January 10, 2026

Treasured friend and family to so many, Robert Leslie Mays (Bobby) entered into the presence of the Lord on January 10, 2026, at the Tippah County Hospital.

Born on October 3, 1943, Bobby graduated from Ripley High School in 1961 and continued his education at the University of Mississippi with a degree in Pharmacy while being a proud member of Sigma Nu fraternity. After college, he moved to South Dakota to work and was a commissioned Captain in the US Public Health Service to serve the Sioux people at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In 1971, he moved back to Ripley to work at City Drug on the square and subsequently opened Ripley Drug Company in 1977. He was a longstanding member of the First Methodist Church in Ripley and an active member of the Rotary Club.

Anyone who met Bobby knew that he was so much more than dates and activities... He was an advocate and true friend. He loved Tippah County, his community, and the people in it, and worked to make it a better place. He helped provide a park for all to enjoy and his generosity provided scholarships to help others through education. His favorite time of year was Halloween, as was obvious by the decorations in his yard, and he loved sharing that excitement with young and old at his home. He was a friend to Blue Mountain College. He was so proud of the Tippah County Hospital, its new facility, and

the care it provided.

Bobby loved investing in people - getting to know them and about them. He loved the drug store because of the service it provided Ripley, but he loved it more as it provided a place to "sit and visit." He did so much for so many - most of which we will never know, but he wouldn't have had it any other way.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Louise Mays, and his sister, Betty Mays Harbison. He will continue to be remembered by his niece, Beth Kakales (John), and his brother-in-law, Charles Harbison (Sandy), as well as his "grand" niece, Mary Elizabeth McCollum (Clark), and his "grand" nephew, John Matthew Kakales (Beth), as well as a new "great-grand" nephew, CJ McCollum. In addition to his family, he'll be remembered by so many dear friends and all the women at work who made his life wonderful.

Officiated by: Dr. Patrick Chapman and Rev.Dr. Mark Nail

The family requests that donations be directed to the First Methodist Church Ripley or the Tippah County Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship.

Cemetery Details

Tippah Memorial Gardens

Hwy 370
Ripley, MS

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
302 S Main St.
Ripley, Mississippi 38663

Service

JAN 16. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
302 S Main St.
Ripley , MS

Tribute Wall

ML

“ WE WILL MISS YOU . YOU HAVE BEEN A WONDERFUL FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR. Kenneth and Mary Jo Lence

MARY jo and KENNETH lence - January 16 at 11:01 AM

WC

“ I first met Bobby Mays when I taught math at South Tippah High School during the 1965-1966 school year. I remember a couple of young ladies asking to date us during TWIRP week, so we made it a double date. A year later, I began dating a different local beauty, Barbara Crouch, and married her that August.

Bobby and I remained friends until I relocated to my hometown, Pontotoc, Mississippi.

For several years I would occasionally see Bobby whenever my wife and I visited her family in Ripley and Tippah County. Over the years, our encounters lessened. I'm unsure when I last saw Bobby, but he was as happy and good natured as the day we first met.

I grieve with his family and friends and the many citizens of Tippah County who were privileged to know Bobby Mays. There was only one Bobby Mays, and he will be greatly missed.

*Wayne Carter
Pontotoc, MS*

Wayne Carter - January 16 at 10:58 AM

BS

“ I meant Mr. Bobby in Ripley when I was doing an estate sale. He brought us breakfast and talked to us at length about the town of Ripley. He was the nicest man I've ever met. He will truly be missed.
Becky Swords

Becky Swords - January 16 at 10:26 AM

BW

“ My friend! Loved him for years! He will be missed!

Brenda McElwain, Williams - January 16 at 10:24 AM

LB

“ There will never be another one like Bobby. Such a kind and caring soul. He loved his church and church family, his coworkers at the drug store, his customers and his friends, and his community. He leaves a wonderful legacy behind. He will be missed.



Linda Barkley - January 16 at 02:46 AM

WC

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*Wayne L. Carter
Pontotoc, MS*

Wayne Carter - January 15 at 08:50 PM

DA

“ Will be missed.



Donna Drewery Adams - January 15 at 07:37 PM

SM

“ Stephanie and Michael McCollum purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays.



Stephanie and Michael McCollum - January 15 at 10:55 AM

MG

“ Much love, Anne, Ken, De and Cat Graeber planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays.

Much love, Anne, Ken, De and Cat Graeber - January 14 at 07:06 PM

MG

“ Much love, Anne, Ken, De and Cat Graeber purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays.



Much love, Anne, Ken, De and Cat Graeber - January 14 at 07:06 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays.



January 14 at 12:59 PM

BK

“ Beverly Knight lit a candle in memory of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays



Beverly Knight - January 14 at 12:17 PM

WC

“ Whitfield C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays.

Whitfield C. - January 14 at 07:59 AM

TC

“ May his memory be for a blessing. Many interesting conversations, were to be had.



Trina Cornelius - January 12 at 11:22 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays.



January 12 at 03:20 PM

BH

“ Johnny and I were so sorry to hear of Bobby's passing. I have known him since 1972 and have always considered him a good friend. I remember when I told him I had gotten engaged, he jokingly said, "Oh, no, I was going to ask you!" I don't ever remember seeing him without a smile and something nice to say. My prayer is that God will give his loved ones comfort in their loss.

Brenda Hopkins - January 12 at 12:23 PM

MB

“ We at Bennett plumbing were so sorry to hear about Mr. Bobby's passing. He was always a wonderful friend and customer. He will be greatly missed.

Mac Bennett - January 12 at 12:19 PM



“ Sending prayers to his family. I am so sorry for your loss



Stephanie McClintock - January 12 at 12:11 PM

TG

“ Terrye Grisham lit a candle in memory of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays



Terrye Grisham - January 12 at 12:51 AM

DR

“ *The most kind and generous man I think I've ever met.* ”



Doris Riddle - January 11 at 07:53 PM

JH

“ *I am so sorry for the passing of Bobby. I've known him for most of my life. He and I were talking about the early days when the drug store was on the square. I remember back when I was 13 or so, I saved up my money and bought a Timex watch from him, my first watch, I think I paid 7.00 dollars for it. He and I talked about it and how time flies by. He was a great person and he was very good to me. I'm going to miss him so much. Fly high my friend. May you rest in peace. God bless you and your family and friends. You will be missed by all that knew and loved you.* ”



Jimmy E Hancock - January 11 at 06:45 PM

VM

“ *Van Malone lit a candle in memory of Robert Leslie "Bobby" Mays* ”



Van Malone - January 11 at 01:52 PM

JC

“ I am greatly saddened by the death of Ripley druggist Bobby Mays. His dad, Les Mays, owned the Ben Franklin Store on the south side of the square in Ripley. It was a five and dime store. I recall one Christmas when I was in high school my dad arranged for me to help out at the store. My brother Tommy and Bobby were in the same class in Ripley schools and graduated from what was then called South Tippah in 1961. They were great friends. If I recall correctly, after he graduated from pharmacy school, he converted the Ben Franklin store into Ripley Drug Company. I believe he later acquired City Drug Store, which also was on the south side of the square, after the death of the druggist there, Joe Smith. He later moved the drug company to its current location on Highway 15 North. Bobby had one sister Betty, who graduated from RHS in 1956 two years ahead of me. We were in the Beta Club together. And Betty and my first cousin, Dallas Covington, were in the 1956 graduating class. Betty left Ripley after she married a dentist who practiced in Southaven. The couple had a daughter, who I think is also a dentist. Betty passed away several years ago. My condolences go his niece and other relatives, friends and co-workers.

Jimmie Covington - January 11 at 01:10 PM

NM

So sorry to hear about Bobby.i used his pharmacy awhile & always enjoyed talking to him and Kelly & rest of the staff at the pharmacy.

nelson Fitts,former librarian @ Ripley M - January 11 at 06:33 PM

SS

*Mr Bobby Mays will be missed very much by all that knew him!"
Worked at Ben Franklin store a short while at Christmas time one year,
and Bobby came walking in from college for Christmas vacation. First
time I remember seeing him. He was nice , good looking young man.
Later my children used to line up with others to pick and buy Beanie
Babies! Lots of fun, for children and parents too! Mr Bobby was looking
on during those days too, and filling prescriptions while watching the
children having fun! We did some real estate just a little while back with
him! Very good to do business with him! He was a very fair and
respectful businessman He will be missed by all his friends and
employees! He Wii be greatly missed by all who knew him! God bless
his family and friends!!*

sandra and Raymond Smith - January 12 at 05:26 AM

JL

*“ To know him was an honor and a privilege the many years that I
dealt with him at Ripley drug with my grandparents and everything
else he was one of the nicest men I've ever met they will never be
another Mr Bobby I was introduced to Mr Bobby in like 2018 and
ever since then when I walked in he would know my name and he
was a good friend I liked Mr Bobby and I'm going to miss Mr Bobby
my prayers are with the family and close relatives and friends as
well Mr Bobby fly on and tell my grandpa and Grandpa hello for me
Mr Bobby you Will we missed dearly until we meet again my friend !!*

Johnathan Luttrell - January 11 at 12:00 PM

JW

*“ I first met Bobby through Kelly Bullock, the daughter of two of my
oldest and dearest friends, Janie and Bob Craig. He was a very
special person to all he knew, kind, caring, generous and so much
more. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and
community. Judy Wingo*

Judy Wingo - January 10 at 03:35 PM