



## Robert Arthur Buford

November 14, 1946 - July 25, 2025

Robert “Bob” Arthur Buford, 78, of Bartlesville, passed away peacefully at home on July 25th, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Bob was born on November 14, 1946, in Caney, Kansas, to George and Mary Ellen (Murline) Buford. He grew up in Bartlesville and graduated from College High School. In 1965, he married Mary Jo Odell of Oglesby. Together, they welcomed their son, James Robert Brian Buford, in 1970.

Bob proudly served as an Army Reservist during the Vietnam War. Following his service, he began a long and successful career with Southwestern Bell, where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 2000. In retirement, Bob continued to share his skills through work with ConocoPhillips, Motorola Radio Company, and KOSN.

A passionate amateur radio operator, Bob was known by his call sign W5RAB. He was an active member of both the Bartlesville and Tulsa radio clubs, where he made many lasting friendships. Bob will be remembered for his generosity, strong work ethic, and unwavering support for those he loved.

Of all the roles he held throughout his life, the one he cherished most was being “Papa” to his two granddaughters.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Mary Jo; his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Denise Buford; his granddaughters, Jacqueline (Buford) Cook and husband Jacob, and Jamie (Buford) Cortina and husband Charlie; his brothers Frank (Donna) and Bill (Jean); his sister Annette (Buford) Parker; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Murline Buford, and his sister, Rosetta (Buford) Bradley.

No services are planned at this time. Arrangements were under the direction of Carter Davis and Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com)

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ I hope he knew what an amazing friend he was to me. I've learned so much from him that I'll never forget. I had more fun hanging out with Bob and Paul than I can even express. You and Paul are by far my best ham radio friends. Bob had more of an impact on me than I'm sure he was aware of. He was a great Elmer (ham radio mentor) and I will forever consider myself very honored to have been mentored by him and have called him a friend. I have been lucky in life to have known and been taught by some very intelligent people, Bob among the top. Take care my friend.

73

David N5DMK

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David N5DMK - September 07, 2025 at 12:03 AM

MG

“ I met Bob W5RAB through amateur radio. I am in charge of maintaining a repeater system in Tulsa. Bob got involved with the project of upgrading the system and began helping me. He supplied much of the equipment used in the system and had some back up radios programmed and ready to go, if needed. It seemed if we needed a piece of equipment he just reached into his humongous "junk box," what we hams call our selection of spare parts and supplies and gave it to us. He would come up to the site with his sophisticated commercial grade test equipment along with the expertise to get everything tuned up to perfection. I know he did this at many repeater sites around eastern Oklahoma and put up a number of systems of his own. It seemed he retired from working on radios, to work on radios. I knew he enjoyed it. One of my pastors once said, a boiler maker works with things all day, when he gets off work, he wants to stop at a tavern and be with other people. A social worker spends the day working with people and when she gets off work, likes to get away from other people. I would add that a lot of us technical types work with electronic electronic equipment all day to go home and tinker with electronic equipment in the evening. Bob was a great guy, and I know many of us in ham radio in eastern Oklahoma will miss him greatly. 73 (ham speak for best regards)  
Bob DE Merlin WB5OSM

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**Merlin Griffin** - July 31, 2025 at 08:17 PM

MM

“ Really enjoyed his knowledge and wisdom with amateur radio topics. He was a great addition to the Bartlesville Amateur Radio Club (BARC) and he will be missed. Prayers to the family.

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**Matt Moody** - July 30, 2025 at 09:05 PM

BB

“ The best and smartest brother anyone could ever have

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**Bill Buford** - July 29, 2025 at 02:50 PM