



Sammy Lee Oliver

February 24, 1941 - February 23, 2020

Sammy Lee Oliver was born in Hampton, AR on February 24, 1941 and died peacefully on Sunday, February 23, 2020 in Fordyce at the age of 78 surrounded by family.

He graduated from Hampton High School and attended UAM in Monticello as biology major. He was a member of the Army Reserves and an expert rifleman. For 19 years, he worked in cardiovascular research and also ran the electron microscopy lab at UAMS in Little Rock. During that time, he and good friend Ron Tribble designed and patented a turkey caller that Sam used to win the National and World Turkey Calling Contests.

After moving to Sheridan in the 1980s, he became owner of Poor Boy Feed for a number of years and then owner and president of Golden Eagle Promotions. In 1997, he moved back to Hampton, AR and not long after, became Sheriff of Calhoun County.

Sam was an avid outdoorsman and loved deep-sea fishing, scuba diving, traveling, camping, and hunting with his family and friends. As a pilot, he was passionate about flying. He was known for his witty sense of humor and occasional pranks played on friends. As a captivating storyteller, he was skilled at keeping an audience's attention and often his stories held an underlying life lesson. He was also a 32nd degree freemason like his father and grandfathers before him.

Sam was a member of First Baptist Church in Hampton. His favorite hymn was "On the Old Rugged Cross" and favorite verse was Romans 8:28. His last spoken words to his granddaughter, Cheyenne, were "I need to go to church because Jesus will take me home" and last words to his daughter were, "I'll be with her soon. It's not much longer. Love you too. Bye."

He was preceded in death by his parents Walter "Pete" Enoch Oliver and Kathryn (Witherington) Oliver both of Hampton, AR; his wife of 24 years Darien Roberta Wallingsford of Hampton, AR, and infant sister Juanita Oliver. He is survived by daughter Lori Leigh Oliver Fawbush and husband Nathan of Sherwood, AR; 3 granddaughters

Alyssa Cheyenne Fawbush, Savannah Leigh Fawbush, and Brooklyn Rose Fawbush; 2 sisters DeVellyn Oliver and Marigail Toney; 2 nieces Laura Staton and Paula Russell, and a nephew Walter Toney.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to St. John's Place of Arkansas for resident outings and activities in memory of Sam Oliver. Checks may be sent to St. Johns Place at 1400 Hwy 79/167 Bypass, Fordyce, AR 71742. Visitation will be Friday 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm at First Baptist Church in Hampton. Funeral services will be 2:00 pm Friday at First Baptist Church with Rev. Rickey Smith officiating. Burial will follow at Camp Ground Cemetery in Hampton. Arrangements by Benton Funeral Home of Fordyce. To sign the online register visit www.bentonfuneralhome.net.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

28

First Baptist Church

205 Dunn Ave, Hampton, AR, US, 71744

FEB **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

28

First Baptist Church

205 Dunn Ave, Hampton, AR, US, 71744

FEB **Graveside**

28

Camp Ground Cemetery

Hampton, AR, US, 71744

Comments



“ I worked for Sam when he was Sheriff of Calhoun County.
A great persson to work for.
You would have never guessed he was near Genius.
I had to find out his brilliant mind from someone else.
Our deepestest condolences to the family of Mr.Oliver.

Charles Davis - March 06 at 10:52 PM



“ I also worked for Sam when he was Calhoun County Sheriff and
Collector. He was kind and the best boss I ever had.

Betty Lou Tomlinson Walker - March 16 at 12:08 PM



“ Sam Oliver was one of the most talented and brilliant (genius) people and I have
been blessed that he was part of my life. He had an extremely large skill set and a
mind that could design and fabricate anything. When I met Sam at what is now
UAMS, it was turkey sounds that brought us into a long lasting friendship . At that
time he was working for a cardiologist, Robert Bullock who held Sam in high praise.
Dr. Bullock mentioned to Sam that he would like to have a way to biopsy living
human heart tissue . That is all it took for Sam to envision, design and fabricate the
biopsy needles. They were about 20” long and a little less than 1/16” in diameter .
The lumen of the needle was a sheath for the plunger that contained a razor sharp
spring loaded cutting device. Needless to say , Dr. Bulloch was very pleased! Sam’s
biopsy needle that collected tiny bits of living heart tissue played an important role in
the advancement in heart research. In addition , Sam embedded the heart tissue,
sliced each specimen and captured detailed microscopic images using
electronmicrography. Now get this,
Once the electronmicrograph machine was broken. After a repair call was made to
RCA who had not responded in at least a week. Sam took this extremely complex
electronic device apart and repaired it. Yes, Sammy Lee Oliver was “a Jack of all
trades” but what separated him from the pack was the fact that he achieved mastery
in electronics, engineering and many other professions. He was a role model in
marriage and life. My heart is heavy that I have lost such a good friend (more like a
brother) and my sympathy goes out to his family.

Ron Tribell - February 27 at 09:04 AM



“ Very well written Ron. Sorry for such a great loss to family and friends but proud his life was
celebrated so well.

Lillian - February 28 at 02:40 PM



“ Never forgotten Sam was no cardboard Good Man.

Lillian - February 28 at 02:44 PM



“ I will certainly miss picking at my friend Sam at St. John's Place. He and my brother shared a table and now his place is empty. Praying for all of you God's Peace and comfort. John 14:1-27.

Edie Totty - February 26 at 09:12 AM



“ Lori, DeVellyn, and Marigail, My prayers are with each of you and family as you celebrate Sam's life. I have so many memories of Sam while growing up in Hampton and attending church and elementary through senior high school years with him. All my school days were touched by him, I have no memory of our precise first meet but definitely remember our last. It was always good to "bump" into him over the years as I visited family in Hampton and once in Sheridan after our graduation when visiting with mother as we traveled through Sheridan. May God grant you each peace and grace as you walk through the next days during your celebration and may you keep thoughts of seeing him again in our heavenly home.

Molly Beth Allen Dalstrom

Molly Beth Allen Dalstrom - February 25 at 01:28 PM



“ There are so many sweet memories of Sam for me to send all of them. We were classmates and friends for 57+ years.. I will definitely have a lot of pranks he played on me and Iris to look back on and laugh. It's such a comfort to know that we will see him again when the time comes. May God give you peace, Lori so that you can remember that you had such a sweet daddy. If we are not able to attend the visitation or funeral, please know that we are thinking of and praying for you all. We love you, sweet girl. Come see us anytime.

EB and Betty Walker - February 25 at 10:17 AM