



Joseph "Joe" Sylvan Bates

July 16, 1923 - June 11, 2015

Joseph Sylvan Bates passed away on June 11, 2015. He was born in Carthage, Missouri on July 16, 1923. He served during WWII stationed in Italy flying P51 mustangs as a fighter pilot. After the war he returned to Missouri to go to college where he met his wife of 66 years, Margaret (Macy) McNeill Bates. After marrying they moved to Madison, Wisconsin so he could complete his degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. In 1951, they moved to Houston where he began his career in heating and air conditioning. Ten years later he opened his own business, Bates Engineering and Service Company, which thrived until he retired at age 63.

He and Margaret moved to Huntsville shortly after he retired to live his life enjoying golf at Elkins Lake. Joe was often described by his golfing friends as a "hot shot" golfer. In addition to golfing, he enjoyed taking trips with his friends at Elkins Lake and playing bridge. Joe loved to fish, especially in the clear streams of Missouri as a child and later where he canoed and fished with his family on vacation.

Joe was preceded in death by his sister Wilma Bates Webb, father Joseph Sylvan Bates Sr., and mother Bird Frost Bates.

He is survived by his wife, children Dan Bates and Nancy Kapellas, daughter-in-law April Bates, son-in-law Jeff Kapellas, and grandchildren Jordan and

Karl Bates.

A private service will be held by the family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com. Donations may be made in Joe's memory to the Alzheimer's Association (which also addresses many types of dementia) at http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_donate.asp

Many thanks to Bristol Hospice care nurses and aides and Affordable Home Care caregivers for their compassion given to Joe in his last days.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph "Joe" Sylvan Bates*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I sure am glad that I got to know you. Our time together was neither long nor frequent, but I will treasure them nevertheless. I will always appreciate your ready acceptance of me into your family. The memory if your patient, good-humored but ultimate futile attempts to teach me to be a better golfer always make me smile. I would never trade those times together. I loved hearing the tales of your life journeys, from Missouri to flying over Italy, from cold Wisconsin winters to sweltering Houston summers. Well, Joe, I guess you've now earned your second set of wings. Soar higher, Dad! Love, your son-in-law, Jeff*

Jeff Kapellas - June 20, 2015 at 02:36 PM



“ *Such a honor to have spent the little time I did with Mr and Mrs Joe and their Daughter Nancy helping them out, it was a pleasure. What a awesome sweet Family. Many many prayers to you all. Please call if I can help with anything Nancy and Amber have my number.* ❤️💙💚💛
💜



leslie - June 15, 2015 at 03:11 PM



**Mr and Mrs Joe Bates*

leslie - June 15, 2015 at 03:11 PM

HT

“ I am very sorry to hear that Joe died. Have had several talks with him when playing golf with all of the "boys" at Elkins Lake. I still remember one time where I was out playing a foursome with all of the men - almost everyone around 75 or 80 years old. I ended up in the cart with Joe - Wayne Collins telling me that it would be good for me to spend time with this guy Joe - so I did.

After spending almost four hours together Joe thanked me for a good day (I believe we picked up a few dollars too). He turned his head towards Wayne Collins and said out loud that I was a good kid. I told him that I was close to 40 years old and Joe replied that "you may be close to 40 and a grown up at home but in Elkins you're still a kid." :)

After meeting him - and I am not exaggerating - I must have told his story on the WWII missions to many of my friends ending up with the conclusion that guys like Joe was one of the reasons that German is not my first language.

My condolences and thoughts. I treasure the few moments I had with this fine man.

May Joe rest in peace.

Hans Theisen
(From Denmark)

Hans Theisen - June 15, 2015 at 01:28 AM

GM

“ Joe has been a good friend for 25 years. We will miss his always smiling face. We played many golf games together. He was always a helpful partner.
Gayland & Gerry Moulder

gayland moulder - June 14, 2015 at 01:19 PM

EC

“ *Earl Carter lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Sylvan Bates*



Earl Carter - June 14, 2015 at 08:53 AM

EC

A man among men has gone home and we must continue on without him!

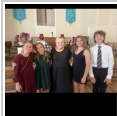
Earl Carter - June 14, 2015 at 08:54 AM



“ *Mellicent Wiley lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Sylvan Bates*



Mellicent Wiley - June 12, 2015 at 06:05 PM



Sorry for your loss.

Mellicent Wiley - June 12, 2015 at 06:06 PM

WB

*We will miss seeing you two 'Love Birds' holding hands on your walks. We share your loss and Joe will be missed by many.
Your friends,
Gale and Wanda Bradshaw*

Wanda and Gale Bradshaw - June 12, 2015 at 06:34 PM