



## Robert L. Couch Jr.

December 25, 1924 - August 18, 2014

Mr. Robert L. Couch Jr, age 89 of Tullahoma passed away Monday, August 18 at the Life Care Center of Tullahoma.

Robert L. "Bob" Couch, Jr. was born in the evening of Christmas Day, 1924, at 308 North Atlantic Street, Tullahoma, to Robert Laughlin Couch, Sr. and Anabel Searcy Couch. Thus began a long love affair with Tullahoma which he affectionately referred to as the "dimple of the universe." Bob was a great student of life and especially enjoyed viewing it through the lens of a camera. He found meaning and purpose in many organizations.

Brought up in First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he served as a teacher for teenagers and adults, board chairman, elder, and was named Elder Emeritus. A student of the Bible, he participated in the Bethel Bible Study. He attended young adult conferences of the Christian Church in Tennessee (Disciples of Christ) and later family camp, which he helped direct, for many years at the beloved Bethany Hills Camp. He loved attending church events locally, state and nationwide. He also served on the board of the Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University.

Bob attended Tullahoma schools and graduated from Columbia Military Academy. He played the bass drum in the first Tullahoma High School Marching Band. After enlisting for the U.S. Navy at Camp Forrest, he attended Tulane University before being shipped to Great Lakes. He was a radar operator on the destroyer escort U.S.S. Willis and stationed at Guam. After the war, he attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and graduated

from Middle Tennessee State College in 1949. He served as school photographer at MTSU and remained “True Blue” enjoying alumni activities and football games. In 1991 he received the Dr. Joe Nunley Award at MTSU which recognizes veterans for their service to others.

Bob was proud to be the third generation in the family business, W. J. Couch & Company, which was founded in 1893. Later renamed Couch’s, he believed in service and often chose customer needs over his own. He studied at the Eastman Kodak School and took classes with the Bell & Howell Company. His love of photography manifested itself in his taking thousands of pictures. He covered news stories for THE TULLAHOMA NEWS as well as Nashville television stations. Prior to video cameras, Bob filmed every Wildcat football game from the roof of the press box. He enjoyed helping others with their photographic needs and questions and he assisted many students in launching their careers. He helped found the Tullahoma Camera Club. He was a member of the Downtown Merchants Association and the Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber presented him with the Sustaining Member Award in 1998 and he received the first Clyde Phillips Men’s Shop Business Award in 2009. He was one of first recipients of the City of Tullahoma’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Achieving over 63 years of perfect attendance in Rotary indicated Bob’s devotion to Rotary International. He was a member of the Tullahoma Noon Rotary Club and served as its president in 1963. He later joined with other Rotarians in chartering the Tullahoma Sunrise Rotary Club. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow and helped charter the Interact Club at Tullahoma High School.

Bob was a member of Boy Scouts and earned the first Eagle Award in Tullahoma. Subsequently, he mentored many Scouts in reaching the same goal.

A strong patriot, he attended the first Boys’ State and remained active in American Legion Post 43 where he served as Commander and Historian. He was active in the Legion’s Big Brothers program, the Sons of the American

Legion and the 40 & 8. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Bob was a 33rd degree Mason in the Scottish Rite and York Rite and a member of Al Menah Temple. He was a member of South Jackson Civic Association, Tullahoma Fine Arts Center, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Nathan Bedford Forrest Civil War Roundtable, Historic Preservation Society, Coffee County Historical Society, Bedford County Historical Society and Keep Coffee County Beautiful.

One of his favorite pastimes was sharing history of the Civil War and Camp Forrest and numerous presentations were made.

Dorothy "Dot" Morton of Manchester was the love of his life. They married June 15, 1953 and had over 61 years of devotion, fun and hard work together. She survives along with their daughters Candy, Fran and son-in-law Jon Gray; grandson Jacob Gray and wife Cindy; sisters Searcy Hopkins and Dot Watson; all of Tullahoma. Memories will be cherished by many other family members and friends.

The family will receive visitors at Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home on Friday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. The funeral will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), at the corner of Grundy and Jackson Streets, Tullahoma. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens. The family suggests donations may be made to First Christian Church, South Jackson Civic Center or the charity of one's choice.

Online condolences may be made at [www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com). Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Memorial Gardens

4758 New Manchester Highway  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
<http://www.rosehillmemorialgardens.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 22.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home  
401 N Jackson Street  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
(931) 455-3481

## Service

**AUG 23.** 5:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church  
Tullahoma, TN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert L. Couch Jr.*

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM




“ *Dear Couch family, your loving head of a wonderful family has passed from this life into his reward with God and Jesus. My family has vivid memories of this icon of a man as we shared time at Family Camp at Bethany Hills for so many years. He was both a cut-up and an inspiration to us all. His special words at vespers, his smile as he raised his camera, his love for his own family were all an inspiration to all who met him. Words are not enough for us to say what Bob meant to us all. Our love and sympathy go out to the family, Eleanor S. Kuss*

**Eleanor S. Kuss** - October 27, 2014 at 01:53 PM



“ *Mr. Couch was a fine person, definitely a historian of Tullahoma. Even many memories I have as a child include him and my dad. My son spent many a day sitting on the counter while my dad and Mr. Couch shared the latest news. He will be sadly missed. So sorry for your loss. May God bless and comfort ya'll during this time. R.I.P. Mr. Couch, you have won your robe and crown.  
Gail Prince*

**Gail Smith Prince** - August 24, 2014 at 10:49 PM

 Larry  
Hinsley

“ *Deepest sympathy to all of the family in the loss of Mr. Bob. Know that everyone of you are in our prayers.*

*Larry & Karol Hinsley  
Nashville, TN*

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**Larry Hinsley** - August 24, 2014 at 05:37 PM

PM

“ *Candy, Fran and Mrs. Couch,  
Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Bob was such a special person here on Earth the Lord said " Come in my good and faithful servant". He has gained a new home and will forever be missed but his gain is so sweet and one day you guys will meet him again. May the Lord comfort you and give you peace in this time of loss with sweet understanding of Mr. Bob's new home.*

*Respectfully,  
Gary and Pat McCullough*

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**Pat & Gary McCullough** - August 23, 2014 at 02:46 PM

MS

“ *Bob Couch was a Tullahoma icon. He was a fine man with so many wonderful stories. I am proud to have called him friend. He will be missed! My deepest sympathy to the whole family. Love to you all!  
Melissa*

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**Melissa Shuran** - August 23, 2014 at 01:15 PM



“ **Mary Washburn Binkley**

*Heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Couch, my lifelong- forever friend Candy, Fran & Jon, Jacob & Cindy. Mr. Couch's love of life will continue and be remember through his family and friends and many he might not have met! May God's Peace an comfort be with his family today and days to come! Mary Washburn Binkley*

*Like · More · 2 minutes ago*

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**Mary Binkley** - August 23, 2014 at 11:33 AM



*Amen, Mary! Love to All, Frances.*

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**Fran Smith** - August 26, 2014 at 07:27 PM

MR

*I was 13 when we moved to Tullahoma in 1950. It wasn't long before Bob Douch became know to my parents & they bought our 1st TV @ Couch's Store. As time passed Dorothy Ann & I became friends...she was "sweet" on my brother, Bo. I also had a job in Mary Searcy's drug store as a teen. How can one ever for get Bob in those annual fund raising minstrial shows? He was a delightful ham in his Western Union Uniform tripping through the isles @ S. Jackson auditorium trying to deliver a potted plant that kept growing during the performance & his uniform kept shrinking. Bob was so tall & thin back then & ther was no comedian in America as funny as Bob Couch! It has been many years since I have seen any of that lovely Family. God Bless Bob & Thanks for the lovely memories. So sorry I just learned of his passing. Mary Ann Powell Rhodes, Brentwood, TN*

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**Mary Ann Powell Rhodes** - December 05, 2014 at 02:05 PM

HW

*I was so sad to hear about your loss. Mr. Couch was a dear friend to my family, and was one of a handful of people that along with Mildred, Annette, and Wayne treated me so kindly in my youth. I learned of his passing just today and missed the funeral to my deepest regret. I remember one time when I had helped Mr. Couch build a wrap around screen porch on their vacation home in Gloucester. I was doing it just to spend time with a man that I respected a great deal, he insisted on paying me a crazy amount ( in my mind and my Grandmother's mind) of money for helping him. To this day I can not recall if Grandma made me give all of the money back or not, what I do remember was a great day spending time learning from a wonderful man, not how to build a screened porch add on. But instead how to inspire a young man, treat someone young with love and caring as an adult.*

*Today as a leader and manager I use lessons from my time with Mr. Couch almost daily. It took almost 40 years but I learned you can lead with love and still be a very effective business leader.*

*To his family I say I share some portion of your pain. May you gain peace in time, and perhaps if it is right for you think as I do about my father whom passed away several years ago when I pray. To my "Fathers" in heaven each night.*

*We may not see each other much these days but know that you are all in my prayers and in my heart always.*

*Harry Lee Warrick*

*I miss the times of youth, with you all. My God bless you and keep you, in his loving arms.*

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**Harry Warrick** - August 13, 2015 at 03:52 PM

LB

“*Dearest Fran & Candy, My heart aches for you both to hear of your Dad's passing. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family in these deepest days in the valley. Your Dad left an indelible mark on the town of Tullahoma, that will never be repeated. May his spirit live on !!!!! True Victory is his! Lisa Nall Brendle*

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**Lisa Nall Brendle** - August 23, 2014 at 11:31 AM



DM

“ *Tullahoma is certainly at a true loss now that we have all lost him to go live with God. My condolences to the entire family.*  
*Donna Martin*

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**Donna Martin** - August 23, 2014 at 10:26 AM

PA

“ *Pat lit a candle in memory of Robert L. Couch Jr.*



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**Pat** - August 23, 2014 at 06:30 AM

PA

“ *I remember Mr. Couch. He was always making everyone laugh & smile. RIP Mr. Couch, you will be missed by my family.*

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**Pat** - August 23, 2014 at 06:29 AM

KI

“ *Dot and family. So sorry to hear of Bobs death. In 1970 Bob came to my parents house for their 50th anniversary. ( Earl and Wilma Weaver). Some how all the film got lost. After a period of months they turned up. Also in 1955 my husband and I rented, I think an apartment, in a big house by the rail road track. So we have know and loved your family for a long time. Tullahoma has lost a great leader and a great business man. Bob is at peace now. Kathalene Weaver, Solomon, Isbell*



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**Kathalene Isbell** - August 22, 2014 at 09:44 PM

FW

“ Dear ,Dot , Candy, Fran. Jacob, I am very sadden to hear of my friends passing .Bob was my friend for 40 years, we shared many good times, he got a kick at Angie's wedding he thought it was great. He would tease me by asking me to lay hands on someone camera to get it working and some times it worked. His humor will be missed, As my walking and back will prevent me from being there, my thoughts have and will always be with your family, as I consider Bob's family as part of my family, God bless you all.

*Freddie West*

*Sr, Joan, Fred Jr., Angie and Savannah*

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**Freddie West** - August 22, 2014 at 09:09 PM

LH

“ Our heartfelt and deepest condolences to Mrs. Couch, Fran, Candy, Kathryn and all of the extended family and many, many friends. God's blessings of peace and comfort to you all!!

*Linda & Mark Hernandez*

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**Linda & Mark Hernandez** - August 22, 2014 at 05:44 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Couch family on the loss of a wonderful man.

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**Patricia Lee** - August 22, 2014 at 02:11 PM

BS

“ Mrs. Couch, Fran and Candy: You all are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. Tullahoma is proud and blessed to have Mr. Couch and all of you as a part of our community! God bless you all always.--Bertha Reese Smith

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**Bertha Reese Smith** - August 22, 2014 at 01:09 PM

JR

“ Who else but Bob would come to cheer us during our sons illness.  
Years later he loaned a camera to a teenager for his travel to  
Europe  
Rest in peace dear friend  
The Roberson family

John Roberson - August 22, 2014 at 09:07 AM

NN

“ Sweet sweet Mr. Couch! Keeping you in my prayers Candy, Fran  
and Mrs. Couch!!!! Nancy Neil Adcock

nna - August 22, 2014 at 08:23 AM

BP

“ Candy and family, so sorry for your loss. I will always remember his  
smile and kind words as I am sure most all that knew he will.

Betty Pearson

Betty Pearson - August 21, 2014 at 08:01 PM

Janet  
Fillmann

“ It was an honor to know you, Sir. My deepest  
sympathies and condolences to Mrs Couch,  
Fran, Candy and family. Rest high on that  
mountain. Your work on earth is done. God  
bless.



Janet Fillmann - August 21, 2014 at 05:56 PM

JM

“ Deepest sympathies to Fran, Candy, and family.  
Joanne Johnson Vertovec

Joanne Myers-Vertovec - August 21, 2014 at 01:04 PM

PP

“ Our prayers are with you. Mr. Couch was a Tullahoma Classic.  
Pat and Ginny Pack and Family

Pat Pack - August 20, 2014 at 07:55 PM

AG

Always loved stopping in the store for a chat and all the advice and help he gave me over the years. I learned a lot from Bob. Love and prayers to the whole family.  
Alan Gray

Alan Gray - August 22, 2014 at 02:50 PM

CS

“ As I too was growing up in first christian church I remember my dad( Alan mace) and the men having men's breakfast on Saturday morning before the men's work days and I remember Bob would always be there willing to help we will greatly miss Mr.Bob and our prayers and love go out to dot, Fran and candy and the family we love u

Christina (mace) shipman - August 20, 2014 at 05:12 PM



“ Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert L. Couch Jr..



August 20, 2014 at 01:14 PM

BG

“ Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

*Joe Guinn and family*

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**Brenda Guinn** - August 20, 2014 at 10:29 AM

KS

“ Tullahoma will never be the same without our beloved Bob Couch. We will all miss him, but we have all his stories and memories of him (clothespins and cluttered back room discoveries) in our hearts. My condolences and love to his family.

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**Kimber Sharp** - August 20, 2014 at 10:02 AM

SS

“ What an icon for the city of Tullahoma....I will remember him at all the sporting events when I was in high school covering our games. Mr. Couch was the funniest, caring, person, I have ever met. We have lost an outstanding individual, & will be truly missed. My thoughts go to Candy, Fran & especially Mrs. Couch at this time.....  
*Sherry & Nancy Seely*

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**Sherry & Nancy Seely** - August 20, 2014 at 09:27 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Robert L. Couch Jr..



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August 20, 2014 at 09:23 AM

EF

“ Growing up in the First Christian Church, Bob Couch was my Sunday School Teacher for years. We would have our class in the old Marshall Theater. Some Sundays he would never read from the Bible but we always came away with a lesson of life that I have taken with me and built on. I have had the opportunity, only a few days ago , to thank him for being such a great mentor.. Your body may me gone but not forgotten. RIP

Mrs Couch, you are a shinning example of a wonder wife and some morning when I would be leaving the Life Care Center feeling so tired, I would see you caring for Bob after also being there all night and I would say "I want to be strong just like her. I can do it"

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**Evelyn Winton Fielder** - August 19, 2014 at 10:03 PM

LC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Lynn Crosby** - August 19, 2014 at 06:58 PM

GG

“ I remember going to work for Bob when I was in high school. I helped with the deliveries of appliances and helped clean the store. I got paid 1.00 n hour and thought I was rich. He was one of the first person's I went to see when I came home from Vietnam. I loved to hear him talk about the history of Tullahoma. He touched many lives and will be missed by all who knew him. One thing Bob and I used to talk about was that he was the first Eagle Scout in Troop 112, and I was the first Eagle Scout when Troop 112 was revived in 1959.

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**Gordon Greene** - August 19, 2014 at 06:36 PM

DJ

“ Oh lord where to begin. Let me just say this, which virtually everyone is thinking. He was an Icon. A shining example of what is good in people. And this world will be lesser with his passing, but heaven greater.

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**dan daniel jr** - August 19, 2014 at 05:59 PM

TD

“ Bob will surely be missed by all of Tullahoma. Know you are In our hearts and prayers. Theresa & Jim

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**theresa devlin** - August 19, 2014 at 04:42 PM

AF

“ Tullahoma has lost an icon & a Great American. My thoughts are with you all at this difficult time



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**Andy Forrester** - August 19, 2014 at 03:45 PM