



## Robert Brown Tipps Sr.

July 29, 1930 - November 7, 2022

Robert (Bob) Brown Tipps, Sr. of Tullahoma and Sevierville, born July 29, 1930, passed away at home with family on November 7, 2022 at the age of 92. Mr. Tipps was a member of Alder Branch Baptist Church in Sevierville and former member of First Christian Church in Tullahoma. Born in Mulberry, Tennessee, he attended school in Mulberry, Lynchburg and Flintville. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1952.

Mr. Tipps was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force (1952-1956). He served with the 463rd Troop Carrier wing in Memphis, Tennessee and Ardmore, Oklahoma. He served 21 months in England with the 513th Fighter Bomber Squadron and was discharged in September 1956 as a Staff Sergeant. He then served in the Army National Guard.

Mr. Tipps was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest Floyd and Lillie Brown Tipps, his wife of 49 years Yvonne Adams Tipps, sisters Josephine Hudson, Jean Kinnard Szabo, Betty Gattis, and brother Bill F. Tipps. He is survived by his wife, Marie Ottinger Tipps, son Robert Tipps Jr., daughters Marilyn (Jimmy) Harmon of Manchester, and Denise (Gary) Hamrick of Winchester, his brother Dudley (Ann) Tipps of Lynchburg, as well as six grandchildren: Cass (Crystal) Cable, Elizabeth Cable, Adam Cable, Jamie (Angelica) Cable, Bonnie Preston, and Brad (Erica) Preston, thirteen great-grandchildren, three great- great- grandchildren, step-sons Matt (Claudia) Ottinger of Dimondale, MI, Colonel (Ret.) Maurice (Lorie) Ottinger of Huntsville, AL, Mike Ottinger of Sevierville, TN, two step-grandchildren: Allan (Kaylan) Ottinger and Emily

(Brandon)Holmes, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Bob served on the Tullahoma Board of Mayor and Alderman. During his term on the Board, he was privileged to work for and vote to locate Motlow State Community College in Moore County. He also worked for the construction of Harton Hospital, the Multi-County Mental Health Center, and was treasurer for the construction of the Lannom Memorial Library in the early 1960s. Mr. Tipps and his brother Bill owned Jiffy Dip restaurant and later, along with their partners, built Holiday Marina in Tullahoma after construction of Tims Ford Lake.

After returning from his tour of duty in the Air Force, Mr. Tipps taught science and was assistant football coach at West Junior High School in Tullahoma. He also worked at his brother Bill's store, Speedee Pantry and the Jiffy Dip for many years.

Bob was very active in civic affairs. He was an active member of the Tullahoma Jaycees, serving as president and earning the Tennessee Outstanding Young Man of America award. In 1961, he led the Tullahoma Jaycees in the establishment of the first group home for intellectually-challenged children in Tennessee. He served as president of the Coffee County Association for Retarded Citizens (now the ARC) and served as president of the Tennessee ARC from 1971-1974. Mr. Tipps was involved in the association's work to get legislation passed by the General Assembly to provide mandatory education for handicapped children in Tennessee. The law was enacted by the General Assembly in 1972.

Mr. Tipps was an active supporter of the Tennessee Schools for the Deaf, establishing a scholarship fund in memory of his aunt, Johnnie Tipps, who attended the school during her elementary through high school years.

Mr. Tipps was employed by the Tennessee Department of Education as the Right to Education Officer in 1974 to advocate for disabled children and their parents in securing appropriate services for the children through local school districts across the state. He drove over one million miles across Tennessee during his 30 years in this position. He retired in 2006 having received

numerous awards of recognition for his work for the disabled from Tennessee governors Buford Ellington, Winfield Dunn, and Lamar Alexander.

Visitation will be held Saturday, November 12, 5pm-8pm at Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home, 401 Jackson St. Tullahoma, TN and funeral services will be held there on Sunday, November 13, at 2pm. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Johnnie Tipps Memorial (PTCA) Scholarship Fund at the Tennessee School for the Deaf, 2725 Island Home Blvd., Knoxville, TN, 37920. Please make checks payable to TSDA/TPCA.

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

NOV 12. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Service

NOV 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Burial

NOV 13 (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

AR

“ *Its four months later, I'm just now seeing this. As I set here with tear filled eyes there is a smile on my face because without a doubt in my mind, I know this sweet man now walks those streets of gold. Robert, I never got to tell you thank you for your kindness during some of my darkest days. From the moment I met you and Marie I felt nothing but love. You never treated me indifferent always as if I was family. Opening your doors when we had nowhere to live. I know I wasn't a very good person during that time but you guys made me feel like I was enough and never past judgement. Mr. Tipps, thank you I was truly bless to have known you. You thaught me what compassion for others truly meant. You would be proud to know I've completely turned my life around. I no longer live in that darkness. Through God and his grace and mercy upon me. My family and the one who stood by me. I'm now 6 year clean. Mr.Tipp watch over us all especially your daughter Denise she was truly a daddy's girl (so to speak) She has a heart just like yours. Save us a spot. Till we meet again rest easy sir*

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**Audrey Reed** - March 11, 2023 at 12:54 AM



“ *Robert Brown Tipps Sr.*

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January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..*



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November 12, 2022 at 06:17 PM

NL

“ Dear Tipps and Ottinger family , We extend our condolences . Bob was a good Christian man. We got to know him when he married Marie and joined Alder Branch Baptist Church.

Norman & Marie Lindsey - November 12, 2022 at 04:39 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..



November 11, 2022 at 10:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..



November 10, 2022 at 08:34 PM

SK

“ Shannan,Shelley,Josh,Ron,Ashley & kids purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..



Shannan,Shelley,Josh,Ron,Ashley & kids - November 10, 2022 at 01:29 PM

M(

“ MDA Policy and Funds Certification (CCD) purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..



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**MDA Policy and Funds Certification (CCD)** - November 10, 2022 at 12:29 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..



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November 10, 2022 at 09:32 AM

MO

“ Matt and Claudia Ottinger purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..



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**Matt and Claudia Ottinger** - November 10, 2022 at 09:14 AM

AA

“ Condolences.

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**ann w allison** - November 10, 2022 at 09:01 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..*



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November 09, 2022 at 06:12 PM



“ *My deepest condolences Mo, Lorie, Marie and family as you grieve Robert's beautiful life. May memories be of comfort and peace be in your hearts as Robert is now with Jesus. Sending Love and Blessings,  
Barb Wood*



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**Barb Wood** - November 09, 2022 at 02:30 PM



*Sending much love and prayers to Aunt Marie and all the family today. Sorry we couldn't attend but we pray for comfort and peace. He was loved by many and will always be remembered.  
-Jane Anne, Steve and family*

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**Jane Anne Smith** - November 12, 2022 at 08:49 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Brown Tipps Sr..*



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November 09, 2022 at 02:24 PM

RJ

“Dad, I always felt your shoes were much too big to fill, knowing how many lives you changed and helped in your life-long commitment to those with disabilities. At times I didn't feel worthy of having your name. But throughout my life, you supported me in all my endeavors and always offered guidance and advice to help me succeed. We shared a love of sports and I will always remember our trips to games or listening on the tv or radio. Although you were a lifelong Vols and Braves fan, you always asked how my MSU teams and Astros were doing. Thank you for always being such a positive influence in my life. You will be missed dearly, but you may finally rest. You will always be my hero.

Robert Tipps, Jr - November 09, 2022 at 12:10 PM

EC

🙏🙏 love ya Robert!!!

Elizabeth cable - November 09, 2022 at 01:57 PM

DT

Robert and all other family members,  
I just learned of Bob's heavenly homegoing yesterday. Bob was my hero. He helped more families and children than I could ever count. He got more miles out of his car than could ever be imagined. I loved him dearly and cherish the memories I have of him as he stood strong for children with special needs. I spoke yesterday with Jerry Morton and we reflected on Bob's life. Jerry's comments were: Bob was: a pillar of justice, a pillar of compassion, a pillar of love, and I said he was a pillar of tenacity, of stick-to-itiveness. When he took on a project, he was with it until it was resolved. God bless you.

Because He lives,  
Don Thompson

Don Thompson - November 13, 2024 at 09:39 AM

MH

*Dad, your dedication to the Dept. Of Education still shines, as I hear your name mentioned quite often. Miss your guidance in the garden, and the green thumb you had with all your beautiful flowers! Just missing you, Marilyn*

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**Marilyn Tipps Harmon** - March 19, 2025 at 10:53 PM