



Robert "Bob" H. Cole

March 27, 2025

Robert "Bob" H. Cole passed away peacefully on March 27, 2025, surrounded by his family in Midland, Texas. He was 81 years old.

Bob was born in Jasper, Texas—only because the nearby town of Newton, where his family lived, did not have a hospital. He was raised in a military family, the son of Maj. Robert S. Cole and Janice Cole, and lived in many places including Germany and Panama. He would go on to continue the tradition of service and discipline that marked his early years.

A proud graduate of Texas A&M University, Bob was a member of the Corps of Cadets from 1962–1966. After completing his undergraduate studies, he served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968. He later returned to Texas A&M and earned a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1970. Bob also held an MBA in Business Administration.

In the fall of 1968, Bob met Julie at the Texas A&M student center. They married on April 4, 1969, beginning a lifelong partnership rooted in faith, service, and family. They lived in Houston for ten years, where Bob worked for Gulf Oil before relocating to Midland in October 1980 to join a new oil venture.

Over the years, Bob's entrepreneurial spirit led him to found several businesses, including Permian Business Group, Custom Computers, Stadium

Chair Company, Apex, and New Horizons Computer Learning Center. He was also the founder of American Heritage Cemetery Funeral Home Crematory with his son David Cole, leaving a lasting impact on the Midland community.

Bob was known for his sharp mind, unwavering dependability, and frugal spirit. A “numbers guy” to the core, he kept meticulous records, did countless tax returns for free, and brought that same diligence to every ministry, business, and person he supported.

He was deeply devoted to a Christian ministry, serving the "men in white", Kairos Prison Ministry where he served from 1995 onward in numerous leadership roles, especially within the Wallace Unit in Colorado City. He later served on the board of Stepping Stone, a halfway house that evolved into a full church community.

Though not always expressive with words, Bob showed his love through action. He never missed a school play, sporting event, or recital. He raised two adopted children—David and Karen—as his own, and was a steady presence in the lives of his grandchildren. If Bob said he'd do something, you could count on it. He was a do-er, a teacher, and a man of deep faith and conviction.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 56 years, Julie Cole; his sister Carolyn Phillips of Virginia; his two children, David Cole (Rebekah) and Karen Lawrence (Todd); and his four grandchildren, Jonathan Cole, Daniel Cole, Reese Beall, and Everett Simons. He also leaves behind his nephew Steven Phillips (Abby), niece Susan Smith (Kevin), extended family, countless friends, and many men whose lives he touched through ministry and mentorship.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Janice Cole; and his brother-in-law Elmo Phillips, as well as by his father-in-law, Crosley Curtis Reese, and his mother in law, Malone Ezell Reese, whom he loved dearly.

A visitation will be held at Stepping Stone Ministries, 2400 Elkins Rd. in Midland, on Wednesday, April 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The funeral service will take place at First Methodist Church of Midland in the chapel on Thursday, April 3, at 2:00 p.m., with military honors provided. A private interment will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Kairos of Texas Prison Ministry or Stepping Stone Ministries in Bob's honor.

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stepping Stone Ministry
2400 Elkins Road
Midland, TX 79705

Funeral

APR 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
300 N Main St.
Midland, TX 79701

Tribute Wall



“ It's hard to put into words the immense loss we're all feeling. We've lost a true beacon of light, a man whose heart was truly bigger than Texas. Robert was a remarkable soul, a testament to the power of faith and the beauty of a life lived in service to others. I was privileged to have known him through my longtime friendship with his daughter Karen, who he raised to have the same faith and spirit as him and who has been an incredible friend and influence in my own life.

His unwavering Christian faith was the cornerstone of his being, and he lived it out loud, not just in words, but in every act of kindness, every helping hand extended, and every gentle word spoken. He had a way of making everyone feel seen and valued, a gift that came from a genuine love for his fellow human beings.

He poured his heart and soul into raising incredible children and grandchildren, instilling in them the same rock-solid faith and generous spirit that defined his own life. The legacy he leaves behind is a testament to his love, a legacy that will continue to shine brightly through each of them as they carry Jesus' love to everyone they meet.

His presence was a comfort, his smile a blessing, and his wisdom a guiding light. We are all better for having known him. While our hearts ache with his absence, we find solace in knowing he's now resting in the loving arms of his Savior. May we all strive to live a life as full of love, faith, and service as he did. Sending all my love and prayers to Julie, Karen, David, and their family during this difficult time.

Chelsea Odle - April 02, 2025 at 12:14 PM

KC

“ Kevin, Susan, Thessa, Cassidy, Coleton purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" H. Cole.



Kevin, Susan, Thessa, Cassidy, Coleton - March 31, 2025 at 03:19 PM

LL

“ Leslie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" H. Cole



Leslie Lewis - March 30, 2025 at 09:28 PM

LL

Bob was everything his obituary says. I met him when I entered Stepping Stones halfway house in October 2008. Bob became a great friend and mentor for many years after I left the halfway house. No matter how busy Bob was. He always made time to encourage and give me sound counsel. To Julie, and family may the Lord be your strength.

*God Bless,
Leslie Lewis*

Leslie Lewis - March 30, 2025 at 09:38 PM

RV

“ Prayers for the family i used to go help my grandma when she cleaned their house

Rebecca Villa - March 30, 2025 at 09:45 AM

EJ

“ The first time I met Bob (and Julie) Karen and David were still teenagers. Bob talked about his kids and his love for each one. That love continued to grow as grandchildren arrived. He was proud of each one of you.

A few later Bob hired me at Stadium Chair. When Stadium Chair was sold to a Kansas based owner years later I was able to keep my job in Midland because of Bob's recommendation and the accounting training he had given me. I was blessed to love my job and work there until my retirement.

While working in the same office there were many times I saw men come in that Bob was mentoring, or helping to get a fresh start in life. There is no telling how many lives he touched through Kairos, his business knowledge, church....and the list goes on and on.

I am thankful I was one of the lives touched.

Julie, Karen, David and all the family I love you and am praying God comforts you in a mighty way.

Esther Jones - March 30, 2025 at 08:15 AM