



Robert "Bob" Lee Sliger

September 4, 1938 - March 21, 2021

Robert (Bob) Lee Sliger, 82, formerly of Madisonville, passed away at home on March 21, 2021. Bob was born on September 4, 1938 in Ten Mile, Tennessee at the Sewee Creek Angus Farm to Joe and Viola Sliger. He obtained his B.S. Degree from Tennessee Tech and his M.S. Degree from the University of Tennessee. He began working for the University of Tennessee Extension Service in 1966, first as a special agent in test-demonstration, working a four-county area including Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties. During that time, he met Barbara Faye Delay, a young home agent also employed by the University of Tennessee. In 1969 the couple married and made their home in Madisonville when Bob was appointed the Monroe County Extension Agent. In 1973, Bob was named the National Outstanding Young Agent of the Year by the National Association of County Agents. At the time the news reported that he was “eminently worthy of recognition as an Extension leader, bringing to extension work a farm background and excellent training.”

Although he took a short break in 1975 to take up banking, Bob returned to extension work in 1979, and never looked back. Many nights after dinner he would return to his ever-famous cluttered office in the basement of the Monroe County Courthouse, where he returned calls that came in during the day when he was on farm visits. Weekly radio shows were recorded, and newspaper articles submitted informing the farmers of ground-breaking innovations that would produce better crops, more milk, or healthier livestock. His cutting-edge

bull leasing program allowed farmers a new way to build better herds by sharing costs and trimming overhead from bull ownership.

Most Saturdays and Sundays were spent on Sewee Creek Angus Farm with his own herd of registered Angus Cattle. He cultivated and created a closed herd for over 50 years, and it remains that way today. Those weekends were also spent teaching farming to his only child, Roberta, named for her father. It was probably a sign he had trained her a bit too well in the cattle business, and a sign she would be a lawyer, when he asked his daughter to swap cattle with him and she insisted on making a contract (she was in elementary school at the time.)

Due to his longstanding commitment and dedication to local farm families, in 2006 Bob was named Monroe County Outstanding Citizen of the Year before retiring in 2009. Despite his retirement, he continued his work on Sewee Creek Angus Farm until health forced him to move to Kingsport to be closer to his family, where he took on a new role as Granddaddy. His farm lessons continued with a new generation, with gardening in the back yard and trips to the farm to see the cattle. The week before he died he was still collecting soil samples in an effort to improve his daughter's yard.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents Joe Sliger and Viola Kyker Sliger, brother James K. Sliger, sister Betty Jean Sliger, his infant twin daughters, Barbara LeeAnn and Sally DeeAnn, and wife of 49 years Barbara Faye Delay Sliger. He is survived by his daughter Roberta Cecile Sliger Wimberley and son-in-law Matthew Hall Wimberley of Kingsport, TN and his grandsons, Michael and Matthew. Due to covid concerns, Bob will lie in state with the family receiving friends at Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater on Friday March 26, 2021 from 2-6pm, with a graveside service in Middle Tennessee the following day.

One of the highest honors bestowed upon him was the establishment of The Robert L. Sliger Scholarship Fund created by the Monroe County Cattlemen's Association. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the scholarship can be sent to John Wiggins, Treasurer, 2361 Niles Ferry Road, Madisonville, TN 37354.

Please practice social distancing and wear a mask for safety. Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater, in charge of arrangements. www.kykerfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **26**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Kyker Funeral Homes
OUR SWEETWATER CHAPEL
PO Box 309, 113 W. North Street
Sweetwater, TN 37874
(423) 337-5033
julie@kyker.net
<https://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kyker Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert "Bob" Lee Sliger*



Kyker Funeral Home - March 25, 2021 at 03:44 PM

PJ

“ *Cecile and family, Sorry sorry about the passing of Robert(Bob) we went to high school together and enjoyed the Reunions with Bob and his wife, Faye. He and I have a common aunt and uncle, Aunt Ruby and Uncle Frank Hutsell. As a young child I thought Robert and Betty Jean were my cousins. I still consider them cousins. We wanted to come to the visitation, but I have had some health problems and don't travel very well. We lived close to Faye's parents here in Chattanooga for years. So sorry we cannot be there. Tell Sam(Jan) that I was glad to see and talk to him at Faye's visitation, he and my daughter were in school together. Phyllis Hutsell Jarvis and Don Jarvis.*

Phyllis Hutsell Jarvis - March 26, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ 54 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Kyker Funeral Home - March 25, 2021 at 03:38 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden* was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Lee Sliger.



March 24, 2021 at 10:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Larry E. Archer - March 24, 2021 at 12:21 PM

LA

This is a photo I made of Bob probably around 1972 or 73. Bob never got a 'Desk Neatness Award" but "He got the Job Done" Often he would share his desk clutter with me and I kept up the tradition for over 30 years.

Larry E. Archer - March 24, 2021 at 03:44 PM

RW

Oh my goodness - I have never seen this photo before, but there it is in all its messy glory! :) C

Roberta Wimberley - March 24, 2021 at 09:20 PM

TJ

“ *Teresa James purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert "Bob" Lee Sliger.*



Teresa James - March 23, 2021 at 09:41 PM

MJ

“ *Bob was a wonderful agent and helped so many people in Monroe county. His work there will be handed down to many farmers in the future. Thoughts and prayers for his sweet family.*

Myrtle James - March 23, 2021 at 07:36 PM



“ *Bob was the best! Best Agent I ever knew and Best Mentor I ever had. What a great friend he was! He taught me so much. I always wished I could be as good an Agent as he was. I will see him soon in the great ag land we call heaven! God bless his family. Bob was so proud of them.*

John Godda - March 23, 2021 at 04:54 PM

LR

“ Bob has been one of my very favorite people with UT Extension. I saw him even more while I taught Ag at Hiwassee. I appreciated his love for people, and his beautiful farm.

Lena Beth Reynolds - March 23, 2021 at 02:41 PM

KG

Bob's mere presence helped make seemingly complex issues better understood by all. His comments generated confidence and preparation for success.
Well done, my Extension friend.

Ken J Goddard - March 23, 2021 at 05:11 PM

LA

I am so glad that I got to work with Bob in Extension from 1970 to 1975. I learned so much from him. I will describe Bob as the "hardest working PEOPLE person I have ever known". He loved helping people. He had a love and massive knowledge of agriculture and he loved sharing this knowledge and seeing those he worked with be successful. Bob loved Agriculture and he loved People. My thoughts and prayers are with his family Cecile, Matthew and grandsons Michael & Matthew. The last time Bob & I talked it was about all the things he and his grandsons were doing. He was so proud of them.
Bob may be gone from us now, but one thing for sure.
"He will Never be Forgotten by me and many, many others"
Rest in Peace my Friend

Larry E. Archer - March 24, 2021 at 12:16 PM