



## Robert William Bates

January 20, 1931 - June 5, 2020

Robert (Bob) Bates

Bob Bates died on June 5, passing peacefully of natural causes at his home in Hico, Texas. Robert William Bates was born in Waco, Texas, on January 20, 1931, to May Dorsey and Charles William Bates. He enjoyed an idyllic childhood in Hico, where he played high school football, worked at his mother's florist shop, cruised the countryside on a Cushman scooter, and roamed the Bosque River with buddies who would become lifelong friends.

After graduating from Hico High School, Bob attended Tarleton State College in Stephenville and graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in agriculture. His 30-plus-year career as a scientist for the Soil Conservation Service led him to the South Texas towns of Goliad, Kenedy, and eventually Beeville, where he spent the majority of his tenure. Bob took great pride in helping farmers protect and restore their land, and was a devoted farmer and animal lover himself.

While based in Goliad, he met Joy Manz, his one true love and the joy of his life. They raised two children in Beeville before returning to Bob's beloved Hico to spend their retirement.

Bob was a voracious reader, an avid antiques collector, and a reviver of clocks, cars, phonographs, and all things old. Though he never set foot on an airplane, he commanded an exceptional grasp of world cultures, history, and politics. He was a straight shooter with a colorful vocabulary and most of all, a kind heart.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, son John Bates, and son-in-law Scott Lawless.

Surviving family who will cherish Bob's memory are Joy, his wife of 62 years, daughter Jill Lawless, grandson and kindred collector Lucas Lawless, and brother- and sister-in-law Louis and Kathleen Manz, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and loyal friends.

Donations in Bob's memory can be made to Farm Aid and the National Park Foundation.

A private family graveside service was held on June 7. In light of Covid 19 concerns, a celebration of life will be held when it is safe for everyone to gather.

# Cemetery

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## **Hico Cemetery**

Hico, TX, 76457

# Comments

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“ We will miss Bob's unique sense of humor and his stories. He would sometimes call to tell us he had gotten 2 or 3 inches of rain on his property adjacent to us when we had only gotten a sprinkle. On time we were complaining about so many skunks and he said he was catching them in a live trap in town, hauling them out here and releasing them near by. We got a photograph of a skunk and Photo Shopped a cattle ear tag on the skunk's ear and emailed it to Bob asking if that was one of his. He replied "No that wasn't one of his numbers". We will miss him.  
Barbara & Donald Elkins

**Donald Elkins** - June 10 at 09:21 AM

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“ My heart and prayers are with Joy Jill and Double L. Bob was indeed one of a kind.

**Sandra Lawton** - June 07 at 11:04 AM

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“ Dearest Joy,  
We were so sorry to hear of Bob's passing! .  
What an exceptional man!  
I will never forget when I was elected Mayor several years ago.  
We ran into Bob at the Iredell Cafe one evening.  
He congratulated me on the election.  
He told me that there would be a lot of people telling me how to do the job! He said not to take any of their advice! He said the only person I should take advice from was him!!!!  
I loved that precious, sweet, straight shooting man! May he Rest In Peace.  
May the Lord wrap you in his loving arms and give you comfort and peace always.  
We love you, Joy Bates.  
Sincerely,  
Lavern and Joe

**lavern tooley** - June 07 at 10:48 AM