



## Darrol Cribbs

September 28, 1940 - December 6, 2019

Darrol Cribbs, 79, Bolivar's "First Citizen" in the eyes of many, passed away Friday, December 6, 2019, at Cox Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri.

He was born September 28, 1940, to Clifford and Sadie (Seiner) Cribbs and graduated from Bolivar High School in 1958, where he played basketball and was a miler for the track team, while never daring to neglect any of the many chores he and his siblings carried at home. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, enlisting after graduation.

He married Judy Acuff October 22, 1965, and they raised two children, Kevin and Kim.

Darrol was a renowned lifetime collector of friends.

He worked for Ford Motor Company in Kansas City before joining his father and brother in ownership of Bolivar Insulation in 1964. That business would make many friends for him far and wide, as people found him to be a trusted source for products, service and employment. He would later own and manage multiple business investment properties throughout Bolivar and was among the founders of Citizens National Bank in Springfield.

He also was among the founders of Silo Ridge Golf and Country Club, his most proud investment, and he was a driving force in the development of the course more than 20 years ago, using his legendary negotiating skills. Those skills often were used to score major sporting event tickets for friends and

family to enjoy with him.

His personality was known to be a great compensator for a heavy foot on the pedal that sometimes created roadside chats with law enforcement on his many golf excursions and other travels. But he was always guaranteed to be a sober driver, golfer or anything else, as he could be the life of any party without a desire or need for alcohol.

He also talked himself and friends onto exotic golf courses at low or no cost and discounted meals all along the way. He was still negotiating in his final days from his hospital bed, doing his best to take care of those he knew he would be leaving behind.

His personality was especially effective throughout 37 years of officiating basketball games around the state. His smile, charm, sense of humor and effective employment of a large but gentle hand on the shoulder of an occasional disgruntled fan, coach or player were known to come in handy for helping all enjoy the games. That experience also helped him be the model fan when watching his own kids, grandkids and all other Liberators and Bearcats compete.

The personality again served him and others well throughout 19 years of coaching Southwest Baptist University golf teams. Technically, he was the assistant coach, but all involved knew him as the chief mentor, face and fundraiser for the program. He conducted one of the most popular annual golf events at Silo Ridge to help fund the program and he sold thousands of donuts for the cause. People bought them whether they wanted them or not. They couldn't give them away, because everyone else already had them. They bought because Darrol was the one asking. Or they would hand him cash or a check and say, "please keep the donuts."

One couldn't be with Darrol for long without their conversations being

interrupted by incoming phone calls, often from some of his former SBU golfers from around the country or beyond. But many also came from other former SBU students and athletes known to think of him as a second father, whose time was always theirs when needed and whose home was always open to them while at SBU and afterward. They regularly kept him apprised of their career achievements or family updates.

While calls came from many of those whose subsequent careers took them away from SBU and Bolivar, many others who came here for college say they chose to make Bolivar their place to marry, work and raise families, in large part because of Darrol and others who followed his ambassadorial leadership.

He was recognized as a regular at many Polk County establishments that serve coffee, or where people gather for any length of time with friends for news or fellowship, regardless of time of day or night. He was well known for functioning with little sleep and for never wearing a coat or long sleeves, regardless of the temperature.

The former city alderman, volunteer fireman, ambulance and funeral home attendant was generous to his hometown and its citizens, often anonymously, or at least intended to be that way. He mowed countless yards for those he knew to be away from home for extended periods, or who he knew couldn't afford to pay anyone to do it. He plowed snow from many driveways under similar situations, often trying to get it done without the recipients knowing who had done it.

Clearly, Darrol devoted much of his life to making Bolivar a better place. From a simple smile, firm handshake from a massive hand, or donation of a Thanksgiving turkey, he gave of himself and let others know that someone cared for them.

Like all others, he was not a perfect person, but he worked harder than most in effort to more than compensate. Some of those imperfections involved his health. He cheated death many times and rewarded those around him with his spared life.

Darrol was a lifelong member of Bolivar First Assembly of God Church, where he would say he learned much of what served him well in life and now beyond.

Survivors include his wife, Judy, of the home; one son, Kevin Cribbs; one daughter, Kim Cribbs; three grandchildren, Cooper, Caitlyn, and Carly Cribbs; and one brother, David (Betty) Cribbs, all of Bolivar.

He also is survived by his twin sister, Carrol Stepp (Diz Stepp), Walnut Grove; two nephews, nine nieces and numerous great nieces and nephews and some great-great nieces and nephews.

And countless friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Wanda Agee and Darlene Allen.

Friends and relatives are invited to a Visitation with the Family from 3:00-7:00 P.M., on Monday, December 9th, 2019 at The Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar. A Funeral will be held for Darrol the following afternoon at 1:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Southwest Baptist University's Mabee Chapel. Pastors Ken Robinson and Hutson Goza will officiate. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar.

Memorials in Darrol's honor may be donated to the Carrie J. Babb Cancer Center or Citizens Memorial Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Lab.



# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **9**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

DEC **10**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Mabee Chapel  
1600 University Ave  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
<http://www.sbuniv.edu>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Darrol Cribbs*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Darrol Cribbs*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I first met Darrol as a student at SBU in the 60's. He was one of the first people to welcome me back to Bolivar in the late 90's. Darrol was always available to help recruit players to SBU in every sport. Over the past few years after leaving Bolivar, I have often thought of missing the basketball games at SBU and BHS. Darrol was always there and we often visited about the game. Silo Ridge was, and is, a tremendous asset to Bolivar and the entire area. Just one of the things to thank him for. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.*

*Lynn & Sally Nance*

**Lynn S. Nance** - December 10, 2019 at 06:08 PM



“ *Darrol was a wonderful friend to me at BHS. He was kind, funny and a super gifted guy with a generous and big heart. I never saw Darrol in a "down" mood. And always uplifted my sports whenever we were on many adventures. Of course, he's one of kind.*

*Sincere condolences, Chuck Vaughn, Class of 1960, BHS.*

**Charles Vaughn** - December 10, 2019 at 03:44 PM

DC

“ So sorry for the loss. Prayers for family. He will be missed.

Dan & Judy Carman - December 10, 2019 at 01:24 PM

SE

“ Judy, Kevin and Kim, Bolivar and everyone who knew Darrol feel your loss. May sweet memories always be a comfort to the family. He left a legacy of love to you.

Sharon Whitman Easter - December 09, 2019 at 10:53 PM

MS

“ Sincerest condolences to Darrol's entire family. I will keep all family in my thoughts and prayers and especially, his twin sister Carrol. I hope his legacy will be of great comfort to all. I'm blessed to have known him and am guided by the example he set for all of us. All my prayers and love,

Mary Lou (Besson) Stacey, Bolivar High class of '58.

Mary Lou Stacey - December 09, 2019 at 05:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.



December 09, 2019 at 05:23 PM

TD

“ So very sorry to learn about Darrol . He was a great man , I always enjoyed doing business with him & really a pleasure to run in to , out in Springfield . He will be missed . His Friend , Terry Dean

Terry Dean - December 09, 2019 at 04:18 PM

GJ

Though I didn't know Darrol very long he of course made a great and lasting impression on me and my family. He's the reason I wanted my son to play golf at SBU. He never failed to call and wish me Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas or Happy Fathers Day. It was a pleasure to know the "cookie man". Gwyn Jowers and family.

Gwyn Jowers - December 09, 2019 at 06:50 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.



December 09, 2019 at 04:17 PM

MM

“ Darrol was my brand new boss when my first baby, a daughter, was born. She had some health issues at birth and for a while, my wife and I didn't know how things were going to work out. We were worried sick. I missed more work than I'd planned and when I returned Darrol asked me into his office. I was scared he was going to chew me out, or worse, fire me for missing work. What he did was tell me he had heard she was sick and asked if he could pray with me. I was blown away and to this day I remain thankful for the sweet prayer we had together.

Mike McCurry - December 09, 2019 at 03:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.*



December 09, 2019 at 03:19 PM



“ *There are just not enough words in the English language to describe Darrol. He was just such a wonderful man and Steve, Amy, Angie and Myself loved him dearly. Heaven's gain is our loss! I am sure he is up there right now shaking hands, grinning, and laughing! Judy, Kim and Kevin, you are in our prayers!*

**Debby and Steve Claxton** - December 09, 2019 at 03:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.*



December 09, 2019 at 03:00 PM



“ *Debby And Steve Claxton lit a candle in memory of Darrol Cribbs*



**Debby and Steve Claxton** - December 09, 2019 at 02:54 PM

RH

“ Coming down to school to SBU from Iowa, Darrol has always been so supportive of me and everyone he meets. A guy who has never met a stranger anyone who "ran" into Darrol immediately had an uptick in their day. Thanks Darrol for your investment to our Bolivar community (no question your contributions extend well beyond Polk County). Love from the Hoeghs! What an example of living a full life for others.

Robby Hoegh - December 09, 2019 at 02:42 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.



December 09, 2019 at 10:59 AM

KF

“ Karen & Elvin Foster lit a candle in memory of Darrol Cribbs



Karen & Elvin Foster - December 08, 2019 at 08:28 PM

TI

“ Darrol always made me feel so welcome at his home, at SMSU games, in Arrowhead and trips to watch SBU absolutely every time I was ever around him. He was a wonderful man who I love very much and he will be dearly dearly missed

Tim - December 08, 2019 at 05:36 PM

DF

“ *Debbie And Kevin Mitchell & Family lit a candle in memory of Darrol Cribbs*



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**Debbie and Kevin Mitchell & family** - December 08, 2019 at 01:58 PM

DF

“ *Too many memories to post of him as a person and referee. That is how we came to know him as a great referee when we would see him in Appketon City. He was the best!! He always had a smile on his face and something positive to say!! He gave my daughter her first pair of pink Nike hightop tennis shoes when she was an infant....who is now 33 years old and has 2 boys of her own. Our second daughter wore those same shoes....and yes, I still have them !! My family loved him ! This world was a better place because he was in it!! Now heaven has this amazing angel and I can't wait to see him again one day 💔💔 He will be missed by so many and when we speak of him we will smile and remember his kindness to everyone and his positive impact he had !! lur family will miss him💔💔 May God's comforting arms wrap his family and friends with His love and comfort!! My heart is breaking 💔💔😭*

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**Debbie and Kevin Mitchell & family** - December 08, 2019 at 01:55 PM

JA

“ *So many memories when we were kids, great man, RIP Darrol, you surely will be missed,, Janette (Cribbs) Anthony..*

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**Janette Anthony** - December 08, 2019 at 10:17 AM

GW

“ I shared many golf outings and trips with Darrol and could always count on a new adventure every time. We were walking up a fairway cart path at a PGA event in Colorado and I hear a voice yell out “Darrol Cribbs!” Just shook my head. Someone knew him every where we went, or it didn’t take people long to get to know him. Rest In Peace my friend.

George Williams - December 08, 2019 at 08:25 AM

MW

“ Mike & Krista Wilson lit a candle in memory of Darrol Cribbs



Mike & Krista Wilson - December 08, 2019 at 07:59 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.



December 08, 2019 at 01:12 AM

TK

“ one man i will never forget he was a dad to me from turkeys to flat tire ect i was at cox with david cribbs his brother we left he passed later that day i guess never forget him at all

toby kessler - December 07, 2019 at 10:24 PM

GB

“*Darrol Cribbs was a special friend to three generations of the Garry N Brandt family. Darrol and I were partners on the basketball court calling games all over Missouri. He provided friendship and employment to my two sons, Garry C and Doug. He was a friend and mentor to Doug's son, Tony. Obviously, he was loved by my family. I shall always cherish those long car rides all over Missouri to do another game with Darrol. Thanks!*

*Garry N Brandt*

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**Garry N Brandt** - December 07, 2019 at 07:56 PM

SA

“*He was such a sweet and kind man. He loved law enforcement and did a lot of things that really helped a lot of people. I worked for the police department and I remember on hot days it wasn't uncommon for Darrol to give out water or gatoraid to officers who were in the heat. I'm sure the whole community will miss him.*

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**Sarah** - December 07, 2019 at 05:27 PM

TT

“*Tiffany Taulbee lit a candle in memory of Darrol Cribbs*



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**Tiffany Taulbee** - December 07, 2019 at 04:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darrol Cribbs.



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December 07, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ I remember many cribbs and seniors reunions out in the park , Darrol in great company up in heaven. You will be miss here I know. May god comfort your family that words can't do. Love Debbie butler Jackson and Kenny jackson

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**debbie (butler) jackson** - December 07, 2019 at 03:47 PM



“ Darrel, was such a sweet man. Shared a ton of laughs with him on and off the ball field.

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**Sparky Edgington** - December 07, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ Many memories of the days playing baseball with the Bolivar Merchants team in the 60s. Darrol made all arrangements and did all the work behind the scenes to make it happen. Will miss his friendship and smile.

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**Wayne Shelton** - December 07, 2019 at 11:27 AM

MM

“ *Mr Cribbs (Darrol as we all knew him) was a friend to everyone. He made no difference of your economic status, you were simply a friend. He was available for advice and would be there to compliment you when you had a success in your life. I always held an admiration for Darrol and he was a person that I was proud to call a friend. Darrol, thank you for your friendship and may you rest peacefully and be remembered for the gentleman that you were.*  
*Michael D. Moore*

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**Michael D Moore** - December 07, 2019 at 10:25 AM

AB

“ *One of my favorite patients!! He was always smiling! He used to "fall asleep" while doing the Nustep machine; never figured out how he did that!! He talked about his Faith! Blessings to you all at this time of loss. Sincerely, Anne Bristow (Cardiac Rehab)*

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**Anne Bristow** - December 07, 2019 at 10:01 AM

TT

*That made me smile. I lost my fiance to cancer dec 19th2017. Darrol was a dear friend of ours and we would see him every morning at Kum n Go at 2 am. He would give snacks and drinks to people out of the kindness of his heart. I remember several times I would say to him, "Darrol, do you ever sleep?" To which he always responded, "I'll sleep when I'm dead!" So reading this memory of yours reminded me of that and now we know he slept while doing the Nustep machine. Lol. Such an amazing person with the heart of an Angel. Heaven truly gained the best when they called him home. He will be dearly missed..*

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**Tiffany Taulbee** - December 07, 2019 at 04:15 PM

TP

“ I have known Darrol for over 35 years and I can say with all my heart that this world is a much better place because of the life that he lived. His kind heart and positive attitude truly reflected in the lives he touched. He will be deeply missed by the entire family of UCM golfers that were blessed to know and compete with Darrol. He was loved by us all and our hearts are with you all during this time. I know he is now in the ultimate resting place and along side our Lord and Savior.

Coach Tim Poe  
UCM Mens Golf

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**Tim Poe** - December 07, 2019 at 09:09 AM

KN

“ The last time we played golf together was in an annual tourney in Marshall. Darrol had a hole in one witnessed by seven other golfers. He was so excited and so were his teammates. Wonderful PERSON.

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**Ken Nivens** - December 07, 2019 at 08:50 AM

JF

“ Coach Cribbs was a great man that helped our son through college while playing golf at SBU. With his gentle spirit and quiet demeanor he taught so much to the boys in and off the course. He will be greatly missed.

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**Jowers Family** - December 07, 2019 at 08:37 AM

JW

“ I always enjoyed seeing him in the wee hours of the mornings while i was out pushing snow. I would stop by kumngo to get a drink , more times then not he would be in there. He was always so kind and would stop anywhere i saw him to say hello and even ask how i was doing. He will be greatly missed.

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**John Wilkinson** - December 07, 2019 at 08:21 AM

CA

“ So sorry for your loss! Darrol was always someone to look up to.  
Chuck Akins

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**Chuck Akins** - December 07, 2019 at 05:45 AM

GB

“ I was coaching a basketball game at Fair Play when Darrol was refereeing. It was a game where the score was too close and things weren't going our way, if you know what I mean. At half time Darrol told me that maybe I was getting a bit too excited. I agreed maybe he was right. Later in the game a fan was getting a bit out of hand. Darrol actually stopped the game and went over to the guy. The crowd quieted. Darrol said, in only a way Darrol could, “Sir, did you pay to get into this game?” The guy said “Yes I did!” Darrol said, “Oh, ok then. You can yell all you want!” The crowd around the guy laughed. The guy was not very noisy after that.

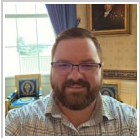
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**Gary Boggs** - December 07, 2019 at 01:08 AM

BB

“ I grew up in Bolivar...and stayed...thanks to good people like Darrol Cribbs! I remember literally hundreds of times when I attended sporting events and was greeted by Darrol's deep, booming voice saying "Billy boy!" Remember Darrol playing slow pitch softball, playing basketball, officiating basketball, supporting Bolivar and SBU teams AND players, hosting SBU golf tournaments and lending a helping hand to hundreds... er, thousands... of young men and women from Bolivar to Baltimore to California etc. My prayers continue for you Judy, Kevin, Kim and family. God gives strength and comfort in these times. Darrol will be missed by thousands! I'll also miss Darrol smiling, shaking my hand and saying "Billy boy!"

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**Bill Breshears** - December 06, 2019 at 11:32 PM



“ Darrol was a good man and a great friend to my Grandfather, Bob Clark. I wish the family peace during this tough time.

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**Devin Clark** - December 06, 2019 at 11:31 PM

CJ

“ I was an employee of Fast n Friendly by Meeks about 20 years ago. I got to know Darrol very well as he was a regular customer of mine. I was a single mom of a 7 year old and we talked about memories we had of the Empire fair. He had asked if I was taking my son and I told him no I couldn't afford it and the prices were ridiculous, he came back the next day blessed me with the money to take him he said " here take that boy to the fair and make your memories with him" I tried to refuse but he very sternly insisted. He had a great heart and I always enjoyed seeing him in the mornings at 5am reading the news paper and talking about life. He will truly be missed. Praying for peace in the hearts of all the family.

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**Cindy Johnson** - December 06, 2019 at 11:13 PM

MM

“ Seldom in life do we get the privilege to meet someone who is just a genuine good person. Darrol was definitely one of those people. From driving my church bus to refereeing my basketball games Darrol always had a joke and some encouraging words to go with his ever present smile.  
I'm a better person for having known him.  
He will be missed but his legacy will live forever.

Mickie McDowell - December 06, 2019 at 10:10 PM

RS

“ Played so many rounds of golf with Darrol. My Dad loved him and he always had a handshake and smile for me. Such a great guy!  
Rest In Peace Darrol.

Roger Selvey - December 06, 2019 at 09:56 PM

LI

“ Where to begin my dear friends .... so many laughs , memories picking walnuts so we could have \$\$to go out to eat, go to baseball games . Your love towards all who you called friend , we r all honored to have this title. Judy , my prayers are for you ,Kevin and Kim to hold strong to his smile, his love n devotion to family and his God. My love n friendship and prayers to carry you thru days , months ahead. Leah Adams Irvin

Leah Adams Irvin - December 06, 2019 at 09:41 PM

TJ

“ The Jones lit a candle in memory of Darrol  
Cribbs



the jones - December 06, 2019 at 09:08 PM