



## Robert Earl Kifer

November 22, 1931 - February 10, 2022

Robert Earl Kifer, born November 22, 1931, of Bolivar, Mo, entered heaven on February 10th, 2022. He was the only child of Floris Frieze and Charles Everett Kifer, both of Polk County. A Bolivar native, he was a graduate of Bolivar High School and attended Southwest Baptist College before graduating from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1954 with a degree in Animal Husbandry and Agriculture. In high school, Robert was a leader in FFA and a track star, in which he held records that stood for decades after his graduation. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity during his University years. Following graduation, he served in the US Air Force for three years: he served in Korea immediately after the conflict ended, aiding in its restoration. Robert was married to Betty Jean Alice Holt on September 13, 1953. From this marriage came Thane Holt Kifer, Thaila Renee Pickett, and Thora Lynn Anderson.

Robert was a lifelong Missouri rancher, developing an outstanding cow/calf operation. Robert acted as an unofficial mentor to many of Polk County's current premier cattlemen, sharing his knowledge unselfishly with the next generation of ranchers. He continued to support FFA throughout his life. In the late 1950's, recognizing that Bolivar's future prosperity required more than one bank, Robert was one of the incorporators of Farmers and Merchants Bank of Bolivar (now Commerce Bank) and served on their board of directors for many decades. He also served on the board of Southwest

Electric Cooperative, a co-op that his father, Charles Kifer, was instrumental in starting. Robert also served on the Citizen's Memorial Hospital Foundation board for decades. Robert, or Cowboy Bob as he was referred to, entertained many Bolivar groups with his engaging Cowboy Poetry.

Robert will be welcomed in Heaven by his wife Betty who passed in 2021; their daughter, Thaila Pickett, who passed away in 2017; and great-granddaughter Celia Kifer who passed in 2020. He is survived by his son Thane and wife Suzanne; his daughter Thora and husband Brian; his grandchildren: Drew Kifer and wife Jessica, Troy Kifer, Zoe Anderson, and Luke Anderson; and two great-grandchildren: Cora Kifer and James Kifer.

Visitation will be held at Butler Funeral Home from 10-11 AM on Saturday, February 19th, with a graveside service held at Greenwood Cemetery immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bolivar Kiwanis Club where Robert was a faithful member, or the Vineyard Community Charities, Glendale, AZ, a ministry of the church that Thora and Brian both pastor.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Graveside

FEB 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery  
S. Dunnegan Ave.  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Earl Kifer*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Robert Earl Kifer*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I just received a note from Bob's son Thane. I'm very sad to hear of his passing. I spent the better part of a week with Bob photographing him during his daily routine of checking cattle. I was a student in one the the Missouri Workshops for photojournalism through the University of Missouri. That week with Bob was an eye opener for me. I got to observe a very dedicated man work on a beautiful landscape. I remember vividly his heartbreak when a cow lost her calf and how hard he struggled to help. He was truly connected to the land and the cattle he raised. I'm very grateful to him for allowing me into his life for that week. Those were some lasting lessons I learned. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. I know that you miss him dearly. Sincerely, David*

David W. Coulter - February 22, 2022 at 08:11 AM

JA

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad and granddad. He was always so kind to me and always had a word of encouragement. I was especially appreciative of his support of SBU while I was there. Please know that you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Jerald Andrews*

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**jerald andrews** - February 17, 2022 at 11:33 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Robert Earl Kifer.



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February 14, 2022 at 05:11 PM

AS

“ Off you go into the Wild blue yonder...I will miss you singing "Off We Go".

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**Ashlee** - February 11, 2022 at 08:35 PM

TE

“ So many people have passed away we are so sorry about Robert passing away such a good man a good friend a wonderful member of the community of Bolivar family member God bless you and the family Teresa Evans wife of Robert Lee Evans



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**Teresa Evans** - February 11, 2022 at 03:36 PM

AH

“ *I have so many good memories of Robert and Betty. A very kind couple.* ”

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**Anne Howe** - February 10, 2022 at 01:45 PM