



Bob Plunkett

June 11, 1941 - May 24, 2024

A celebration of the life of Bob Rondal Plunkett, 82, Tyler will be held on Saturday, June 8, at 2:00 p.m. at the Chapel of Marvin Methodist Church. Burial will be a private family ceremony at Mason Cemetery in Arp, Texas. Mr. Plunkett passed away on May 24, 2024, with his wife and family by his side.

He was born on June 11, 1941, in Jacksonville, Texas, and grew up in Overton. His family later moved to west Texas, and he attended Monterey High School in Lubbock where he met his wife Judy. He then attended Texas Tech University. While at Tech, he was active in the ROTC and earned a BA in Business Administration. He spent the rest of his life as a die-hard Red Raider.

Bob served in several managerial roles before finding his professional home at the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. He was passionate about serving the visually impaired in a way that helped them become independent and able to support their families. In his 25 years as the President and CEO, he not only grew the facility to include larger factory and office space, but even added the Bill Judson Rehabilitation Center that made it possible to train and prepare the workers to be independent. Bob was a giant in his field, serving in several leadership positions at the national level, and grew his organization to be one of the most successful in the industry. He achieved this by setting a vision, taking risks, and adhering to a set of principles centered around

honesty, fairness, and hard work. He was an innovator before innovation became a buzzword. His final challenge was to make it possible for Lighthouse products to be sold in base stores at U.S. military bases in Texas. Many said it could not be done, but through his remarkable ability to build relationships, through his tenacity and shrewd business savvy, he left the Lighthouse in a position to be financially successful for years to come. Upon his retirement, two flags were flown over both the Texas and the U.S. Capitols in his honor on July 4, 2006, in recognition of his 35 years of tireless service to the blind and visually impaired.

Bob loved Texas. He was a fifth-generation Texan with ancestors who fought for Texas' Independence at the Battle of San Jacinto. He was a member of the Descendants of San Jacinto, a Son of the Republic of Texas, and received an honorary title of Admiral of the Texas Navy. He loved learning and reading about the period when Texas was a Republic. He was an avid outdoorsman and was passionate about preserving the wildlife of Texas. He was a certified angler instructor with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and loved teaching young boys and girls to fish.

Mr. Plunkett and his wife have been members of Marvin Methodist Church since moving to Tyler 10 years ago. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Bob and Helen Plunkett, Tyler, and his brother, William Boyd Plunkett. He is survived and missed by his wife of 62 years, Judy, his son and daughter-in-law Joe and Reyna Plunkett, Broken Arrow, OK; his daughter Brandi Lyn Plunkett, College Station; grandchildren Brianne and Theron Pena, Danielle Gonzales, great-grandson Shiloh Noel Pena and several cousins, nieces, and nephews whom he loved.

The Plunkett Family extends deep appreciation for the services of MD Anderson Cancer Center of Houston, Dr. Timothy Newhook and his staff, the nurses and staff of Meadow Lake Senior Living Center, and the staff of Three

Oaks Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to be sent to Marvin Methodist Church (300 W. Irwin, Tyler, TX 75701) or to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (2914 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX 75204).

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life Service

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Marvin Methodist Church Chapel
300 W. Erwin St.
Tyler, TX 75702

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I drop by here every now and then to re read and re live. I think about you every day Dad... thank you for the occasional visit..I'll bet He has you busy doing everything you love. I miss you...we all do, but I reckon you know that better than I do. Say hello to everyone for me...love you Dad..



Joe Plunkett - March 27 at 06:51 PM

JP

“ Gosh, I sure do miss you. I really miss our talks, your advice, and the genuine love you always showed me and my family.

Just like with Dad, I still have so many questions—things that only you or he would know the answers to.

I'll never forget the day I spoke to you after Dad passed. I was driving down I-35 through downtown Austin, talking with you. I was so frustrated, hurt, and lostm but you comforted me in a way only a father could. I know you weren't my dad, but you were a close second. (You and Dad were brothers, after all... LOL.) That conversation meant the world to me, and it will stay with me until I see you both again.

Love and miss you, Uncle Bob.

Your nephew,

J. Plunkett

Jaylon Plunkett - October 21, 2025 at 11:24 AM

JO

“ Missing you Dad....



Joe - August 22, 2024 at 02:44 PM

JG

“ Juan G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bob Plunkett.

Juan G. - June 07, 2024 at 11:28 AM

CR

“ Chris & Alisha Ross purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bob Plunkett.



Chris & Alisha Ross - June 06, 2024 at 06:40 PM

MP

“ Matt and Merrilee Prochaska planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bob Plunkett.

Matt and Merrilee Prochaska - June 05, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bob Plunkett.*



June 05, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ *David and DeeDee Gonzales purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Bob Plunkett.*



David and DeeDee Gonzales - June 03, 2024 at 08:26 PM



“ *We were fortunate to meet Bob and Judy when we purchased their home in Roseheart. Hard to believe 10 years have passed. What gracious and lovely people! We immediately knew there was a bond. Our condolences and prayers for Judy and the family. “Guns up!”, Bob. We will see you in heaven but we will miss you until then.*

Tom & Brenda Jones - June 02, 2024 at 09:45 PM

BP

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Brandi Plunkett - June 02, 2024 at 03:06 PM

OP

“ Olivia P. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bob Plunkett.



Olivia P. - June 01, 2024 at 11:58 AM

JP

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Joe Plunkett - June 01, 2024 at 11:50 AM

SC

“ Bob plunkett was not only a great customer-also a great friend!---i enjoyed our talks---will be greatly missed !-----scott coffman .

SCOTT C - May 30, 2024 at 05:24 PM

PA

“ Bob, was a neat guy. I had the pleasure of fishing with him several times! He enjoyed every trip and was as enthusiastic about fly fishing as anyone I've ever know. I learned a lot from him, not the least of which was a desire to learn to tie flies (thanks Bob for helping me spend too much money!) My prayers are for Judy and the rest of his family! Thank you for many great memories!

P. Allen - May 25, 2024 at 06:43 PM

GB

In his long tenure as President of the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind Bob was a giant in the field of serving the blind and visually disabled. I've had the pleasure to know him for almost 40 years and the honor of being a friend. He has been my fishing partner for many of those years and we've had some wonderful and memorable trips together. He was a talented fly tyer, a gifted fisherman, and above all a true Christian gentleman. Bob had a deep faith and keen knowledge of the Bible and we've enjoyed many discussions from it. He and Judy have raised a great family and my prayers are that God will embrace them with the peace that surpasses all understanding in the days ahead. He may be absent from us in body but will live on in our hearts. We'll miss you partner, but we'll fish together again.

Gordon Bryson - May 26, 2024 at 07:59 PM