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**Elbert Brooks "Bert" Sullivan**

Elbert "Bert" Brooks Sullivan

Memphis, TN

Elbert "Bert" Brooks Sullivan, Jr. died on February 20, 2016 at the age of 92. Bert was a man who loved life and all his experiences living it. Raised in Binghampton, Memphis, Tennessee, he spent summers with family in Tipton County. In [WWII](#) he served as a naval aviator in the Pacific Theater. He returned home to follow his dream of being a baseball player joining the New York Yankees Club as a AAA pitcher. After an injury, he became a well digger in Tennessee and Louisiana before following another dream - joining the Memphis Fire Department. He attained the rank of Lieutenant and fought the famed Russwood Park fire in 1960. Following an illness he moved to California to build movie sets for Warner Bros and even enjoyed a one time walk on in a western film. He returned to Memphis and began a career as Housing Inspector for the City of Memphis.

Bert and his friends organized a barbecue cook off contest on the bluffs which later became the Memphis in May World Champion Barbecue Contest. He and his life-long friend Silky O'Sullivan later traveled to Ireland and introduced the Irish to barbecue Memphis style at the Annual Lisdoon Varna Matchmaking Festival. The two friends brought an Irish tradition to Memphis by revitalizing the St. Patrick's Day Parade and hosting Irish dignitaries as honored parade guests. Bert and his wife traveled many times to their beloved Ireland.

Ohio became his next adventure, moving there after his retirement. Never one to sit still, his love of golf led him to employment at the Wilson Road Golf Course where he worked until his retirement from the City of Columbus. He returned to Memphis 5 years ago following the death of his wife.

Bert took special pride in his children and stepchildren: Patricia Edmiston, Brenda Sullivan [deceased], Brooks (Debra) Sullivan, Alan Sullivan [deceased], Barry Sullivan [deceased], Lorna McClusky, E.B. Sullivan, III, Jeff (Maura) Sullivan of Chatanooga, Tennessee, Gayle Sullivan, Amy (Richard) Carter, Frank Bell of Columbus, OH, John (Andra) Bell of Allentown, PA , and Tim (Susan) Waldnig of Galloway, OH. "Grandpop Uh-oh" absolutely adored his 15 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. When not cheering them on to mischief, he spent his days telling tall tales, playing golf, cooking barbecue, rolling tamales and winking at the ladies in the bar.

Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 12, 2016, at St. Michael Catholic Church, 3863 Summer, Memphis, TN. Burial will follow at 12:45 p.m., Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 3406 Tracy Rd., Munford, TN. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, any memorials be sent to Wounded Warriors, [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) , St. Michael Catholic Church or Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



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