



Bruce Gene Rutherford

October 30, 1951 - April 7, 2017

Bruce Gene Rutherford, 65 of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died Friday, April 7, 2017, at Siloam Springs Regional Hospital. Born Oct. 30, 1951, he was the son of Fred “Mac” Rutherford and Kathleen Hatfield Rutherford.

Bruce was a 1969 graduate of Siloam Springs High School. He served his country in the United States Marines, and was a police officer for Siloam Springs Police Department. Bruce devoted his life to law enforcement. He was a Benton County Deputy Sheriff in criminal investigation, and served as Benton County Judge from 1989 to 1996. Since 2007 he has worked with the Benton County Prosecutors office as a criminal investigator.

Bruce was member of the Fraternal Order of Police Officers, a member of First Baptist Church in Siloam Springs, and attended New Life Church in Siloam. He loved people and treated everyone as equal. He enjoyed working in his shop, riding motorcycles and visiting with folks. Bruce loved his job.

He’s survived by his wife Heather of the home; 2 sons, Fabian Rutherford of Siloam Springs; Mason Rutherford of Siloam Springs; mother, Kathleen Rutherford of Siloam Springs; 2 sisters, Cindy Rutherford of Siloam Springs; Tammy Boles of Chico, California; 2 grandsons, Mac Rutherford of Siloam Springs; Caleb Hale of Cane Hill, Arkansas; 2 granddaughters, Madison and Rylee Rutherford; 1 great-grandson, Levi King.

Bruce was preceded in death by his dad and a son, Anthony.

Visitation will be Tuesday, April 11, 2017, from 5:00 to 6:30 P.M. at Wasson Funeral Home in Siloam Springs. A funeral service will be held 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at First Baptist Church in Siloam Springs with Pastor Tim Estes officiating. Burial will follow in Springtown Cemetery, Springtown Arkansas.

Cemetery Details

Springtown Cemetery

Springtown, AR
Springtown, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Service

APR 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
2000 Dawn Hill Rd.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
<http://www.fbcsiloam.com>

Tribute Wall

HR

“ Happy Birthday Bruce, I love you so very much and miss you more than I can explain. I can't wait to see you again

Heather Rutherford - October 30, 2022 at 10:08 PM

HR

“ Bruce, I miss you so much my heart still hurts so much from missing you. I still catch myself starting to call you to tell you something that happened during the day. I wish I could be with you to see you and feel you. I love you so much.

Heather Rutherford - September 09, 2022 at 10:07 PM

HR

“ Bruce, I miss you more every day I don't think my heart is ever going to heal. Everyone says it should be easier now but it's not and I don't know what to do without you. I like love you so much and miss everything about you

Heather Rutherford - March 16, 2022 at 11:42 AM

HR

“ Bruce, I miss you so much. Especially at holidays like the 4th of July when we had our first date at the Gentry fireworks and then all of the 4th of July cookouts we had at the shop. If we did not have the party we were always at friends who were having the party and having so much fun. I cannot express how much my heart still hurts from losing you. I love you

Heather Rutherford - July 03, 2021 at 07:08 PM

HR

“ Bruce, I miss you so much. I do not know how I am supposed to do this life without you

Heather Rutherford - August 30, 2020 at 12:59 AM

HR

“ I miss you more than anything in this world. I wish I could hear you voice and feel your touch. I love you so very much

Heather Rutherford - March 03, 2020 at 02:06 PM

HR

“ Why did you leave me this life is so hard without you.

Heather Rutherford - September 13, 2019 at 01:29 PM

HE

“ Bruce, I miss you so much it hurts my heart to think it has almost been two years that you were taken from us. I listen to your voice everyday on old voicemail and pray for signs to show me that you hear me. I love so much and want to feel your touch again. I miss you

Heather - March 24, 2019 at 09:57 PM

JC

“ So sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. He will certainly be missed. Please know our prayers are with Heather and the entire family. Jeff & Tracy Cude

jeff cude - April 14, 2017 at 02:58 PM



“ *Saddened by the news. I knew Bruce all most of my life and he never failed to stop and visit when I would see him. We both were in law enforcement and shared a connection with that. My parents both thought a lot of Bruce, which was a good measure of him for me. I will truly miss running into him and getting to visit. Sorry to the family for the great loss in your lives.*

Donald Carpenter - April 14, 2017 at 10:55 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss*

Carolyn Curl Rupp - April 13, 2017 at 11:33 PM



“ *Bruce was a good friend of our family and a great asset when my dad died (Ralph curl).but most of all he was just a good friend to have*

Carolyn Curl Rupp - April 13, 2017 at 11:32 PM



“ *Heather, please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of your husband. Much love to you during this difficult time, and Semper Fi, Bruce. Godspeed and thank you for your service.*



Hayley Ellis - April 12, 2017 at 09:53 PM

MW

“ To the family of Bruce Rutherford: Bruce hired me from another county and brought me to Benton County to serve as his Emergency Services Coordinator. I worked for and with him from October 1989 through 1996. He let me do my job and didn't try to tell me how to do it. I'll never forget the trips to Little Rick with Bruce during our Disaster Declarations. He loved his family, his country and Benton County. It was my honor to have worked with him and to call him my friend. May God give each of you comfort, peace, and strength during this time of grief.

Mary Ann Winters - April 12, 2017 at 06:23 PM

JB

“ I knew Bruce my whole life. I never saw him without a smile on his face. The last time I saw him, he reminded me that he was my boyfriend in second grade, and we both shared a laugh. God bless you Bruce. Prayers for peace and comfort for your wife and family. You will be missed.

Jeanne Moore Bentley

Jeanne Moore Bentley - April 12, 2017 at 01:38 PM

DS

“ Deborah Spangler lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford



Deborah Spangler - April 12, 2017 at 11:59 AM

MW

“ *RIP cuz! Remembering the summers we spent together and yes I was the one who knocked his front tooth out. Accidentally! The laughs, tears, heartache we endured. You had the biggest heart of anyone I knew. You will be missed sweetie but no more suffering for you. I love you buddy!*



Marsha Walker - April 12, 2017 at 11:21 AM

TE

“ *Bruce was so well respected among his peers in law enforcement. He had a huge heart for his fellow man. I honor his memory and pray that his legacy will reverberate through our community for ages. He had the ability to hold the tension between justice and grace in ways few can achieve. He was a great friend to me and I will miss him greatly. Prayers and love to the family and all who grieve his loss.*

Tim Estes

Tim Estes - April 12, 2017 at 09:50 AM

TM

“ *Mason, Heather and Cindy: We are thinking of your family today and we are so very sorry for your loss... We will keep you all in our prayers today and in the days ahead.*

Teresa Martin - April 12, 2017 at 09:31 AM

PD

“ *BENTON COUNTY PROBATE OFFICE
REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND!
PHYLLIS DUNLAP
BARBARA TATE
JANET REAVES*



PHYLLIS DUNLAP - April 12, 2017 at 09:07 AM

TF

“ *My deepest sympathies go out to Heather, Fabian, and the entire Rutherford family. I met Bruce when I went to work for Benton County S.O. in 1985. We worked together at the Sheriff's Office and at the County Judges office when he hired me as his Administrative Assistant. I always enjoyed working with Bruce. He was dedicated to Benton County and his employees. He was truly one of a kind and will be greatly missed.*

Tom Fortune

Tom Fortune - April 12, 2017 at 08:54 AM

SM

“ Bruce was one of the best people you could know he was always friendly and had a great personality. He will missed by everyone in the maintenance department. we are sending our condolences to his family. God bless you.

*John Sudduth
Jerry Collins
Sharon McDaniel
Kevin Ray
Dennis Nelson
Jack Couch
Don Trammell
Danelle Dye
Juan Carbera
Frances King
Karen Cravens
Elizabeth Carranza*

sharon mcdaniel - April 12, 2017 at 08:41 AM

SS

“ My sincere sympathies to Bruce's family. He was truly one of the kindest, gentlest souls I've ever met. I pray that he knew how much he was loved on Earth! R.I.P. Bruce! Souls like yours are few & far between. 💕🥺

Sheree Steele - April 11, 2017 at 11:25 PM

VV

“ Virginia Vernon sent a virtual gift in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford



Virginia vernon - April 11, 2017 at 08:31 PM

VV

“ *My condolences to the family. I'm glad I got to see him last week. Bruce was my favorite customer at Sonic . Virginia*



Virginia vernon - April 11, 2017 at 07:22 PM

VV

“ *Virginia Vernon sent a virtual gift in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



Virginia vernon - April 11, 2017 at 06:55 PM

MS

“ *Mike & Belinda Shetlar sent a virtual gift in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



Mike & Belinda Shetlar - April 11, 2017 at 02:15 PM

KB

“ *My deepest sympathy. I am praying for your family.*

Kathy Bocchino - April 11, 2017 at 01:28 PM

JW

“ No words can express the love I had for this man! He was my lunch date many a days. He had the kindest heart. Memories of Bruce will live within me forever. He was a true friend! He will be greatly missed! Rest in God's Love and Peace!
~ Janie

Janie Wellesley - April 11, 2017 at 01:23 PM

TM

When Bruce was a county police officer, I was a teenager. I got into some trouble, and met officer Rutherford. I was definitely headed down the wrong road. He took the time to talk to me. He gave me some great advice, and encouragement. It had a profound effect on me. I'll never forget that he took time to help me. So glad I listened. I have a wonderful life and am even a grandma. Would surely be in jail if it wasn't for Bruce's efforts. I am forever grateful. Great guy. He will be greatly missed.

Terri Myers - April 11, 2017 at 09:39 PM



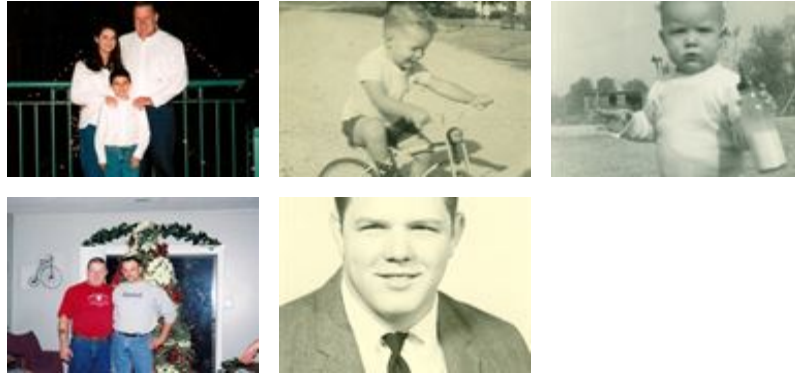
“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.



April 11, 2017 at 12:43 PM



“ 169 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wasson Funeral Home - April 11, 2017 at 12:32 PM



“ BRUCE THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE REST IN PEACE

DAVID & MAXINE JOSEPH

MAXINE JOSEPH - April 11, 2017 at 11:50 AM



“ A fine gentleman. As a man with great authority, he had a calming, friendly and approachable way about him. I always enjoyed visiting with Bruce. I was honored to have Bruce & Heather as clients and friends. He will be greatly missed.

S Keith Moore - April 11, 2017 at 11:10 AM

LA

“ *Laura lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



Laura - April 11, 2017 at 10:43 AM

OP

“ *It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, and a day to love them, but it takes an entire lifetime to forget them. Friends are those rare people who ask how you are and then wait for the answer...One should make good people their friends. I did. Rest In Peace My Friend.....Obie*

Obie Price - April 11, 2017 at 10:22 AM

SM

“ *I went to work at the courthouse in benton county going on 6 years ago and one of the first people I met working there was Bruce. He was a nice and polite friendly person. He was always the same everyday and always smiling. He will be missed by many people at the courthouse. praying for Heather and the family.*

sharon mcdaniel - April 11, 2017 at 09:07 AM

WB

“ *Bruce was an awesome friend and a wonderful man, if you knew Bruce you loved him as so many people did.....may you rest in peace My Friend.....Wayne Brashear*

Wayne Brashear - April 11, 2017 at 05:40 AM

LR

“ *Liz Reading lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



Liz Reading - April 11, 2017 at 05:32 AM

AW

“ *Andy Williams purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.*



Andy Williams - April 10, 2017 at 09:59 PM

SF

“ *Sandy combs and family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.*



Sandy combs and family - April 10, 2017 at 09:50 PM

SH

“ *Sandycombs & Jimmy Heathman lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



sandycombs & jimmy heathman - April 10, 2017 at 08:21 PM



“ *Full Heart was purchased for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.*



April 10, 2017 at 04:51 PM



“ *When I heard of Bruce's passing a flood of High School memories came all at once. When you think of Bruce you think of Randy. When you think of Randy you most always think of Bruce. Seems like you 2 were always together. That may be the greatest joy of growing up in a small town. The memories you have of the relationships that are forged forever in our hearts. Long live the legacy of the SSHS Class of 1969 and RIP our dear friend, Bruce. Praying for His grace upon your family.*

Doug King

Doug King - April 10, 2017 at 04:12 PM



Wonderful friend since first grade. What memories! I don't get back to Siloam often but wish I could make a few of those Wednesday breakfasts with 1969 classmates. My prayers to Bruce's family.

Harold Ware - April 10, 2017 at 08:22 PM

NR

“ There are so many things I could say about how much I'm going to miss him and how wonderful of a person he was, but the greatest feeling was when he would always refer to me as "the daughter he never had!" I've know Bruce for as long as we have lived in Siloam and I'm very thankful that he was a part of my life. Please keep Heather and Mason in your thoughts as well as all of his family and friends.



Nicole Robinson - April 10, 2017 at 03:09 PM

JB

*I met Bruce when I started working for the Benton County Sheriff as Bailiff for Division one Circuit Court 8 years ago.. He was always willing to assist me during jury trials, always had my back. He was a great person and a wonderful friend. We loved to tell war stories about our past military and law enforcement encounters. I was out in Calif when I was notified of his passing on Saturday and I drove back home and was here on Monday. I just had to say "Good-Bye" to my good friend.
Joe Bernal*

Joe Bernal - April 11, 2017 at 08:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.



April 10, 2017 at 02:12 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.*



April 10, 2017 at 12:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.*



April 10, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ *Hollaway Family lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



Hollaway Family - April 10, 2017 at 09:34 AM



Our sincere condolences go out to the family of Bruce. He was a great friend since childhood leaving me many memories to cherish. May our Lord comfort each of the family during this very difficult time.

Bob Hollaway - April 10, 2017 at 09:39 AM

LS

We love Bruce.....and know God loves him too. Peace be the journey cousin.....we will see you again.

*Lisa Dennis Sparks
Ricky Sparks
Rylee Sparks Mendez and family
Kelcee Sparks Washam and family
Natalee Sparks*

Lisa Dennis Sparks - April 10, 2017 at 12:23 PM

CW

My thoughts and prayers to Cindy Rutherford and her family. I am so sorry for your loss. Bruce will truly be missed, such a great man.

Cindy Walmsley - April 10, 2017 at 01:20 PM

SD

“ I have known Bruce my entire life, he was such a good man. He always gave a hug when he saw you, and he gave the very best hugs!

Stephanie Downing - April 10, 2017 at 09:15 AM

BP

“ It was such a shock to hear of Bruce's passing - I'm still trying to get over the tragic news. He was such a wonderful man and I thought the world of him. I have such wonderful memories of Bruce from all the time we spent together in school and years after. I know that whenever his name was mentioned in our circle of friends, everyone always had such nice things to say about him. He will be sorely missed. Thinking of Heather and the rest of the family.



Beth Knight Patterson - April 10, 2017 at 08:12 AM

WC

“ *Wanda Coffee lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford*



Wanda Coffee - April 10, 2017 at 04:19 AM

SK

“ *We love you Bruce.*



sandy combs & steve kelchner - April 09, 2017 at 09:10 PM

LC

“ *Love and prayers, Lon and Susan Cearley*



Lon and Susan Cearley - April 09, 2017 at 08:42 PM

CC

“ *Lots of laughs at family dinner with Bruce*



cassidy combs - April 09, 2017 at 08:32 PM

TB

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Tammy Boles - April 09, 2017 at 08:28 PM

RR

“ Bruce. saw you at Sarah's funeral. Heard your lil memory of working with her. Who would have thought by night fall you would join her in heaven. What a reunion that must have been. Praying for the family and love ones. May God comfort each one eith his precious love and mercy.



Rosie Roberts - April 09, 2017 at 08:20 PM

C9

“ Celia Rutherford 66 Keswick Ct. Vallejo, Ca 94591 purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.



Celia Rutherford 66 Keswick Ct. Vallejo, Ca 94591 - April 09, 2017 at 08:16 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



cassidy combs - April 09, 2017 at 08:02 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



cassidy combs - April 09, 2017 at 07:19 PM

JA

“ *Fabian and family, we are so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Julie Blankenship Arnold*

Julie Blankenship Arnold - April 09, 2017 at 07:09 PM

CR

So sorry for your loss he was a loss to all. He was one of the last good and fair people here

Carolyn Curl Rupp - April 09, 2017 at 08:44 PM

MK

“ Matt Pruden and Brenda Kelchner purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.



Matt Pruden and Brenda Kelchner - April 09, 2017 at 06:37 PM

JP

“ Kathleen, I am so sorry for your loss, Bruce was a fine young man, I know my Dad always thought a lot of Bruce. My thoughts and Prayers are with you and all the family. Janet Yeager Pack

Janet Yeager Pack - April 09, 2017 at 06:04 PM

PR

“ so sorry for your loss. i loved this man if not for him i would not be where i am today he saved my life when i was little from my dad trying to kill me. he was a very sweet man i will miss him.

Particia Lamar, Redmon - April 09, 2017 at 05:31 PM

RV

“ This is the *SECOND* Time of My Life I've Been Totally Numb.....
My Fathers Passing; Who Totally Loved Bruce, Was The First
Bruce Told Me In Jr Hi, "RanJo, I'll Always Have Your Back." and I
To Him.
We Didn't Have To See Each Other Every Day To Confirm That
Pledge
A That True Friend Loves The Other, No Matter What. His Passing
Is #2 in my Life.
I Had Coffee With Bruce Just Two Days Before His Passing, He
Was Vibrant.
Before Our Departure, We Hugged, Shook Hands And Told Each
Other
"We Still Have Each Others Backs!"
Don't Forget To Tell Those You Care For That You Love Them,
Today!
You May Not Get A Second Chance. GOD Bless The Rutherford
Family.

randy vohs - April 09, 2017 at 04:52 PM

WM

“ Walker family, Louie, Rhonda, Sandra and
Marsha purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the
family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.



Walker family, Louie, Rhonda, Sandra and Marsha - April 09,
2017 at 04:52 PM

MK

“ GOOD FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR. WILL BE MISSED.
MICHAEL PRISCILLA.

MICHAEL + PRISCILLA KUNDE - April 09, 2017 at 04:50 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Tammy Rutherford Boles - April 09, 2017 at 04:33 PM

SN

“ Sincerely, Scott Cara and Kelly Noble purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Bruce Gene Rutherford.



Sincerely, Scott Cara and Kelly Noble - April 09, 2017 at 04:21 PM

TB

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Tammy Rutherford Boles - April 09, 2017 at 03:15 PM

PF

“ Patterson Family lit a candle in memory of Bruce Gene Rutherford



Patterson family - April 09, 2017 at 01:19 PM

SS

“ *May you rest in peace Bruce "A" Love you Susan "G" Love you too Heather*

susan sierks - April 09, 2017 at 12:31 PM