



## Judge Bob Arnold

October 20, 1947 - April 15, 2021

Frankfort – Judge Bob Arnold, born in Peaks Mill on October 20, 1947, passed away at home on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 73 years of age.

Known to many as Judge, Commissioner, Mr. Chairman, and often times simply Bob, Robert Lynn Arnold carried no title that he cherished more than Dad, Grandad, and Friend.

Judge Arnold's unwavering dedication to his community and family matched with his continued efforts aimed at bettering local governments, finally coupled with the countless amount of funds and resources he raised for charities have helped carry him into a unique class of philanthropic leaders.

Former Franklin County Judge Executive Bob Arnold graduated from Franklin County High School in 1967, and the University of Kentucky in 1971, with a degree in Political Science & Special Education.

He proudly served as the Charter President of the Theta Chi Fraternity and various roles in Student Government.

Judge Arnold spent the 1970's & 1980's serving as the Campaign Coordinator for Wendell Ford and various roles in the Public Protection Cabinet, Governor's Office, and Department of Agriculture.

In 1989 Judge Arnold was elected Franklin County Judge Executive. During that campaign, his team adopted “A Commitment to Progress” as their motto and Bob was especially proud of the tremendous support he received from so many. He, his family, and his supporters knocked on every door in Franklin County, attended every bean supper imaginable.

During his first year as County Judge, Bob Arnold and his team created The Franklin County Council on Family Abuse in 1990 to provide resources, shelter, and counseling to spouses, women, children, and elderly family members. To fund this project, Judge Arnold created a Golf Tournament, known as the Eli Scramble (named after one of his service dogs), which would go on to raise over \$600,000 throughout its 20-year tenure.

After sufficient funding was established for the Council on Family Abuse, the charity proceeds of the Eli Scramble were distributed to various charities including the Franklin County Senior Citizens Center, the Franklin County Humane Society, the Sunshine Center, PUSH (People Understating Special Handicaps), The Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and the Kentucky Special Olympics.

Also in the early 1990s, Judge Arnold and the Franklin County Fiscal Court began discussions with the Carter Family about acquiring their family farm for a County Park. Although the community ramifications of the decisions were high, the Judge’s vision to provide Franklin County residents with a County Park was eminent.

Up until his death, Judge Arnold loved to ride through the park any given Saturday morning and hear the happiness of the children and parents. Lakeview Park has become a staple for Franklin County Families and now includes: 5 Baseball/Softball Fields, 6 Soccer Fields, a Community Pavilion, Horse Show Arena/Amphitheatre, Walking/Jogging Track, Splash Pad, 9 Hole

Par 3 Golf Course, Dog Park, Offices for the County Extension Agencies, the Carter House used for special events, and the Farm Bureau Pavilion. It's also the home of the Franklin County Fair.

After serving two terms as County Judge Executive, Judge Arnold conducted the swearing-in of Governor Paul Patton in a midnight service at the Governor's Mansion and in 1995 was tapped to serve as Commissioner for the Department of Local Government. As Local Government Commissioner, he was responsible for administering more than \$300 million in State & Federal funds to local communities where the appropriations were most needed. Judge Arnold was the initial chairman of the Kentucky Water Resource Development Commission, which laid the groundwork that provided hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians with clean and drinkable water.

In October of 2000, Judge Arnold was hired as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Counties. While at KACo, he was honored to serve as an advocate for County Governments and used his statewide network to revive the association's financial programs. Also while Executive Director, he and the KACo Staff designed and oversaw a new building project which is now a 50,000 sq foot building and serves as meeting space and office space for local government employees, elected officials, and subdivisions of County Governments. The KACo Building was the first Gold Lead Certified Building in the state at that time.

Bob retired from public service in 2009.

Judge Arnold was often labeled as a man with "Great Vision". Ironically, Judge lost his eyesight as a young man due to a degenerative eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa. His vision reached beyond the normality of everyday life, exemplifying perseverance as his accomplishments were not bound by mere physical limitations.

Bob is survived by his daughters, Tiphonie Taylor (Rick) and Sarah Chatley (Christian Anthony); Carla Arnold; sister, Cindy Smith (Wise); and grandchildren, Tre, Ty, Coen, and Parker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, O.B. and Gladys Arnold; and by his loyal canine companions and guides, Vail, Colonel, Eli, Onyx, and Tucky.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at The Foundry on Broadway on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Tom Troth officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Tony Beaumont and Pam Carpenter for their compassionate care and friendship.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Franklin County Humane Society.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 19. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

The Foundry on Broadway  
317 W Broadway St  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## Celebration of Life Services

APR 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Foundry on Broadway  
317 W Broadway St  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Judge Bob Arnold*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *A remarkable person I treasured his friendship.*

*Bob McQueen*

**Bob McQueen** - April 19, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ *Bobby was always a pleasure to be around. His humor and wisdom will be sorely missed. He will now be cheering on his beloved Wildcats with "Gladiola" and O.B. again. Skeet Tuttle*

**Frances D Tuttle** - April 19, 2021 at 10:30 AM



“ *Bob was a force of nature and made such an impact on my life! Though I hadn't seen him in far too long, I have the fondest memories and a heart full of love for him. My condolences and warmest wishes go out to his family during this sad time.*

*Melody Cooper*  
xoxo

**Melody Cooper** - April 19, 2021 at 10:24 AM

SW

“ How do we say what should be easy to say, that we loved someone and that we will miss them.

*How do we say what is difficult to say to their children, that we feel for their loss in a way that they will understand that their loss is not as different as our loss.*

*Tiphonie and Sarah, besides being a good father for you, he was a great and trusted friend for me and our family. He and I over 55 years had many discussions. Rarely, if ever did we have any disagreements on a wide variety of subjects,*

*We will greatly miss those talks.*

*Life's road has a few bumps and turns, your Dad's passing is a turn in the road that you will be able to negotiate because he showed us how to steer successfully thru one of life's most difficult curves.*

*Cecelia (Sam) and I want you to know that we are thinking and praying for you and your families in this most difficult time.*

*God bless you and your families.*

*Stephen and Cecelia Williams*

---

**Stephen A Williams** - April 19, 2021 at 09:10 AM

DH

“ To Bob's family; Cindy I am so sorry about Bob; he was a fine man and I shall always remember him. I grew up in the early years as their neighbors Bob meant lot to an awfully lot of people. Go rest high on that mountain Bob. Your family has my prayers. Debbie Young-Henry(Clark)

---

**Debbie Henry** - April 19, 2021 at 08:43 AM

SC

“ This is so very sad. Heard him speak on many occasions and so enjoyed his wisdom and humor. God bless and comfort his family.

Sally Crenshaw - April 18, 2021 at 09:27 AM

SB

“ My deepest sympathy to the family and friends. May God bless and comfort. A great leader and friend. Bob loved his democrat party and friends. His vision for his county, state, and nation was far beyond most people's 2020 vision.



Sen. Walter "Doc" Blevins - April 18, 2021 at 07:33 AM

JC

“ Tiphonie & Family:  
Jeanne joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy on your great loss, as our thoughts and prayers are with you during this extremely difficult period.

James Codell - April 18, 2021 at 06:39 AM

NN

“ Susan and I had so many wonderful times with Bob. In many ways we all became adults together. I remember Vail so well and of course Eli and Colonel. Bob was my parents favorite.it had been far too long since we had been together. Our thoughts and prayers to all  
Nick Nicholson

nick nicholson - April 17, 2021 at 05:39 PM

TW

“ A truly GREAT MAN who I always admired! Thank you Bob for touching so many lives during your journey through life here. NOW, enjoy the journey the Lord. Jesus has for you, as you see and marvel at God's glorious future he has for you.

---

**Ted Wigglesworth** - April 17, 2021 at 07:42 AM

TA

“ Bobby is my first cousin and although we didn't have much time together, I always admired him for his sense of humor and personal drive to achieve his life goals. He had wonderful parents that taught him how to cope with his handicap. He persevered and overcame his blindness and went on to have a good life. I wish we had lived closer to each other to have gotten to know one another much better. He had a wonderful smile.

---

**Thomas Arnold** - April 16, 2021 at 07:20 PM

GB

“ I can not count the number of Good Times we had with Bob. I do think he had finally accepted my apology for walking him into a tree in Owensboro while at the Owensboro Regatta. It was just a small scratch! Even though we moved from KY in 1981 we continued to stay in touch, We especially looked forward to getting with him in Atlanta (CATLANTA) when the SEC tourney was still in town. ALSO never forget the golf tourney we had here in Conyers GA when he and his crew came in for a UK Football game. If you ever played golf with Bobby you know how much fun that was.:) We even had his niece, Jessica, who lives here in town be the Beer Cart girl.... He was not aware we even knew her!!!!

ANYWAY Kentucky has lost a good Son. He will be remembered by many for his years of contributions and his giving spirit that only Bob could give. The state and the world is better place because of him.

Rest in Peace old buddy!! We will meet again one day and continue to cheer on the Cats, (even in football) !!!

Gary and Jane Bridgewater

---

Gary Bridgewater - April 16, 2021 at 04:12 PM



Such wonderful memories, thank you Gary/Jane 💙

---

Jessica Music - April 17, 2021 at 12:02 PM



Nancy Collins

So sorry to hear this! Bob was such a good friend in the 70's and I remember Vail very well. Our grandchildren are blessed by his many contributions to Franklin County, including Lakeview Park where they now play soccer. So many great memories with Nick and Susan Nicholson and O.K. Curry and all of the Young Democrats activities! Praying for comfort for his family. His legacy will live on!

---

Nancy Collins - April 18, 2021 at 09:23 PM

RB

*It is deep sorrow that I learn of Bob Arnold's passing. He was indeed a visionary with a heart as big as the world. He always showed an upmost respect but yet used a firm hand when conducting business. I am a better man having known Bob Arnold.*

*Randy Becker  
President of Orbis Online Inc./STS  
Bulverde, Texas 78163*

---

**Randy Becker** - April 19, 2021 at 12:44 PM