



Robert Foster

October 13, 1936 - November 20, 2021

Robert Joseph “Bob” Foster, 85, Topeka, passed away Saturday, November 20, 2021, at KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

Bob was born October 13, 1936, in Topeka, the oldest of five children of Joseph F. and M. Ellen Dale Foster.

Bob grew up in Topeka, attended Washburn Rural High School and then graduated from Kansas State College in 1958. He served in the Army from 1959-1961 and was stationed in Germany.

Bob married Sally Ann Glotzbach on July 20, 1959, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Topeka; she survives. Other survivors include their children, Anita Sidesinger (Chad), Topeka, Alan Foster (Ann), Rossville, Mary Heffern (Larry), Topeka, and Karen Anderson (Aaron), Topeka; ten grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Charles Foster, Delia, and David Foster (Virginia), Rossville; and sister, Teresa Foster, Topeka.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Fred Foster.

Bob worked for the City of Topeka for 38 years. He was in charge of the Gage Park Greenhouse and Conservatory and was the original landscape designer at the Tropical Rain Forest in the Topeka Zoo. Bob became the Chief

Horticulturist for the city, responsible for plantings at the Reinisch Rose Garden, Rock Garden in Gage Park, the Meade Park Gardens and hundreds of city flower beds across Topeka. He designed Flintstone Park and its rolling log slide in Gage Park. Bob gave tours to thousands of people while working for the city, including tours of the Greenhouse, Rose Garden, and nature trail hikes at Dornwood Park and the Warren Nature Area at Shunga Park, along with many other places. He gave pioneering demonstrations at many different festivals and events across Northeast Kansas.

Bob was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, the Kaw Valley Woodcarvers and former member of the Topeka Rose Society. He had a passion for woodcarving and supplied his family and friends with hundred of woodcarvings. Bob always had time for his grandchildren, constantly teaching them and supporting them at their music and sporting events.

Visitation will be 5 to 7 p.m. tonight, November 23, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, November 24th, at Mater Dei Holy Name Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Foster Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dover Fire Department or to the family for a memorial in Gage Park to be designated at a later date, and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Foster Cemetery

3949 SW Burlingame Rd
Topeka, KS 66609

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Rosary

NOV **23**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

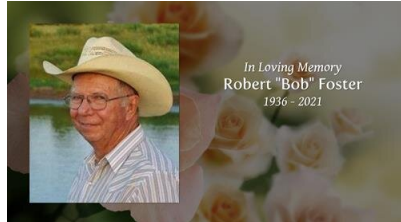
NOV **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Foster*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - November 23, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ *Robert Foster*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Anita,*

I was saddened to read of your father's passing. My sincere sympathy to you and your family.

Dorothy Byrd

Dorothy Byrd - December 06, 2021 at 11:45 AM

JB

“ My sincere condolences to the family...

Although I did not know Bob well, he had an enormous impact on my life which perhaps he never fully realized. For about 3-4 months in the summer of 1980, he was my resource person at Gage Park to assist in completing my Eagle Scout Project. The project which he developed for the Zoo was to start a "prairie dog hand petting park", and my task and Eagle project was to lead the building of a cage, capture the prairie dogs, and assist with the establishment of the prairie dog park.

After the cage was built, on where now stands the Kansas Children's Discovery Center, we and another scout embarked very early one morning and drove to Western Kansas near Hoisington to capture prairie dogs... not an easy task as we later discovered. Bob drove the truck with a large water container and portable cage in the bed. The water would be used to "flood" the prairie dog town, allowing capture of a prairie dog as they attempted to escape to safety. This was not harmful to the prairie dogs, simply a re-location.

Anyway, as the day continued, it became hotter and hotter. We noticed a herd of cattle beginning to head for the windmill and trough which we had mostly drained to obtain water. Since the wind had died, I asked Bob what we should do. His answer was instantaneous, "You better get a pumping!" My fellow scout and I pumped, and pumped till exhaustion.

We only caught two dogs that day, and Bob identified them as male and female. So we had a chance at establishing the park. We named them "Mork & Mindy" after the popular TV show of the time. The dogs were resettled into their new home in Topeka, only to later escape the confines, never to be seen again.

The point of this narrative is that Bob taught me success through adversity. To continue to always strive, and that failure is not necessarily bad. I did receive my Eagle Scout award which certainly

shaped my adulthood. I have not achieved everything I started successfully in life, and learned from this experience that it was not a failure, but rather another opportunity. Thank you Bob.

J.D. Bloomar, Topeka, KS.



J.D. Bloomar - November 25, 2021 at 12:52 PM

BA

“ Sally and the Foster family, thoughts and prayers to all of you during your time of dealing with the loss of a loved one. Laurie and I wanted to let you and your family know, you are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Sally, you and Bob both touched our lives in a very positive way, as I was a staff member of Parks and Recreation, who worked with Bob and our children received your kind heart and hand, at the day care agency you worked. We want you to know how our hearts skipped a beat, when we heard of Bob's entering Heaven. I had just seen and said HI to Bob, not too long ago, at a training session, for Shawnee County Election Board members.

What we admired about both of you, is your compassion for life and caring for everyone around you. You have both touched many, many lives, as you worked and raised your family in Topeka.

One of my fondest memories of working with Bob was his creativity and ability to listen to ideas outside of what he knew in his heart, would probably not work. Bob was willing to try something different, as I found in working with Bob. In Gage Park, he actually felt that by adding small pieces of crushed rubber from used tires, that this process would help make the Gage Park softball field #6, drain water better and be a softer surface for participants to play on. Who would have guessed that now, Gage #6, is a play for all field, with a totally artificial, all-weather surface. A man of vision. I also appreciate his artistic gift for the land around him, which is evident in our entire community, especially Gage Park.

You both are what my wife and I discuss regularly, are the reasons Topeka, is a wonderful city to live, raise a family, work and enjoy all that life provides.

Bob is not with us in body but his spirit and gifts of life, will touch many who live in our great city. Take care.

Bruce and Laurie Andrews, (Lindsey, Scott and Kelsey)

Bruce & Laurie Andrews - November 24, 2021 at 09:02 AM

JH

“ Dear Sally, Bob was such a blessing. He left his mark all over Topeka. I will miss our visits about trees, birds, and bird feeders.
Jim and Diane Herynk

Jim and Diane Herynk - November 23, 2021 at 05:50 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Robert Foster.



November 23, 2021 at 09:30 AM

DF

“ Alan, Jim and I are sorry for the passing of your father. He touched so many lives and had so many accomplishments.

Diana Frownfelter - November 23, 2021 at 08:34 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Foster.



November 23, 2021 at 08:31 AM

SP

“ One of my earliest memories is of Bob and Sally coming out to my parents farm (in either the late 50's or early 60"s)and showing either a home movie or slides of their time overseas. I was very young so I do not remember the details except for a picture of some wooden toys.

I was always very proud telling people that he was my cousin whenever he was in the newspaper for something that he was doing at the rose garden in Gage Park.

Please take comfort that he lives a good life and was loved and admired by many people. God bless him and the entire family.

Steve Prochaska - November 23, 2021 at 07:44 AM

AL

“ *Mary, Larry and family.
Thoughts and prayers . Sorry to read of the passing of Robert Mark & Angie Larson*

angie larson - November 22, 2021 at 08:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Foster.*



November 22, 2021 at 05:29 PM

AT

“ I still have many wood carvings he made for us kids (his daughter Mary was one of my best friends in childhood). He was a very kind and generous man . I remember playing in Flintstone park when it was brand new . Sorry to his family . He’s left a wonderful legacy in his children , grandchildren and great grandchildren and in the city of Topeka .

Ayame Takahashi - November 22, 2021 at 03:37 PM