



## Mr. Luther Coleman Coffey

March 25, 1929 - September 27, 2021

Luther Coleman “Coley” Coffey, 92, passed peacefully from this life on the evening of Sunday September 26th in his home in Jamestown, KY with his two children, Robert Bruce “Bob” Coffey and Ann Lorraine Coffey at his side.

Coleman was born on March 29, 1929 in Jamestown to Beatrice Bernard Coffey and A.R. Coffey. He graduated from Jamestown High School in 1946. He served in the Armed Forces of the United States between 1949 and 1952. He was stationed in Japan and Korea during the Korean War and received the Army of Occupation Japan Medal and the Bronze Star Medal in Korea.

After the war while attending the University of Kentucky he met Betsy Ann Bramlett and they married August 23, 1953. He graduated with an accounting degree in 1954. Coleman and Betsy had two children, Bob and Ann. They were friends in marriage for 67 years.

Coleman worked for the Internal Revenue Service in Danville, KY and during that time he became a certified public accountant. In 1961, the family moved from Danville to Frankfort, KY where he began a long career at Farmer and Humble Accounting Firm. He and his business partner Tom Smith built Farmer and Humble into a significant accounting practice that primarily worked with large utilities, local thoroughbred farms, and individuals across the state.

He was noted for his integrity and ethics in accounting. He served on the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals and he was very active in both the Kentucky Society of CPA's and the National Tax Association. He has been Chairman of many committees and the featured speaker at various conferences, presented papers at professional meetings on utility valuation and appeared as an expert witness in court cases. Farmer and Humble had offices in in Frankfort, Lawrenceburg, and Russell County, Ky.

At heart, Coleman was a creative, an entrepreneur and promoter. He was part of building many businesses outside of his accounting work. He co-founded Paul Sawyler Art Galleries and turned Sawyler into a household name in the Bluegrass region. His other business ventures included subdivision developments, two construction companies, and rock quarries.

His greatest passion was houseboating on Lake Cumberland. Starting with his own houseboat in 1958, he went on to establish a fleet of rental houseboats at Lake Cumberland State Dock in 1971 which he coined "Houseboat Capital of the World". Because of his courage, enthusiasm and hard work, the "State Dock" became the leader in houseboat rentals. He and his son Bob became sole owners in 1981 and continued to build the fleet to a size of 75 houseboats when they sold the company in 1985. He promoted the lake that he loved and the houseboating industry that he helped establish in the region. The State Dock today remains one the most popular houseboating destinations in the world.

He was active in many community efforts including serving in leadership roles with the statewide organization Kentucky Jaycees.

Coleman was first and foremost a storyteller. He loved spinning a good tale. He loved the water, houseboating, horse racing, cars, history, and the Bank of Jamestown. Until the very end, his long-term memory remained sharp and

extensive. He read massive quantities of books on history and was particularly knowledgeable about the history of Abraham Lincoln, distilling, distilleries and bourbon in Kentucky.

He owned homes in both Jamestown KY and Bonita Springs FL, driving between them several times a year into his 90's. He loved the sunshine and beaches of Florida and had important friendships in the Bonita Springs area.

Coleman is survived by his wife, Betsy Coffey, his children Bob Coffey (Susan Smith) and Ann Coffey (Valle Jones), his brothers Bill Coffey and Bob Coffey, his granddaughter Tiffany Skeens (Landon), great grandchildren Anna and Barrett Skeens, his niece Leigh Ann Wesley Tippey (Brent), and nephew Robert Wesley (Cindy) and his cousin and godson Andrew Bernard (Trisha) and cousin Lisa Bernard (Charlie). He is predeceased by his parents Beatrice Bernard Coffey and A.R. Coffey and by his sister Betty Coffey Wesley, infant brother Bob Bruce Coffey, and his cousin Harold Bernard.

The family wishes to thank Hospice of Lake Cumberland and Home Helpers caregivers and in particular McKenzie for assisting in his care during the last weeks of his life.

Burial and services will be private. H.E. Pruitt Memory Chapel is in charge of arrangements. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor Coleman make donations in his name to any cause that would further the health and happiness of Jamestown, KY's citizens, to Lake Cumberland Hospice or to a charity of their choice.

The family plans to have a celebration of life service once it is safe for everyone to gather in person. The family looks forward to hearing your stories about this kind and generous man.



# Cemetery Details

## **Jamestown Cemetery**

201 North Main St.  
Jamestown, KY 42629  
[hhhamm@duo-county.com](mailto:hhhamm@duo-county.com)

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ My husband, Bob, and I were driving the back roads to Tennessee on October 11th. As we drove through Jamestown, we started talking about Coleman Coffey. Mr. Coffey was my boss for many years when I worked for Farmer & Humble, CPAs in Frankfort. It was my first job when I graduated from high school and started what would be a long career in accounting. Mr. Coffey, Ann Mary Martin, Ruth Ann Cox, Mary Alvis Powell, John Avent, and a few years later Tom Smith joined the firm. All hold a special place in some of my favorite memories. We were a family. After my husband and I moved to Missouri, we always made a special point of visiting everyone at Farmer & Humble whenever we were in Frankfort visiting my parents. Mr. Coffey made a special point of getting in contact with me when my father died in 2006. After driving through Jamestown, I got on the internet to see if Mr. Coffey was still in Bonita Springs, thinking we might try to visit him when we go to Florida this time. I was so sorry to learn that he had just passed away. My deepest sympathies go out to Betsy, Bob Bruce and Ann and the rest of the family.

*Maurita Lee Chandler, Bagdad, Kentucky*

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**Maurita Lee Chandler** - October 18, 2021 at 10:29 AM

BC

*Thank you Maurita for your kind words and so appreciate you sharing! Robert Bruce Coffey on as Bob Coffey.*

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**Bob Coffey** - May 22 at 08:52 AM

MM

“ Always remembered your Daddy as a happy man. He was kind I liked him very much. So glad He has a long life. Bob and Anne you have my deepest sympathy at this time of your loss. Sincerely  
Monica Ramsey McClain

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**Monica Ramsey McClain** - October 12, 2021 at 08:25 PM

BC

Thank you Monica. It is great to hear from you. I appreciate your kind sharing. Bob Coffey

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**Bob Coffey** - May 22 at 08:54 AM

GY

“ I always enjoyed talking to Mr. Coffey as he came in and out of the Russell County Public Library. I am the Reference Librarian there, and we had many spirited discussions about Abraham Lincoln (a subject near and dear to both our hearts).

He was a sweet man, and I was amazed at his memory for even the smallest details. I could tell from our discussions that he had led an amazing life, and I was just glad to share a little bit of it with him in his later years.

My condolences to his family. He was a very unique guy and will be missed by many.

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**Glenda York** - October 07, 2021 at 02:24 PM

HM

“ Betsy, Ann, Bob.  
Fond memories of our time together in Frankfort. ❤️

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**Harriett McVey** - September 30, 2021 at 10:24 PM

HS

“ We'll never forget Mr. Coffey (Coley) . He was my father's (Dr. Hugh R. Smith) best man , and courted my Aunt Jean during that time also. Remember they would go to the famous “Club Madrid” in Louisville, but could only spend a few minutes on the dance floor , before hitting the old 2 lane roads again .( as not to violate “ Fathers” curfew rules - even though mom& aunt Jean we're schoolteachers) they loved the big bands that played there. When he came to visit, whether it was our home , or the office for Dental treatment - (Coley was part of our extended family) it was a treat. Until his passing he was sharp as a tack, He was my genealogical source,, after my father died, and his historical stories were magical!. I remember the one about the heated baseball rivalry ,in the long bottom ,that evolved into a shootout.. He always talked about his family,Bob, Ann, & Betsy. He was the consummate professional, im glad i retired before i needed his help again.,,,

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**Henry Smith** - September 29, 2021 at 07:10 PM

LS

“ Coleman was a special man. He would bring his great grandkids their favorite muffins , bananas and other snacks, along with a silver dollar. He would even bring me a roasted chicken or some pimiento cheese. He was so sweet and thoughtful. I admired him and his love for his family and for life greatly. My love and prayers are with you all. Lisa Skeens

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**Lisa Skeens** - September 29, 2021 at 09:49 AM

HE

“ So many fun memories. At the dock. On the houseboat. In the dental chair he had in the Apple Valley condo. Letting Leigh Ann (and me as a tag-a-long) ride around the county in his convertible one summer. I will forever remember him laughing, living life, and enjoying every moment. God bless Betsy, Ann and Bob and the entire family. ❤️ Heather

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Heather - September 28, 2021 at 11:52 PM

JB

“ Back many years ago around Christmas time Coley would come to Jamestown and bring gifts to all of us working in town around the square. One year we all got a pot of poinsettias and I still have a Paul Sawyer print. He was always very jovial and liked by everyone around town. Rip Coley.

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janna Babak - September 28, 2021 at 08:39 PM