



Joseph Sumner Bell Jr.

December 25, 1917 - April 8, 2007

Joseph Sumner Bell Jr. died in his Portsmouth home of 57 years on Easter Morning, April 8, 2007. He was born on Christmas Day 1917 in Pelham, TN to the late Hattie Rowe and Joseph Sumner Bell.

Having spent his earliest years in Decherd, he graduated in 1941 from the University of Tennessee with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Air Force.

In 1942 he moved to Portsmouth to begin his 37 years of civilian government service with the United States Navy, retiring from the Naval Ship Engineering Center NSEC, Norfolk, Virginia in 1980. His awards included the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Following his retirement from NESC he organized and was president of the Basic Engineering and Logistic Management Corporation.

He served as Trustee, Lay Leader, and Chairman of the Administrative Board of Monumental United Methodist Church; institutional representative of Boy Scout Troop 208; Vice Chairman of the Portsmouth District of the Tidewater Council of the Boy Scouts of America; President of the Tidewater Section of the American Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Merrimac; Lt. Governor of the 21st Division of the Capital District of Kiwanis International; Trustee of the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation; and a member of the Library Board of the City of Portsmouth.

Survivors include his wife Virginia Edwards Bell; his sons, Joseph Sumner Bell III, MD and his wife Susan and Harold Edwards Bell and his wife Jean; five grand children, Joseph Sumner Bell IV, Harrison Edwards Bell, Rachel Meredith Bell, John Lawson Bell, and David Wilson Bell; and a brother Thomas Rowe Bell of Knoxville, TN.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in the Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens, Suffolk. The Reverend Harry B. Spear will officiate. Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel is handling the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to one's charity of choice.

Tribute Wall



“ My condolences to the Bell family. I want to share with you a hope found in the Bible. It comforts us with the hope of seeing our loved ones again through the resurrection. Please feel welcome to contact me for the booklet "When someone you love dies." MY # is 333-9455 or e-mail is LOV4TRUTH@CAVTEL.NET.##imported-begin##tammy jones##imported-end##

May 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Virginia, Sumner, and Harold,
I so sorry that we missed you at the cemetary. It was a lovely and fitting service. We both send our deepest sympathies.
Jimmy and Marianne##imported-begin##James B.
Lofitn##imported-end##

April 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Our most heartfelt condolences are sent to the Bell family for the loss of your father and grandfather. We are thinking of you and hoping
you find strength and peace in the wonderful memories of his long and productive life and the protective love of your family. Pam and Sheldon St Clair and Family##imported-begin##Pam and Sheldon St Clair##imported-end##

April 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Bell Family...*
Our heartfelt condolences are with all of you at this sad time. We know that Joe is at peace, and we will continue to keep him and all of you in our prayers.
Love,
Tom, Judy, Adam and Mason Choice##imported-begin##Judy and Tom Choice##imported-end##

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was saddened to read of Mr. Bell's passing and not at all surprised to see his many accomplishments. I know you will miss him greatly. Please accept my condolences. His pain is over but now you must search for peace. God bless you##imported-begin##Barbara, OT##imported-end##*

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Bell Family:*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this trying time.

Norman & Gail Miller##imported-begin##Norman and Gail Miller##imported-end##

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ To The Bell Family,
Our thoughts are with you! Rejoice, and remember all the beautiful
and wonderful times shared.
Dana & Gayla##imported-begin##Gayla & Dana Stulce##imported-
end##

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ We want you to know how sorry we were to hear of Mr. Bell's death.
Our prayers and thought are with you and the entire family during
this time of grief.
Bill and Lois Hookham##imported-begin##Bill and Lois
Hookham##imported-end##

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bell Family,
Tim and I send our condolences at the passing of your dear Father
to Heaven. We are available for anything you may need. God bless
you. Tim & Beth Bowling##imported-begin##Beth Bowling,
Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters##imported-end##

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I just wanted to say I am very sorry to hear of your fathers passing
Sumner. God Bless you and your family.##imported-begin##David
Blake##imported-end##

April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM