

Robert R. Heard

Jul 22 1925 - Jun 4 1990

AAFA #0137

ROBERT R. HEARD

Written by Gil Alford

We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Robert R. "Bob" Heard who passed away at 3:00 pm on 4 June 1990 while fishing with a friend in Cedar Hills Lake, Madison County, Mississippi. Bob was the husband of Ruby Alford Heard, AAFA Mississippi State Representative. Bob was more than just a name to a large number of the members. Many members have had the privilege of visiting with the Heards over the years and knew Bob personally. Although he did not actively research Alford's, he made it possible for Ruby to do extensive work in that area and supported her in all her genealogical endeavors.

Bob was born 22 July 1925, in Brookland, Arkansas, the son of Ezra Mack and Lena (Lawrence) Heard. He was the youngest child of the family with an older sister, Vaudine Heard Dickinson, who resides in Florissant, Missouri; and three brothers, Deward, Purvis, and David, who preceded him in death.

Bob enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 during World War II. He was stationed in the Pacific and was wounded on Iwo Jima. After a period of rest and recuperation he was sent to the Volcano Islands until he was sent home and discharged in February 1946.

He and Ruby were married 20 April 1968 in Downey, California, the second marriage for both of them. Bob worked with Loomis Armored Car Service for many years and then went into the business of making plastics with a company in Denver, Colorado. He had a heart attack in Colorado and returned to California where he later had two more heart attacks.

They continued to reside in California until 1973 when they moved to Mississippi. His severe heart condition precluded all strenuous activity and he helped pass the time by fishing.

Bob loved to fish, and through fishing he made a lot of friends. He never met a stranger and went out of his way to help folks. Ruby has been managing apartment complexes for several years and all of the residents of the complexes thought he could do no wrong and dearly loved him.

Bob and Ruby had no children, but he had three children by his first marriage. They remained with their mother.

Ruby said, "Life is so precious and none of us really thinks we will be snatched from it so fast. Life must go on but my life will never be the same anymore. No one gives up a person as good and kind as he was to me, without pain and heartbreak. May God richly bless him and I pray we will meet again in the future. I loved him very much. He may be gone but his memory and the close years we shared will always be with me. He left a void in my life that will be there forever."

Bob was buried 6 June 1990 in New Hope Cemetery, near Carthage in Leake County, Mississippi.

Our concern now is for Ruby. She needs your attention-prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, visits, etc. Few people realize how much she has done in the way of Alford research. She has helped countless people from all over the country. She has traveled and spent many, many hours doing research for which she never asks a dime. She and Bob were planning to attend the annual meeting in Raleigh in October, but she is afraid she will have to cancel that now.