



Arthur Watie Bell

January 3, 1934 - May 18, 2025

Watie Bell, 91, Bartlesville, OK, passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 18, 2025, at his home in Mt. Ida, Arkansas.

Born on January 3, 1934, Watie lived a life defined by service, dedication, and quiet strength. He was Color Guard and proud member of the Cherokee Nation, having been named after the Great Cherokee Civil War General, Stand Watie. He was co-captain of his Bartlesville College High football team and went on to serve three years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. As a police dog trainer and later an aircraft maintenance specialist aboard the USS Tarawa during its around-the-world cruise, he exemplified loyalty and discipline.

Following his military service, Watie built a long and respected career as a mechanical draftsman. Never one to sit still, he was also known as a tireless handyman — always ready with a tool, a fix, or a helping hand for anyone in need. His love for animals, especially his beloved dogs and cats, was a constant part of his life.

Watie is survived by his children, James Bell and Dana Bell Byars; grandsons Casey and Sam Breckenridge; and great-grandson Lennox Breckenridge. He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Lee Dawson Bell; his parents, George Morrison Bell and Dana Iva Bluejacket Bell; and his four brothers, Roger, Drake, Pat, and Brooks.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at Memorial Park Cemetery in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to any Alzheimer's research organization in Watie's memory.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery
4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Arthur Watie Bell.*



May 22, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Arthur Watie Bell.

May 22, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ *We all loved Watie very much he was quiet the character and a definite charmer always busy into something it was a privilege to know him and take care of him much love and many prayers for the family in the days and weeks to come from the girls of 400 hall*

Tisha Hearn - May 21, 2025 at 06:09 PM