



# Bass Trumbo

FEB 23, 1935 - NOV 30, 2025



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## **Bass Trumbo**

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**C**harles “Bass” Trumbo Sr., 90, passed away at his home in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on November 30, 2025. Born on February 23, 1935, in Fayetteville to Cassie Juanita Bass and Donald Trumbo Sr., Bass spent all ninety years of his life in the town he loved and never wanted to leave.

Bass grew up on the fairways of Fayetteville Country Club, where he began caddying at age ten. That childhood job ignited his lifelong love of golf and led to more than eight decades of membership at the club. He carried his passion for the game—and the friendships it brought him—throughout his entire life.

He graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1952, where he was an All-State basketball player. He continued his education at the University of Arkansas, earning his undergraduate degree in 1957 and his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1959. While in college, Bass played basketball and golf for the Razorbacks and was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order.

Bass began his law career in 1959 and practiced in Fayetteville for more than sixty years, continuing until 2022. He also taught business law at the University of Arkansas for over three decades, known for his clarity, humor, and high expectations. He served two years in the U.S. Army Reserves, achieving the rank of Captain, though he often joked that he was “not the best soldier.”

For 80 years, Bass was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, where he sang in the choir, participated in parish life, and remained deeply connected to the congregation. He was well known throughout the community for his weekly letters to the editor in the Sunday newspaper—so prolific that the paper eventually revised its policy to limit him to one a month. Not everyone always understood his dry humor, but those who knew him did.

Bass married the love of his life, Ruth Ann Pace, on March 15, 1985, after being set up on a blind date. Together, they built a home full of beauty, comfort, stories, and



## Obituary

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laughter. He is survived by Ruth Ann and by his four children: Jay Trumbo (Karen Donahue), Carolyn Trumbo (Dennis Tune), Charles Bass Trumbo Jr., and Elizabeth Trumbo Phillips (Jack). By his grandchildren: Walker Trumbo Smith (Madison), Dalton Trumbo (Emily), and Michael Trumbo. And by his brother, Ellis Patterson Trumbo.

Bass was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Don Trumbo Jr. and Arthur Howell Trumbo, and his first wife Carolyn Kay Trumbo.

Bass was clever, direct, accountable, and witty. He loved receiving gifts and surprises, savoring a good meal, and telling stories from a lifetime spent in Fayetteville and childhood visits to family in New Orleans. He passed along his sense of humor, his practicality, and his appreciation for a simple, well-ordered life.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Circle of Life Hospice for their exceptional care and to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for their steadfast support throughout Bass' final months.

Funeral service to be held 10:30 a.m. Friday December 5, 2025, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with reception to follow at St. Paul's. Burial will follow the reception at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville under the direction of Moore's Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 224 N. East Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

To place an online tribute, please visit [www.bernafuneralhomes.com](http://www.bernafuneralhomes.com)



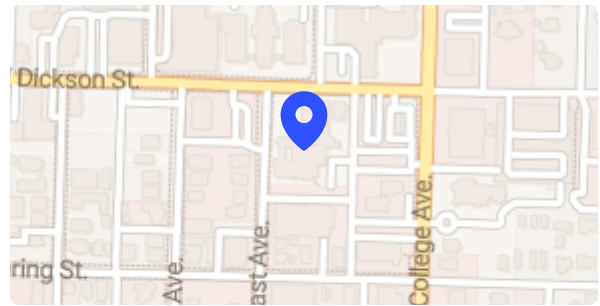
# Events

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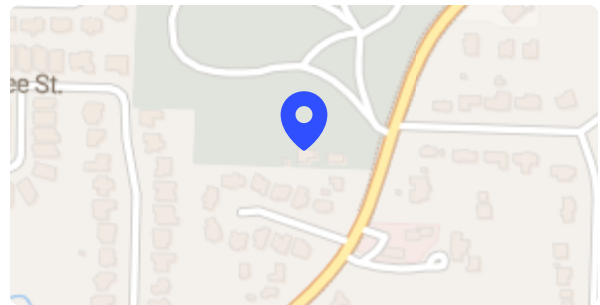
## Funeral Service

- Friday**, December 5, 2025
- 10:30 AM CT
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
224 N East Ave, Fayetteville AR 72701



## Cemetery Details

- Fairview Memorial Gardens**  
1728 East Mission, Fayetteville AR 72703
- 479-521-8701**





# Tribute Wall

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**Mark McMurtrey** posted:

I know all of us old-time Fayetteville kids, who grew up with both Jay and Carolyn, were sad to see of his passing. I was fortunate enough to know him not only as their dad, but we went to church together for decades and decades. Bass was sharp as a tack, and as kind and thoughtful a person as you would ever meet. He always kidded me about spiking Jay in the thigh with my track cleats on an almost-bungled handoff of the baton in a mile relay race when we were at Woodland Junior High. We would laugh about that every time I saw him, and that event occurred back in the mid-70s! I speak for all of that generation who knew the family in saying that our sincerest condolences go out to his children and grandchildren and their loved ones. He will be sorely missed, to say the least and to put it mildly. God bless you Jay and Carolyn, you dad was one of a kind and we all had the deepest respect, admiration, and love for him.

January 16 at 6:33 PM



**Ashley McLarty Weyl** posted:

I always enjoyed seeing Mr. Trumbo at Washington Elementary when Elizabeth was attending school there. My dad also had much respect. He was one of a kind and will be missed.

December 3 at 6:24 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Trumbo family.



December 2 at 8:19 PM



**James Salmon** posted:

So sorry to read of Bass's passing. I always enjoyed his company. God's Peace to you all.... Jim Salmon

December 2 at 1:05 PM



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**Mark Calcagni** posted:

I had Bass Trumbo for Business Law at the U of A and he was an excellent teacher and I enjoyed his class as he was very good at bringing real life experiences to the class. I have told his daughter , Carolyn FHS 81, how much I appreciated her dad many times. I am sorry I did not tell him as often. He use to call me "Big Em" . Bass Trumbo is definitely a teacher I do remember from my University days. My Thoughts and Prayers with the family.Sincerely,Mark Calcagni

December 2 at 11:28 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bass by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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