



## James Ray "Bo" Newby

April 17, 1942 - October 15, 2023

James Ray "Bo" Newby passed away on October 15th, 2023, at the age of 81 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. James was the eldest of four sons born to Ray and Von Newby. He is preceded in death by his parents, and his first wife Lillian Logan Newby. He is survived by his wife, Gladys M. Rodriguez, his brothers Michael and his wife Linda of Lindsay, OK, Ron and his wife Sandy of Marlow, OK, and Kevin and his wife Margaret of Tuttle, OK. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Leah, Andy, Julie, Josh, Kera and Kelsey and their families.

James was born April 17th, 1942, in Compton, CA and he attended grade school at Erin Springs, OK until the 4th grade when the school closed. He attended Lindsay grade school, junior high school and senior high school where he graduated in 1960. He briefly attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater before returning to Lindsay and worked for Lynn Boyer Electric company. He married Lillian Logan in 1963 and also joined the United States Air Force on Dec. 2nd, 1963, and was honorably discharged on Dec. 1st, 1969. After returning to Oklahoma, James obtained a master's degree in political science from the University of Oklahoma. He and Lillian moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and he worked briefly for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Tulsa while Lillian was a journalist for the Tulsa World newspaper. They both found employment in Washington D.C. James began a lengthy career at the Dept. of Agriculture, and Lillian was a press secretary for Representatives Wes Watkins and then Mike Synar. Lillian passed away in August of 1991. He married Gladys Rodriguez on Dec. 27th, 1996, and they made their home in Alexandria, VA. They shared many trips together such as an extended visit to Morocco, and his favorite spot in the United States, Port Reyes, CA. He was an avid amateur photographer and enjoyed the outdoors. His work accomplishments include being assigned to the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, numerous times, to draft bills. He participated in countless budget meetings with various Secretaries of Agriculture, and he spearheaded and established an extraordinary number of programs, valued in the billions of dollars to ensure the vibrancy and sustainability of rural America. One of his last projects was to obtain funding for the new REC building south of Lindsay, OK. He was passionate about trying to help rural Americans. He retired as Chief of Staff for USDA's Rural Development Mission Area and for the Rural Utilities Service late in the Obama

administration.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at Wooster Funeral Home Chapel in Pauls Valley, OK at 10:00 AM. Burial will be a private family only service. You may leave a remembrance or words of comfort for the family at [www.woosterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.woosterfuneralhomes.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home Chapel  
1601 S. Chickasaw  
Pauls Valley, Ok

# Tribute Wall



“ 29 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 02, 2023 at 10:48 AM

AM

“ *The respect and affection for Jim Newby was broad and deep. His knowledge of the history of rural policy and finance helped guide programs and strategies that provide reliable power, state-of-the art communications and clean safe water for rural communities nationwide. He was the mentor, guide and friend for dozens of us that worked for and with him. His connections and his leadership help us continue to work hard for rural America.*

Anne Mayberry - October 31, 2023 at 09:50 AM

TT

“ *I am so sorry to hear the news of Newby's passing. He was the definition of the best coworker--managing to always be a true stand-up guy while still being a total character. I greatly enjoyed working with him--truly one of the "good guys." My deepest condolences to his wife and family.*

Teresa Temme-Dietz - October 31, 2023 at 09:45 AM

MB

“ *I am sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a man of few words but a steady and supportive leader who always found a creative way to solve problems. He was a strong advocate for Rural America.*

Michele Brooks - October 31, 2023 at 08:49 AM

HL

“ To Gladys and Jim's family I send my most sincere condolences. I left Kentucky 3 times to work in Washington DC during 3 presidential administrations, so I encountered a lot of career government employees. I was blessed to work with some of the best, especially in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. My aim was to bridge the gap between rural Americans and the government. Jim Newby was the consummate public servant. He served with the greatest dignity, fairness and always a dry sense of humor to help you get thru the day! I treasured my time working alongside Jim Newby. He gave me great advice and guidance and rural families are better off today because of his service! RIP dear Jim, and thank you for all your help, advise and friendship. Hilda Legg

Hilda G Legg - October 30, 2023 at 07:16 PM

KK

“ Newby taught me how to be a supervisor. He always protected his employees. He would put his name forward every time there was a big mistake that needed to be reported to Congress. EVERY SINGLE ADA violation. When I grilled him on why he always threw his own name under the bus, he always said, “what can they do to me? Fire me? I’ve been retired 3 times!”

kristi Kubista - October 29, 2023 at 07:16 PM

DJ

“ So sorry to hear of my cousin Bo’s passing! Great memories of growing up with all of the Newby family!  
Don James

Don James - October 29, 2023 at 09:24 AM

SE

“ We will always remember his gracious hosting of a private tour of our nation's Capitol building. It was such a kind thing for him to do for us and our young son. Our deepest condolences to his wife and his family.  
Suzanne and Wayne Estes.

Suzanne Estes - October 28, 2023 at 08:37 PM