



Mr. Alfred Burton English

September 15, 1942 - July 10, 2025

Alfred Burton "Burt" English
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It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Alfred Burton "Burt" English, affectionately known to his loved ones as "Poppy," who departed this life on July 10, 2025, at the age of 82.

Born on September 15, 1942, Burt was a proud graduate of Shelbyville Central High School, Class of 1960. He went on to earn a degree in Political Science from Middle Tennessee State University before serving his country with honor in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970, stationed in Orlando, Florida. While on Christmas leave in 1969, Burt made a detour from his hometown of Shelbyville to go duck hunting in Little Rock, Arkansas - a decision that would change his life forever. It was there that he met Patricia McCord, the woman who would become the love of his life. They were married later that year, beginning a partnership grounded in deep love, mutual respect, and enduring devotion. Their marriage lasted over 45 years until Patricia's passing on June 8, 2015.

Following his military service, Burt remained in Orlando, where he taught English and coached football at Osceola County High School. After the birth of twins Kevin and Kimberly, Burt made the life-changing decision to enroll in law school, pursuing a dream that would define the rest of his professional life. In 1976, he earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Tennessee School of

Law. That same year, he returned to Shelbyville and joined his father, Alfred L. English, in founding English and English Attorneys. Together, they built a trusted law practice rooted in honesty, professionalism, and service to their community. Burt also served as Judge for the City of Shelbyville for 10 years. His calm judgment, fairness, and unwavering commitment to justice earned him the respect of colleagues and citizens alike. Burt was known to many as a charismatic, lovable, and generous man with a huge heart. He had a passion for defending others and was deeply empathetic to anyone in need. His clients, friends, and family knew they could count on him not only for wise counsel but for a good laugh and a warm presence. He had a wonderful sense of humor and made every room brighter just by being in it. Simply put, Burt was fun to be around – and his joy for life was contagious.

He was also an avid sportsman, with a lifelong love for fishing, duck hunting, and dove hunting. A true outdoorsman, Burt was also a committed wildlife conservationist and once served as Tennessee State Chairman for Ducks Unlimited, where he worked to preserve wetland habitats and promote responsible stewardship of the land he so loved.

Burt didn't just enjoy the outdoors - he shared it. He taught countless young people to love nature and respect the art of hunting and fishing, instilling in them not only skill but a deep appreciation for the natural world. Those memories, lessons, and days spent on the water or in the field will live on in generations to come. He had a deep appreciation for SEC athletics - especially football, but also basketball and baseball. Though he loved all SEC sports, he had a special place in his heart for the Vanderbilt Commodores, faithfully cheering them on through every season. He was also a devoted fan of the Atlanta Braves and never missed a chance to support his teams.

In 2014, Burt retired from his legal career to care for Patricia following her cancer diagnosis. His selfless devotion during that time was a powerful reflection of the love and loyalty that defined his life. To his family, he was simply "Poppy." He embraced this role with joy, warmth, and a quiet strength – always ready with encouragement, wisdom, or a gentle smile. He found

profound happiness in the lives of his grandchildren and cherished every moment spent with them. He is survived and remembered by his sons Kevin (Shelley Medlin) English and Michael (Kimberly Snyder) English; grandsons, Jackson "Jack" Patrick (Kelsey Williams) English and William "Wes" Birdwell; granddaughters, Ellee Grace English and Anna Katherine English each of whom brought pride and light into Burt's later years, and a host of extended family, friends, former students, clients, and colleagues who will carry his memory forward with admiration, affection, and gratitude.

Burt will be remembered as a man of deep character - humble, principled, and kind. He was a devoted husband, proud veteran, respected attorney, faithful public servant, passionate conservationist, beloved father, and treasured grandfather.

Burt was a member of the Church of Christ and attended at South Side Church of Christ for many years. Friend and former member of South Side Church of Christ Minster, Jeff Smith will be officiating the service.

Family visitation will be held on Sunday, July 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with a memorial service immediately following at 4:00 p.m. A private burial will take place thereafter.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ducks Unlimited or a charity of your choice in Burt's memory. He will be deeply missed, joyfully remembered, and forever loved.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **13**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL **13**. 4:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Tribute Wall

DD

“ *Deborah Dennis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred Burton English*



Deborah Dennis - July 18, 2025 at 04:31 PM

KH

“ *Kimberly Harvey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred Burton English*



Kimberly Harvey - July 14, 2025 at 11:01 AM

TM

“ *My condolences to the family. Truly a man who loved and believed in others.* 🙏🏾



Tawanda Murray - July 14, 2025 at 09:59 AM

RC

“ Kevin, Kimberly, Michael and family, I received the news of your father's passing with a heavily saddened heart. I am so sorry for your loss. Burt was, and forever will be, remembered as one of the finest men that graced Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Every year of my youth I looked forward with great anticipation and excitement to our Thanksgiving reunions hosted by your family. On some occasions up to 3 generations of the English, Delk, Kimmins, Gant and Cross families were present under his roof, and every year I remember watching his chest swell with pride at the spectacle.

I will treasure every moment and memory I have of him. Tall tales, deep meaningful conversation, great stories, his jokes. He had it all, and he was so very generous in sharing all of his gifts to anyone who wanted them. The world is know a lesser place without him.

Anyone who witnessed his passion for his family, the outdoors, or the law he held so sacred, is forever in his debt.

I am praying for you all, and hope the anguish of your bereavement passes, leaving you with only the most cherished memories of your father.

--Rob Cross

*"Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun."*

— William Shakespeare

Robert Donald Cross - July 12, 2025 at 11:39 PM

JR

“ James Rippy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred Burton English



James Rippy - July 12, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Alfred Burton English.

July 11, 2025 at 09:24 PM

RB

“ Ray Beatty lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred Burton English



Ray Beatty - July 11, 2025 at 05:50 PM