

# IN MEMORIAM: PDG Bob Callender 7 Jul 1935 – 27 Mar 2009

Lion Bob Callender of Ruidoso passed away on 27 March 2009 at Lincoln County Medical Center after a courageous battle with heart disease and cancer. He was born on 7 July 1935 in Wichita, KS. He served in the US Navy from 1952-1956 and Inactive Reserves 1956-1960 after which he attended North Texas University. From 1957-1977, he worked for the trucking equipment industry. In 1977 he started an insurance agency with Farmers Insurance Group in El Paso, TX. During this time, he resided in Horizon City where he served as a Fire Department volunteer (firefighter to Chief), Horizon City Alderman, El Paso County Water Authority Commissioner, Chair-person and Board member of the El Paso Central Appraisal District. He also was a Little League Coach and Scout Master. In 1997, he semi-retired and moved to Ruidoso, NM, in 2000.

Lion Bob married the "Love of his Life," Kitty Jelsovsky, on 18 October 2003 during the Oktoberfest in Ruidoso. He is survived by his wife, Kitty, and sons: Lance Callender, wife Paula of El Paso, TX; Eric Callender, his wife, Mary, of Oklahoma City, OK; and E.J. Thor, his fiancée, Michelle of New Hampshire; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Lion Bob joined Lions in November 1972 in Lancaster, TX. In 1974, he transferred to the Ysleta Lions in El Paso and then a year later to the Horizon City Lions. In 1994, he led the effort to charter a new Club, the Pride of El Paso County Lions Club where he was a member until 2000. In 2000, he joined the Ruidoso Noon Lions Club. During his 37 years as a Lion, Bob was Club President (6 terms), District Tail Twister (8 terms), Zone Chairman (4 terms), Region Chairman (2 terms). And Extension Chairman (3 terms). He was District 40S Governor 2004-05 and Multiple District 40 Chair 2007-08. In 2005, he and his wife, Kitty, led the effort to charter a new Club, the Capitan Smokey Bear Lions Club. Lion Bob had a sincere and exceptional passion for Lionism and its goal to try and make this world a better place for everyone. The extraordinary inspiration he was able to convey resulted in several new clubs being formed and a significant number of new Lions joining the ranks of the greatest service organization in the world.

A Celebration of Lion Bob's Life was held 4 April 2009 at the Ruidoso Convention Center which many Lions attended.



Lion Bob (2 yrs old)



Lion Bob (12 yrs old)



Lion Bob (circa 1970)



A good Tail Twister always "speaks softly and carries a big stick!"





Lions Bob and Kitty repeat their vows.



Everyone is asked to please quiet down so the wedding service can begin.



Lions Bob and Kitty at Ruidoso Noon Christmas party (2002)



2003 State Convention: (L-R) Lions Bob, Kitty, and DG Bill Davis.



Left: Lion Bob sitting on Santa's (PDG Lee Boyd Montgomery) lap during Moriarty Lions Kid's Toy Run (December 2007).



DG Bob presents Lion Gemma Ferguson with an awards (2005 State Convention).



IDs Maynard Rucks (L) and Don Reese (R) present the Melvin Jones Fellow Award to DG Bob at 2005 State Convention.



DG Bob (far left) marching in the 2004 International Parade.