

Bob Welby

Robert J. Welby

President of softball congress

Robert J. Welby, president of the International Softball Congress, died Thursday (Sept. 23, 1999) at his home in Florissant after suffering a heart attack. He was 70.

Mr. Welby was a driving force in the development of fast-pitch softball in the St. Louis area. He had been head of the International Softball Congress since 1995. Previously, he served as vice president of the congress's midwest region.

He also played fast-pitch softball with teams in north St. Louis County sponsored by Florissant Tire,

Deville Motors and Behlman Midwest Dealers. He also served as a basketball game official at area high schools and small colleges for more than 30 years.

In the mid-1970s, he was general manager and league executive of the St. Louis Browns' professional fast-pitch softball team. In 1991, he was inducted into the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame.

A lifelong resident of St. Louis, Mr. Welby graduated from the old McBride High School. He was president of the McBride Alumni Association and a member of its hall of fame.

Mr. Welby was a representative for 25 years with the Union Labor Life Insurance Co. He was a sales executive with the August Packaging Co. at his death.



Welby

Visitation will be from 2 to 10 p.m. Sunday at Hutchens Mortuary, 675 Graham Road, Florissant. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Florissant. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

Among the survivors are his wife of 48 years, JoAnne Welby; a daughter, Kathleen Sharp of Affton; four sons, Robert Welby Jr. of Chesterfield, Daniel Welby of Florissant, James Welby of St. Louis and Patrick Welby of Las Vegas; his mother, Verda Welby Kelsick of Florissant; a brother, Thomas Welby of Chesterfield; a sister, Mary Verda Murphy of Scottsdale, Ariz.; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.