

In the Spring of 1930, March 19th to be exact, the Great Depression was underway, the National Socialists were just beginning their rise in Germany, and drought was starting to cause “dust bowl” conditions in the southwestern US. But in contrast to some of the harsher realities of life at that time, a ray of sunshine appeared in Little Rock, Arkansas on that day...a child was born into the home of John and Lora Diffie. This couple loved the four girls they already had but were excited because this child was their first son. And he was simply called “Sonny Boy” for most of his growing up years. His actual name was, of course, Joe Thomas Diffie. The “Joe” was for his paternal grandfather, Joe Diffie, and the “Thomas” was for Thomas Gray, his maternal grandfather.

Sonny Boy was soon joined by twin sisters and, finally, a younger brother, and the household of John and Lora, was complete.

In May of 2026, 96 years after Joe Diffie came into the world, he left this temporary dwelling place here in the Shadowlands to step into his REAL home...his eternal home in heaven with his gracious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. There, he joined his beloved wife, Carolyn, and his youngest son, Kevin – who had preceded him on this journey just a little over a year earlier. He was also reunited with his mom and dad, and five of his siblings who were also there waiting for him...as well as many others who were surely in heaven due in part to Joe Diffie’s influence on their life.

Between 1930 and 2026, he lived a full, vibrant, inspiring, humble and consequential life dedicated to The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. And it was that dedication that made his life so consequential.

His influence as a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, brother, son, friend, teacher, mentor, doctor, and man of God cannot be measured. He taught various Sunday School classes, held Bible studies in prisons, took Sunday School classes on mission trips, and led several medical missions on his own to Guatemala, St. Lucia, India, and Cameroon, Africa. And all while remaining a great Dad and dedicated family man. He was also a voracious reader, and he passed that passion on to his kids, as well.

After his preparatory schooling in Little Rock, he went on to college at Bethany Nazarene College in Bethany, Oklahoma where he met his lovely bride, Carolyn. They married in 1952, after which Joe and Carolyn made their way back to Arkansas where Joe graduated from the University of Arkansas Medical School. From there it was on to an Internship in Kansas City, Missouri, a two-year stint as a Flight Surgeon in the Air Force in Texas and California, and finally to Colorado Springs, Colorado where he set up a General Practice as a family doctor.

By the time they reached Colorado Springs in 1961, Joe and Carolyn had four children – one girl and three boys. A few years later they added one more girl and one more boy to the family. By then, though, Dr. Diffie had been asked to join the Radiology group that practiced out of Penrose Hospital, and he remained in that group for the rest of his medical career.

In 1966, the family of eight moved from Colorado Springs up Ute Pass to the little mountain town of Woodland Park, where they enjoyed life on a few acres in the mountains, and where all of his kids finished their elementary, junior high and high school years. Joe served as the president of the school board in Woodland Park for a number of years (he handed several of us kids our diplomas when we graduated high school!). He also served on the church board of Colorado Springs First Church of the Nazarene, where the family attended for many years, and on the elder board of First Presbyterian Church when he and Carolyn began attending there in the 1990's. He was also a founding member on the board of Voice of the Truth, a Christian ministry to Arab people worldwide, based in Colorado Springs. He remained active in that organization for over 50 years.

After retirement, Joe and Carolyn moved to enjoy a quieter life "on the lake" in Branson, Missouri, and then Heber Springs, Arkansas – places in which they had enjoyed vacationing over the years. But even there, Joe stayed involved in church work, prison ministries, and missions.

They stayed in Heber Springs until 2015 when Joe lost his dear wife to cancer. At that point, he moved back to Colorado Springs where he enjoyed a few years in a house with his youngest daughter, Karen, in the "Old North End" – a place he'd always wanted to live. He then spent his last five years under the wonderful and extraordinary care of his oldest daughter, Janice, and her husband, Patrick. Joe lived with Janice and Pat in their house in Colorado Springs, and that's where he was when he breathed his last. He had developed congestive heart failure and aortic stenosis during his last years, and that strong, generous, humble heart finally gave out on May 26th, 2026. He stepped beyond the veil into heaven, and is rejoicing with his Lord right this minute.

Joe Thomas Diffie is survived by one sibling, Robbie Campbell of Oklahoma City; his daughter, Janice McCredie and her husband, Pat (and their three children and four grandchildren); son, Tom and his wife, Denise (with their three children and ten grandchildren); son, Ron and his wife, Vicky (and their three children and one grandchild); son, Gary and his wife, Julie (with their three children and four grandchildren); daughter, Karen (and her two children and one grandchild); and three children of his deceased son, Kevin.

Altogether, Joe had six children, seventeen grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren.

He will be so greatly missed by all who knew him.