

Bruce Howerton

December 15, 1948 - June 26, 1998

O.B. "Bruce" Howerton, 49, Joplin, died at 1 a.m. Friday, June 26, 1998, in a one-car accident near Holiday Island, Arkansas.

Mr. Howerton was born Dec. 15, 1948, in Joplin, and was a lifetime resident. He graduated from Joplin High School in 1966 and was a longtime area businessman.

He owned and operated the former Howerton Asphalt and Insulation Co. and the former Howerton Building Supply. He currently owned and operated Smith's Floor Store, Joplin. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam war. He was a member of the Joplin Business Club and Joplin Elks Lodge No. 501.

He married Rita Ball on Feb. 11, 1995, at Las Vegas, Nevada. She survives.

Additional survivors include a son, Danny Howerton, Joplin, a daughter, Elizabeth Howerton, Kansas City, Mo.; a stepson, Jason Mulkey, Joplin, a stepdaughter, Jill Mulkey, Joplin; his mother, Helen Howerton, Saginaw; a brother, Paul Howerton, Kansas City; a sister, Sally Nichols, Joplin, and a granddaughter.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at First Gospel Workers' Church, Joplin, with the Rev. Philip Erwin officiating. The body will be cremated.

The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. at Parker Mortuary.

Published in the Joplin Globe, June 28, 1998