



## Phillip (Phil) C. Harbinson

November 22, 1943 - October 5, 2019

Mr. Phillip (Phil) C. Harbinson, 75, of Salisbury, NC passed away Saturday, October 5 at Genesis Healthcare.

Phil was born November 22, 1943 to the late Rev. Cline Harbinson and Mrs. Madeline Campbell Harbinson. Phil was a member of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Salisbury. Being a lifelong Miami Dolphins and LA Dodgers fan, he was accustomed to having a broken heart when it comes to sports. That turned around when he became a coach for East Rowan High School. Being head baseball coach from 1968-1985, Phil had 256 wins and 60 losses, with not a single loss at a home game. He also led his teams to 3 state championship wins. Phil was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and coach. Because Phil despised fruits, vegetables, chicken, and anything remotely healthy, it was a shock to the family that the dementia was what took him from them.

In addition to his parents, Phil is preceded in death by his son Josh P Harbinson & his Lily-dog.

Survivors include: his wife of 44 years, Angie Henderson Harbinson, son Joe Harbinson (fiancé Jamie) of Salisbury, MD and their children Jacob, Jamison, & Jenna, son Jonathan Harbinson (wife Amanda) of Salisbury, NC and their children Cole, Bryce, & Adyson. Along with his brothers Joel Harbinson of Hickory, Mark Harbinson of Taylorsville; sister, Dr. Jane Teague of Taylorsville & his nephews.

Visitation for Phil will be Saturday, October 12 at 12pm at Mount Tabor UMC

with a celebration of life following at 1pm conducted by the Rev. Kris Mares.

Burial will follow at Rowan Memorial Park.

Summersett Funeral Home is assisting the Harbinson family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Rowan Memorial Park**

4125 Franklin Comm Center Rd  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
(704) 636-8751

# Tribute Wall

CP

“*Tonight I light a candle in memory of a dear friend and in honor of his beloved Los Angeles Dodgers as they take on my beloved New York Yankees. The only thing that could make this better is you and I talking baseball and soaking this moment in. There is no resting in peace tonight, Coach.*



---

**Christopher Patterson** - October 25, 2024 at 07:43 PM

RW

“*Ronda Waynick lit a candle in memory of Phillip (Phil) Harbinson*



---

**Ronda Waynick** - August 16, 2023 at 01:48 PM

RW

“*Coach Harb was a wonderful person. Seeing this brought me to tears. He was and always will be loved especially by all of us from East Rowan H.S.*

---

**Ronda Waynick** - August 16, 2023 at 01:47 PM

DE

“ I had the privilege of playing football with Phil at old Taylorsville High in 1961 and at Lenior-Rhyne in 1964. Phil was small in stature but had a big heart and was very competitive. I have a lot of great memories of his courage on the football field. I want to offer my sympathy in your loss. God Bless you the family. May he rest in Peace.

David Elder - October 14, 2019 at 04:32 PM

CR

“ Chuck Rabon lit a candle in memory of Phillip (Phil) C. Harbinson



Chuck Rabon - October 12, 2019 at 07:30 PM

SH

“ I will miss seeing Coach Harb at Gas and Go. It was a pleasure knowing him through the years. My son Dean played baseball for him at East Rowan in the late 70's and early 80's. He inspired my love for the game of baseball and set a mark of excellence for his teams that have yet to be challenged. Great Coach, Great Man. We are all better people for knowing Coach Phil Harbinson!! Rest in peace!!!!



Thoughts and prayers are with the family!!  
Sylvia Hoffner

Sylvia Hoffner - October 12, 2019 at 11:10 AM



“ *Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Phillip (Phil) C. Harbinson.*



October 11, 2019 at 06:42 AM



“ *Wonderful coach, who tried to get the best out of you as a student player. Got to know him better through my Dad's work with him as an adult. Lots of baseball memories from Grante Quarry days and as his newspaper boy. We will miss his personality.*

**Greg Peeler** - October 10, 2019 at 09:06 PM



*Deepest sympathy for the loss of Coach Harb. He touched so many people and guided so many young people to be the best they could be. He was a great teacher & coach!! Will miss his sweet spirit and kind smile. C M Yates*

**C M Yates** - October 15, 2019 at 11:04 AM



“ *Coach ALWAYS had a SMILE on his face every time I saw him when I was at School at Erwin. {Years ago} Taught me how to drive in Driver's Ed.. I love you Coach Harb, and will ALWAYS Until we meet again..Prayers upon the Family as well. Jesus said, " Blessed are the one's who mourn, for they shall be Comforted". We love you Phil..{Coach}*  
*Susan Lowman & Family*



**Susan Lowman** - October 10, 2019 at 08:13 PM

KF

“ What a pleasure to be a student of the "BEST" driver's education teacher ever! He was such a kind soul and will always be remembered for his sense of humor and caring ways of all his students. I will always remember the many driving lessons he taught for years to come. Heaven has gained another angel!

---

**Kendra Fulbright** - October 10, 2019 at 10:56 AM

RK

“ One of my best childhood friends along with his brother Mark and neighbor Larry Hollar. . Phil was a big time Brooklyn Dodgers and Lenoir Rhyne Bears football fan. Many memories from the 1950's until his family moved from Springs Road in Hickory to Bethlehem in Alexander County. Backyard baseball and football games nearly everyday. We all had to be a major league baseball player back then. Phil was usually Pee Wee Reese in baseball and Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice in football. Saw my first TV program at the Harbinson's house. After watching Davy Crockett and our parents buying us a "Coonskin Cap", we chopped down trees in the woods behind our houses and built a log cabin complete with a bunk bed. Our parents found out and stopped us before we could complete the roof. The trees and the cabin were on land that belonged to another neighbor. A "Dutch Oven" in his back yard served as a stagecoach which we protected from all the "robbers" trying to steal the strong box full of money. Had our own club complete with WWII army surplus canteens, mess kits, and helmet liners. Shared chicken pox. Flying kites. Rode bicycles and his horse "Mike". Hit rocks with a large stick. Stayed outside playing until our parents called us in at dark. Every day was an adventure. Phil was blessed with exceptional and loving parents and siblings. The apple didn't fall far from the tree. Tears in my eyes.

Ron Killian

---

**Ronald (Ron) S. Killian** - October 09, 2019 at 07:46 PM

RM

“ Coach met me at Stop N Go when my grandson, Patrick Snider, was battling cancer in 2010. My being a native of Granite Quarry, now living in Lawrenceburg, Ky. , he became a close friend and mentor during Patrick's illness. After Patrick's death we remained friends and spoke often on the phone and at the Stop N Go when I visit my children in Salisbury. What a wonderful man and friend.  
*Deepest Sympathy*  
*Ron McCulloh*

---

**Ronald McCulloh** - October 09, 2019 at 06:49 PM

PH

*Loved to talk baseball with Coach Harv. His passion for the game and for his ex-players was unmatched.*

---

**Phil Holshouser** - October 11, 2019 at 05:24 PM

RM

“ Coach became a dear friend when my grandson, Patrick Snider, became ill with cancer . I met coach at Stop N Go. Me being from Granite Quarry, now living in Lawrenceburg Ky, he became my confidant during Patrick's illness. After Patrick's death nine years ago, we stayed in touch , meeting at Stop N Go and via phone. What a kind and thoughtful man he was. So very sorry for the family, I will dearly miss him  
*Ron McCulloh*  
*Lawrenceburg, Ky. 40342*

---

**Ron McCulloh** - October 09, 2019 at 05:36 PM

DM

“ He was a great man and mentor to many. First day of of drivers ed, he told us if we brought in coupons for a free can of Skoal, we would pass with no problem. He did allot for Granite Quarry and the surrounding communities. He will be missed by many...

---

**Dana McClanahan** - October 09, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ *Coach Harb was a beloved coach and drivers ed teacher. He made every student feel special. He will be greatly missed by all! Prayers and condolences to the family.*

*Dana Eddleman Hartman*

---

**Dana Hartman** - October 09, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ *The first day of drivers ed with Coach was one we likely will all never forget... the day where he would open the trunk and pull out a helmet and strap it on in case you crashed...*

---

**jacob ridenhour** - October 09, 2019 at 12:19 AM



*Mr. Phil COACH. He was such a sweet man. The best driver's Ed. Teacher. And of course the very best EAST ROWAN COACH. SO SORRY FOR Y'ALL LOSS. HE WILL GREATLY BE MISSED*

---

**Debbie Peeples Benson** - October 09, 2019 at 01:45 PM

RI

“ Coach Harb was the best drivers Ed teacher I personally knew because he taught me Rick Wells and Beth Wright and Sue Kiker how to drive remember when Sue asked coach Harb about her socks when she put her leg on the back seat of drivers Ed car seat asking coach Harb what he thought about her cute socks while I was driving drivers Ed car with coach Harb beside me in front seat. Coach Harb asked me to get on highway I 85 Southbound and to go a little over speed limit and then proceed to speed limit because he was nervous about two girls in the car with us if you know what I mean . But seriously Coach Harb will be missed by all who knew him and his stellar drivers Ed teaching for the many students at East Rowan High School and all students past and present who knew him and his family who all loved him.

---

**Rick** - October 08, 2019 at 10:51 PM

CS

“ Harb was the second person I met when I came to East Rowan to do my student teaching. After talking to him, I was given the opportunity to help him coach baseball. That was 1970. That group won two Western North Carolina State Championships. We beat Shelby 2-1. After that game, some kid threw a brick through the activity bus window. Harb jumped off the bus and chased the kid over a mile, and about 30 minutes later he returned with the kid in tow. Harb and I spent many hours together. He was a groomsman in Linda and my wedding. We went to eat fish with our Westar Group on Sunday nights. We spent many hours working at the apartments, and much more time together at the baseball field. He was one of my best friends. I came to see him twice when he was sick. At his house, we talked about old times, and we looked at the articles he collected about the championships. I visited him on the Tuesday before his passing. I sat on a knee, holding his hand and thanking him for being my friend and teacher. I hugged him knowing it might be the last time I would see my friend here on Earth. And, it was. I shall never forget my mentor, colleague, and great friend.  
Chuck

---

**Chuck Stanley** - October 08, 2019 at 04:14 PM

GW

“ Coach and I always enjoyed entertaining school children and Senior Citizens with our Andy Griffith characters.....he was the Ernest T. Bass and I was Barney.  
Prayers for the family during this time.  
Gloria Wilhelm  
Faith NC

---

**Gloria Wilhelm** - October 08, 2019 at 03:19 PM

TE

“ I had Coach Harb back in the day for Drivers Ed. Pretty sure my older brother did as well. After he retired, I would see him at Gas & Go (where ALL local Retirees hang out) on a regular basis; being that my shop was in Granite. Mr Harbinson was ALWAYS so nice to me. Not just to me, to anyone that he talked with. I would see the lovely Mrs Harbinson by his side. They both would have a smile on their face. I know nothing of their personal life, I would bet to say they were truly in love FOREVER & ALWAYS. You could just tell. You could see it in their faces & in their smiles. I don't know of anyone that would speak a harsh word about him. Mr Harbinson will FOREVER & ALWAYS be remembered as a piece of East Rowan High School ~ The Imagine of a man that was always smiling & always GOOD TO SEE YOU, will for ever remain in my mind & my memory. To Jonathan, my Brother In Christ & Friend, I can not fathom the pain & loss that you are experiencing. Please know that you have an entire city, an entire county & more, praying for you & your family. For God to comfort your heart & your souls, like only HE can. They say time heals everything; yet I cant imagine that it will heal the loss of a parent. My heart aches for you & for your family. May God Continually To Richly Bless All Of You & Hold You Close As HE Is Your Heavenly Father..... of whom one day, will bring His children together again. To sing, to praise, & to worship His Holiness. With All Of My Love, My Wishes & My Prayers Be With You All. Love 💜💜💜 Your Friend & Brother In Christ. Todd Eller

Todd Eller - October 08, 2019 at 12:43 PM



Christy  
Gilbeau

Absolutely beautiful words for a truly amazing man. Him and his warm smile will definitely be missed by so many! RIP Coach Harb ❤️

Christy Gilbeau - October 08, 2019 at 10:04 PM

WN

“ Coach taught me how to change a flat tire, a skill that I have USED & passed on many times. He only had to slam on his passenger side brakes one time while i was driving.....a Cadillac was sticking pretty far out from its parking space in front of Bernhardt's Hardware. He was kind as a teacher, but left the lessons with you. The gentle tap of his wooden ruler on my hands to remind me of where they were supposed to be on the steering wheel, & covering the rear view mirror and asking what was behind me have kept me safe so many times over the years. I can't remember ever seeing him that he didn't smile at me, and at everyone else around. It must have been hell for him, Angie, AND the rest of the family when they lost their son. To all of you, I'm sure you loved Coach Harb more than any of us ever could, and I sincerely hope that as time passes you will find the Peace that passes all human understanding through memories of him, and the hope of life everlasting. Love and peace to every member of his family, Wanda Pierce Nesbitt

---

**Wanda Pierce Nesbitt** - October 08, 2019 at 12:32 PM

SB

“ We will miss Phil so much. He was such a good friend to us. I am thankful of him because he came and helped Ed bury our beloved Tubby dog. There r so many stories to tell but will have so many memories. Rest In Peace!

---

**sandy bowles** - October 08, 2019 at 11:00 AM

DS

“Loved old Coach everytime I saw him he was happy and would get you in a better mood before you parted company he was the type of man who did not mind telling you he loved you and your friendship and always hoped for the best in your life he was my drivers education teacher had a good time with him and the others in our car and class he even gave myself and a friend a UFO that he made from the newspaper print blanks and we would set it up in a field with road fleers under it so it would glow and mess with folks driving by had a lot of fun with the man the world sure lost a kind and good man in him I am sure he will be missed by many at the gas gobble and go his hot spot for the bull sessions in the mornings may god be with you and the family in your time of loss and know that heaven sure gained a good one and the promise that one day we will be with him again if we are saved and have jesus in our hearts

DEREK SIFFORD - October 07, 2019 at 11:44 PM

HR

Phil was my first cousin. Because he was older , he was assigned to supervise me on every trip to Mads. He never complained ,he made everything fun. Phil would go the extra mile to make me happy. I loved him so.

helen roberts - October 11, 2019 at 06:10 AM

DR

He was a fine man and a great coach. He had nerves of steel, that's what it takes to be a good drivers ed. teacher. Never saw him get upset. He would call me mr. Kimbell, the character from Green Acres. I'm sure all students he taught had fond memories too. He Would have a smile for each and everyone he met. Coach, you will be missed. May God bless your family for they were part of a wonderful man. RIP Coach, we will always remember you. Your friend, Mater

David Remeta - November 04, 2019 at 12:40 AM