



## Ralph Elton Shatterly

January 2, 2023

Ralph Elton Shatterly, accomplished raconteur, sports aficionado, tomato cultivator, prolific historian or just plain Pop, died on Monday, January 2, 2023 at home after a brief illness. He was 83 years old.

Pop grew up in the tiny town of Yanceyville, NC where he graduated from Bartlett Yancey High School in 1958. Yanceyville embraced a rural lifestyle where hunting, fishing, and camping were common pastimes. Such a close knit community, it was no surprise that most of the 43 seniors in his graduating class went on to college and had successful careers.

After graduating from Appalachian State Teacher's College in 1963, Pop taught P.E. and Social Studies at North Rowan High School. He was also excited to coach football, track, and initiate their first wrestling program. As he tells it, the first match "was a real horror story. I was finishing up football and trying to get wrestling started at the same time. We had no mats so we practiced on the bermuda grass behind the goalpost on the football field. In fact, the mat came in on Wednesday afternoon and we didn't even have time to get the curl out of the mat before our first match. The Kannapolis Wonders came strutting in and I'd like to say we gave them a scare or that we had a moral victory. They beat us like a tied up goat. 53-0. At least nobody was seriously injured."

From such humble beginnings, he went on to coach Western North Carolina High School Activities Association champs in 1968 and 1969. He also coached conference championship teams over four decades. Even though wrestling was his favorite sport to coach, he served as Athletic Director for both North and West Rowan High Schools, coached several track champions and assisted on multiple great football teams. Culminating his exemplary career, he was inducted into the high school division of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Rowan County Sports Hall of Fame, and the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association's Hall of Fame. He was especially honored to be the namesake for the Ralph Shatterly Award that honors outstanding Rowan County Schools wrestling coaches.

Pop's story wouldn't be complete without mentioning his loving bride of 54 years, Sharon. It was at the old Beattie's restaurant in downtown Salisbury that Pop finally got the courage to invite the young Home Economics teacher from West Rowan to sit at his table. Married in July of 1968, it was absolutely required that the nuptials take place before two-a-day football practice began.

Starting in 1970 came the first of their four children together, Julie, Jill (1972), Jake (1974), and John (1976). Just like their Mom, they worshiped at the altar of sports with homemade bags of popcorn & kool-aid in canning jars for fall football night snacks, fresh baths and footie pajamas for winter wrestling nights, and finally painful splinters from the old wooden stadium seats at North Rowan track meets in the spring.

Pop appreciated many of the finer things in life: Hap's hot dogs, John Wayne, Hendrix barbecue, watching pro golf, chocolate covered peanuts, family visits to Sunset Beach, tomato sandwiches with Duke's mayonnaise, the smell of a freshly mowed football field, pecan pie, Bear Bryant, and Legion baseball games.

Pop was a member of Milford Hills United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents Pearl and Ralph Shatterly and a sister, Carolyn Shatterly.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Sharon; sons, Jake and John; daughters, Julie (Lee Tuttle) and Jill (Stephen Hartzell); brother, David Shatterly; and grandchildren, Noah and Eiley Hartzell-Jordan, Amelia May and Chris Tuttle, Luke Shatterly and Sophie Hartzell.

The family will receive friends 2-4 p.m. Sunday (January 8th) at Summersett Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to North Rowan High School Athletics or West Rowan High School Athletics.

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home  
1315 W. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
(704) 633-2111  
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Didn't know Ralph, but am a good friend of his brother David. We also attended ASU. and graduated together. What an outstanding athletic coaching and administration career he had.*

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**Bill Sposato** - January 12, 2023 at 09:09 PM

BW

“ *Bob Wood lit a candle in memory of Ralph Shatterly*



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**Bob Wood** - January 07, 2023 at 03:01 PM

JB

“ *Coach was one of the best! He treated both Chip and me like we were his sons. We will never forget the impact he had on our lives. He set a great example of how to be a man and a good coach! God bless his wife and kids!*

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**Jim W Baker** - January 07, 2023 at 11:16 AM

PC

“ *Ralph was such a dear friend of my parents, Bill and Georgia Niven. His visits were really something to look forward to. We had many laughs and memories of the days gone by in Caswell County. He was loved and cherished by so many people - what a treasure! Prayers go out to your dear family and many friends.*

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**Pat Niven Crowell** - January 07, 2023 at 09:15 AM

SE

“*Mr. Shatterly was a wonderful teacher. I had him for U.S. history and my homeroom teacher. He instilled in me a love of history. He had just started at North Rowan. He had a beautiful Firebird convertible. We would wait outside for Mr. Shatterly to drive up to school. The girls had a crush on him, and the guys had a crush on his car. My prayers are with his family. Susan Everhart, NRHS class of 69.*

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**Susan Everhart** - January 06, 2023 at 11:04 AM

BW

*My prayers are with you Sharon and the rest of your family at this difficult time. Ralph Shatterly was an awesome and outstanding teacher and coach! He made a positive impression on everyone. His personality and wisdom influenced many students, educators and others. He made a big difference in many lives. He was a mentor and friend to many people. Ralph loved his family, was a Christian and loved helping others. It was an honor to me to have known and worked with Ralph Shatterly and to have known his loving family all these years.*

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**Bob Wood** - January 07, 2023 at 03:16 PM

S6

“*Mr. Shatterly was a wonderful teacher! I had him for U.S. history and he was also my homeroom teacher. He instilled in me a love of history. He had just started teaching a North. He had a beautiful Firebird convertible. We would stand outside waiting for Mr. Shatterly to drive up. The girls had a crush on him, and the guys had a crush on his car. My prayers are with his family.*

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**Susan Everhart, class of 69** - January 06, 2023 at 09:53 AM

LH

“ What a great person he was he was always had a fun personality & friendly.. Everyone liked him & thought so much of him & respected him as, coach & teacher. He married my Home Ecomic teacher & they were so sweet together.Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Linda & Derby Holshouser - January 06, 2023 at 12:35 AM

PI

“ Today my heart is breaking for the lost of a great Coach. Coach taught me as much about life as he did wrestling . What I learned from him has carried me all through life . What he taught me in wrestling took me all the way to the 1973 WNCHSAA Champion . Coach will always be in my heart. Rest in peace. Coach



Philip. " Pickle " Isley - January 05, 2023 at 10:16 PM

TM

“ SHARON, I was so sorry to hear of your loss of your husband. I did not know him but I remember you from subbing at East Rowan together. I lost my husband this past May so I can relate. I now live in Florida but I will be Keeping you & your family in my prayers & will be thinking of you.

Thresia(Terri) Morgan

Thresia Morgan - January 05, 2023 at 09:55 PM

SE

“ I played football and wrestle for Coach Shatterly at North. He was a great teacher, coach and family man. I can still see him with his very young sons teaching them to wrestle and taking them swimming at Forest Dale. He will be missed, thoughts and prayers to his family.

Scott Eagle - January 05, 2023 at 03:09 PM

TH

“ Tony Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Ralph Shatterly



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**Tony Dean Hamilton** - January 05, 2023 at 02:55 PM

HC

“ Your loved one will be missed. He was a great inspiration to me. I often called him for advice when I coached wrestling. I remember him being inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. May God smile upon you during this time. Be blessed.

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**Howard Cowan** - January 05, 2023 at 02:44 PM

TH

“ Mr. Shatterly was my favorite teacher at NRHS. He inspired me to go see the world when he would break away from teaching and share his hitching hiking across the USA. "Read, write, and recite" was his guide to teaching us. I still use it today. He had a great personality and was a very successful coach. J.E.S.T Class of 1969 salutes you Sir.

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**Tony Dean Hamilton** - January 05, 2023 at 02:18 PM

RB

“ It is saddening to hear of Ralph's passing. I know you were very proud of his accomplishments. We were classmates together, lived not far apart, our parents worked together, we played together. I remember that he worked at the grocery store and I worked in tobacco. We lost contact when we went away to college and with our careers. We briefly reconnected at class reunions. Again, I am saddened by this news and extend my sympathy to you at this time.

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**Rainey Burch** - January 05, 2023 at 09:40 AM

BR

“ *Second only to my dad, Coach Shatterly stands as the one making the most positive impact in my life.*

*In wrestling, he promised to do his best to put our team in the position to win. That meant long strenuous practices, focused on repetitive drills preparing each wrestler to defeat his opponent. Only once did I let the Coach down. That was when I lost to the defending champ from Statesville during a dual meet at North Rowan.*

*But when I met the same wrestler in the tournament finals the same year, I beat him by the same score he had defeated me by. And, at the end of the tournament, I was awarded the “Most Outstanding”; but the true “Most Outstanding” was and will be forever, Coach Shatterly. During the wrestling seasons of 1968 and 1969 the Coach could arguably be credited for building and leading the best state team at North.*

*A man of his word who had a genuine care for the athletes entrusted to him. He and his family will always be in our prayers and dept.*

*Bo Russell*

*LtCol (Retired)USMC*

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**BO RUSSELL** - January 05, 2023 at 07:14 AM

TH

*You're right Bo he was an inspiration. He could dress you down when needed but very generous with encouragement when you deserved it. His stories of hitchhiking was one the reasons I joined the military. I crossed the Big Pond 4 times and have stepped in all 50 states. I hope he knew how much he was respected and loved. TH*

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**Tony Dean Hamilton** - January 05, 2023 at 02:32 PM

T'

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Coach Shatterly. Remembering his family in our prayers. The obituary was written as a wonderful tribute and story to a great man and Coach!💛💚



Teresa Bringle Jackson '85 - January 04, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph Elton Shatterly.



January 04, 2023 at 07:22 PM

NL

“ Nancy Linn lit a candle in memory of Ralph Shatterly



Nancy Linn - January 04, 2023 at 06:34 PM

NL

“ So sorry for your loss! Ralph was my history teacher at North Rowan High School. He was Athletic Director at West Rowan . I taught his son .. Jake. He was a wonderful person and so kind to so many people . Love and Hugs to his family!❤️

Nancy Linn - January 04, 2023 at 06:33 PM

JS

*Thank you Mrs. Linn*

**Jake Shatterly** - January 05, 2023 at 11:24 AM

CM

“ *Sharon, David and family,  
We're so sorry to hear of your loss. Had no idea Ralph was ill. He graduated with me from Bartlett Yancey High School, we both went to Appalachian and he was an usher in our wedding!! He would often stop by our home in Thomasville on his way to visit his mom. We would talk about old times and he kept me informed about Yanceyville news! He was a great friend and I'll miss him. Prayers for all the family.  
Carroll and Linda Meadows*

**Carroll and Linda Meadows** - January 04, 2023 at 06:06 PM

MR

*A father figure to many, a fair man, was my DB coach 73, 74 . Gave me my first start . Our condolences 🙏 to the family. RIP 🙏.*

**Mason Reddick** - January 05, 2023 at 12:07 PM

PH

“ *Phyllis and Karin Hartzell purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ralph Elton Shatterly.*



**Phyllis and Karin Hartzell** - January 04, 2023 at 05:45 PM

EC

“ *Mr. Shatterly was an outstanding teacher, coach and for me advisor. His encouragement and guidance greatly influenced my decision to attend Appalachian State and to major in teacher education. He impacted so many students in Rowan County Schools in a very positive way. His humor, infectious smile and leadership will be missed. Rest in Peace Coach Shatterly*

Ed Curlee - January 04, 2023 at 04:52 PM

MB

“ *I was very saddened to hear of Coach Shatterly's passing. I had known him since I was a child as he and my Daddy taught and coached together. He was a fine man and will be sorely missed by many. Mary Ellen Barger*

Mary Ellen Barger - January 04, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ralph Elton Shatterly.*



January 04, 2023 at 02:14 PM

SB

“ *Sympathy to the family! He was a great coach. Ed always considered him a great friend. His legend will continue. He influenced many young people and that will continue! Prayers!*

sandra Bowles - January 04, 2023 at 01:07 PM

DW

“ *Mrs. Shatterly, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. My dad thought the world of you and your husband.*  
*Dee Hogue - Woodie*

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**Dee Hogue Woodie** - January 04, 2023 at 11:31 AM

BM

*Sharon and family,  
Please accept my sincere sympathy for you in your sorrow. You are all in my prayers. Ralph left us with wonderful memories. May he rest in peace.*

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**Brenda B. morris** - January 06, 2023 at 07:47 AM

TB

*Thanks to a TRULY GREAT MAN and Prayers of Comfort for his Family and MANY Friends!!*

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**Tommy Burnsides** - January 08, 2023 at 06:55 PM