



## Mr. Robert "Bob" Russell Greenland

August 17, 1925 - July 28, 2016

Mr. Robert (Bob) Russell Greenland, 90 of Salisbury died on July 28, 2016. He had been in declining health for the last three weeks. Mr. Greenland was born on August 17, 1925 in Bellwood, Pennsylvania to the late Robert Brooks and Irene Love Greenland. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty years, Mary Ann Sturkey Greenland and by a brother, William (Bill) Wilson Greenland of Salisbury.

Mr. Greenland graduated from Bellwood-Antis High School, Bellwood, PA in 1943 and following in the footsteps of his father, he promptly enlisted in the U. S. Army where he served in the Air Corps with the 50th Troop Carrier Squadron, 314th Troop Carrier Group. After receiving his initial training at Keesler Field, MS, Mr. Greenland participated in numerous training programs throughout the country in route to becoming a certified radar technician and going overseas to install the new "GEE sets" technology on C-47 aircraft – British radar position finding devices introduced to World War II in 1944. Mr. Greenland served at Saltby Field, Leicestershire, England; Poix, France; and Bod Soden, Frankfurt, Germany.

After WWII, Mr. Greenland enrolled at Catawba College in 1946 and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1949. With more eligibility remaining with his G.I. bill funding, Mr. Greenland returned to Pennsylvania and completed a Master of Arts Degree in English at

Pennsylvania State University. In 1950, Mr. Greenland returned to his beloved North Carolina and following in the footsteps of his mother, who was a teacher, he immediately went to work with the Salisbury City Schools where his beginning primary role was to serve as an English teacher. Mr. Greenland also taught French and later completed additional graduate studies to fill a new requirement to be a Guidance Counselor at Boyden/Salisbury High School.

Mr. Greenland met and married his “sweetheart”, Mary Ann Sturkey on December 19, 1954. They met while singing together in the choir at First Methodist Church – a great American story! Shortly thereafter, they started a family together in Salisbury.

After spending 40 years as a devoted and dedicated educator, Mr. Greenland retired in 1990. He was member of the Men’s Golden Rule Sunday School Class, First United Methodist Church, Salisbury. As an avid history buff, he was a member of the North Carolina Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and he was also a proud, 47-year member of Harold B. Jarrett Post #342, American Legion, Salisbury.

Mr. Greenland’s military decorations include the American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (Bronze Star in lieu of 2nd award); and World War II Victory Medal. His squadron received the Presidential Unit Citation.

In sum, Mr. Greenland dearly loved his family, he loved his church, he loved his friends, and he loved his students. Nothing gave him more pleasure nor served to uplift him more on a daily basis than to see and talk to his former students.

Mr. Greenland is survived by three sisters-in-law, Mrs. Eloise Sturkey of

Jupiter, FL; Mrs. Margaret Chandler of Oak Ridge, TN; and Mrs. Bonnie Sturkey of Charlotte, NC; three sons, Robert Russell (Rusty) Greenland of San Antonio, TX; Benjamin Lawrence Greenland (Anita) of Greensboro, NC; and Bruce Edward Greenland of Woodbridge, VA; a niece, Anne Greenland Kennedy of Winston-Salem, NC; a nephew, John Harvey Greenland of China Grove, NC; and two wonderful grandchildren, Rachel Ann Greenland and Joseph Robert Greenland of Greensboro, NC.

The family would like to express a profound debt of heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of the dedicated professionals on Mr. Greenland's healthcare team within the Reminiscence Care Unit at Brighton Gardens of Greensboro, NC and Hospice of the Piedmont.

Visitation: The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 on Thursday, 4 August 2016 at Summersett Funeral Home in Salisbury, NC.

Service: A funeral service will be held at 11:00 on Friday, 5 August 2016 at First United Methodist Church, Salisbury, NC conducted by the Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti and the Rev. Stephen Haines. Burial will follow in Chestnut Hill Cemetery with Military Honors by the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, First United Methodist Church, Attn: New Building Fund, 217 S. Church St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Chestnut Hill Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

AUG 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
217 S. Church St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ I think of Bob and Mary Ann on Sunday mornings at FUMC. Bob and Mary Ann were such a joy to talk with on Sunday mornings, always positive and adding humor to our everyday lives. Lovely, and gracious is how I will remember them both always!!  
Jean Watts

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**Jean Watts** - August 22, 2016 at 09:50 AM

VB

“ Rusty, Ben and Bruce - I was so sorry to hear the sad news about your Dad. He was a wonderful man and made so many valuable contributions to his country, his town and his church. Both your Dad and Mom were terrific people and my parents shared so many happy times with them. I'll be thinking about all of you during this difficult time.  
Vicki Helms Butler, Hiawassee, GA

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**Vicki Helms Butler** - August 05, 2016 at 04:28 PM

DS

“ Sorry about your father, Ben, Rusty, Bruce love you'll. The Danny Searce family

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**danny searce** - August 04, 2016 at 01:12 PM

CA

“ Some of my most cherished memories of growing up in Salisbury are of the Greenland family. The love between Mr and Mrs. Greenland eternal.

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**carol** - August 01, 2016 at 11:01 PM

Diane  
Liscum

“ Rusty,

*Sending my prayers and condolences for today and the days ahead as you deal with your loss. You are a reflection of the kind and honorable man that your Father was.*

*God bless you and your family,  
Diane Porter Liscum*

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**Diane Liscum** - August 01, 2016 at 09:35 AM

BZ

“ Rusty, Ben and Bruce...what a legacy your dad has left. He lived a good life, married his sweetheart and brought up three boys to be wonderful men in their own right. And along the way that family shared him daily as he helped the countless young people that he encountered in his career. My memories of him are so special.....living across the street on Ellis. We moved there soon after my own dad had died. He was such a strong support for me. I remember late afternoons sipping tea on the porch. He had such a great laugh! You have heard it before, but one of my favorite stories was when I needed a man's white shirt for something at Knox.....and I did not have access to one....he came over with one for me. He taught my mom is first year at BHS/SHS and then me in the 1970's. I was able to renew my friendship with them when they moved to TO and were right across the hall from a family member! I will always be grateful for the example he (and your mom) set. All of you will be in my thoughts and prayers in the days to come.....you and your families were your parents' pride and joy. love  
Brenda M. Zimmerman  
(also class of 1972)

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**bee zimmerman** - August 01, 2016 at 08:36 AM

BP

*I recall Bob as a kindred friend and teacher who brought a Yankee sense of humor to what could be an up-tight southern society. Salisbury High was made more progressive and warm-hearted by his presence. Too many of our generation have slipped away and we miss them all... Bob will especially be missed. You have our love and prayers ! Bob Patton*

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**Bob Patton** - October 12, 2017 at 07:30 PM

GC

“ *What a wonderful man who devoted much of his life to public education. Thank you Mr. Greenland for your guidance and direction. You positively touched the lives of many people.*

*Gordon Correll, BHS class of 1968*

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**Gordon Correll** - July 31, 2016 at 02:04 PM

CC

“ *Mr. Greenland was a good and kind man whom I imagine never knew a stranger. I lived next door to him and his sweet wife on Mitchell Ave for a few years back in the 70s, with him and Mary Ann on one side, and my parents Janet and Albert Carpenter on the other. The houses were close enough that we could chat through our open kitchen windows on occasion! He was a kind and considerate as a Guidance Counselor, and I don't remember seeing him without a smile on his face. I was at Boyden 63-67. He will be greatly missed.*

*My condolences to the family now as you all begin to acclimate to life without him here physically, but know that you will see him again one fine day, and the angels will be singing! God bless you all.*

*Carol Carpenter*

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**Carol Carpenter** - July 31, 2016 at 07:54 AM

AS

“ It was privilege and a honor for me to have Mr. Greenland as my Guidance Counselor at Salisbury High School, To my classmate Ben please accept my deepest sympathy for you and your family. Albert Smith Class of 1977

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**Albert Smith** - July 30, 2016 at 06:48 PM

HR

“ I remember Mr. Greenland very well. He helped me get prepared for college, always giving good advice.

*Harold Ritchie  
BHS Class of 1962*

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**Harold Ritchie** - July 30, 2016 at 01:59 PM

 Ozzie  
Holshouser

“ Mr. Greenland was a very positive influence on many young people. He was always willing to listen and was always a positive role model for everyone.

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**Ozzie Holshouser** - July 30, 2016 at 09:06 AM