



Robert Talley Roakes Sr.

December 16, 1940 - June 1, 2025

Robert Talley Roakes, Sr., 84, of Salisbury, NC passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 1, 2025 surrounded by his loving family.

Bob was born December 16, 1940 in Rock Hill, SC to the late Louise Talley Roakes and Charlie Thomas Roakes, Sr. He graduated from Boyden High School in 1959 and Catawba College with a business administration degree in 1963. His first job was working with his family at Roakes Grocery. After graduation, Bob worked in accounts receivables at Cannon Mills for five years. Then he began his career in the banking industry with Home Savings and Loan Association. He finished his career at Sun Trust and F&M Bank. Bob had a servant's heart and participated in various roles in his community and church. He was a member of the Salisbury Jaycees and Salisbury Rowan Home Builders Association. Bob was President of Salisbury Rotary Club, Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, the Sales and Marketing Club and Catawba College Chiefs at different points in his life. He served on the Board of Hood Theological Seminary. Through his banking and real estate background and Habitat volunteer work he loved helping people get homes. Bob was instrumental in starting Habitat for Humanity in Rowan County and served as President for many years. He was Chairman of the Board of Salisbury Housing Authority until recently due to declining health. He also served on the Board of Rowan County Equalization and Review. Bob enjoyed delivering for Meals on Wheels for many years.

His faith in Jesus Christ guided everything he did. Bob was an active member

of First United Methodist Church where he held leadership positions including Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a Stephens Minister and was selected as Church lay Person of the Year. Prior to this, he was an active member of First United Church of Christ.

After retirement, Bob loved serving as a volunteer for the Elizabeth Dole Senatorial Campaign as her driver covering the entire state of NC.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Charlie T. Roakes, Jr.; sister, Linda Roakes Beaver and nephew Jeff Beaver.

Bob loved his family and spending time with them. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 61 years, Mary Hunsucker Roakes; daughter, Amy Roakes Brewer (Raymond) of Siler City; son, Robert T. Roakes, Jr. (Suzanne) of Salisbury, NC; grandsons, David Brewer and Alec Brewer; granddaughters, Sarah Roakes and Regan Roakes; sister, Nancy Roakes Blalock (Dave) of Little River, SC; brother-in-law, Ted Beaver; sister-in-law, Sandra Roakes and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff of Novant Health Rowan Regional Medical Center in Salisbury and the DaVita Kidney Center in Spencer.

A memorial service will be held at 11 AM Friday (June 6) at First United Methodist Church of Salisbury, officiated by Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti. The family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall following.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 217 S. Church Street, Salisbury, NC 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Roakes family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

MB

“ My sympathy goes out to you and the family. May the many memories that he has left you with keep you strong.

Mary Ellen Bennett - June 06, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Talley Roakes Sr..

June 05, 2025 at 08:51 PM

BE

“ Bill & Joy enjoyed being around Bob & Mary; When I look back in my memories what I cherish remembering most about Bob is us all going dove hunting with Ted Beaver and our kids. We had our signals worked out: hold up 1 finger meant bring more shells, hold up 2 fingers meant bring more beer; hold up 3 fingers meant bring more toilet paper. These are fond memories. Years later I received a tax value on my shop from the county, I thought it was too high and appealed it, when I went up there for the hearing Bob was on the committee and he looked at me and I looked at him. They did not know we knew each other. I am sure Bob helped me some on the taxes and I never did thank him; so “Thanks Bob”
With love Bill and Joy Earnhardt

Bill Earnhardt - June 05, 2025 at 05:56 PM

SH

“ *Shopeeze purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert Talley Roakes Sr..*



Shopeeze - June 05, 2025 at 09:06 AM

TS

“ *Grateful to have served briefly with Bob on the Habitat Board as he imparted knowledge that made him a humanitarian. Fervent prayers for his family during this difficult time but find comfort in his legacy of service.*

Terri Stevenson - June 04, 2025 at 10:14 PM

KE

“ *Kacy, Bailee, Julianna, Morgan & Emily purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert Talley Roakes Sr..*



Kacy, Bailee, Julianna, Morgan & Emily - June 04, 2025 at 12:23 PM

TC

“ *Blessings of Peace and Love to the Roakes Family. I met Bob at OmniBank. He truly was a dedicated officer and very helpful to customers. Thru the years, I would see Bob at different events. He was always so friendly and warm hearted! May the special memories give you strength and carry you through the days ahead.*



Tina J. Cowan - June 04, 2025 at 09:52 AM

RW

“ Our family sends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends.
💔🙏

Rick Washington - June 02, 2025 at 05:42 PM

JW

“ No finer person ever walked this earth than Bob Roakes. Mary, my deepest sympathy to you and the family...Jay Whittington

Jay Whittington - June 02, 2025 at 01:48 PM

CD

My love & condolences to you, Mary and your family.
Carol Diehl

Carol C. Diehl - June 02, 2025 at 11:20 PM

JP

Dear Family,
Sending love from Bob's Rhode Island cousins. Our mom's were sisters, Louise and Marian. Every year the summer highlight was the road trip to visit family in North and South Carolina. We played softball in the yard, swam in the muddy river, put fireflies in jars and during the evening Bob would tell us ghost stories that left me so scared. For our last goodbyes we stopped by Roakes Market and could pick out things to eat on the ride home. Such wonderful memories. Susan, John and I purchased the grove of 5 trees to be a living tribute to Bob. Bob will always be my hero and I hope to see the rest of the family someday soon. Sending heartfelt Sympathy wishes. XoxoxoxoX

Julie (Talley) Rieth Prout - June 06, 2025 at 06:00 PM

BL

To the Roakes family may I offer my condolences. Mr. Roakes always treated me kindly and with great respect.

Becky Lippard - June 09, 2025 at 09:49 AM