



## Sanford Robert Silverburg

October 3, 2024

Sanford Robert Silverburg passed away unexpectedly on Thursday October 3, 2024.

He was born in Schenectady NY, to the late Harry and Frances Silverburg. Sanford served in the Army, was a graduate of Sienna College, and earned his Ph.D. at American University.

He taught Political Science and was Chairman of the Department at Catawba College for 50 years, was the author of numerous books, was published in research journals, and spoke at many international conferences. He enjoyed spending time with family, traveling to foreign countries, finding out of the way restaurants, and listening to do wop music.

In addition to his wife of 58 years, Lea, he is survived by his sons David Silverburg and Danial Silverburg (Kristine Pasto), and Reginald Keaton (Angela); and his beloved granddaughters Olivia Silverburg and Ariel Keaton. He is also survived by a brother-in-law Frank Schwerin (Marge), and niece, Ellen Schwerin-Daro (Aman), nephews, Andrew Schwerin (Bonnie) and Edward Schwerin (Jessica) along with numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

Graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. October 6, 2024 at City Memorial

Park Cemetery conducted by Dr. Andrew Ettin, Rabbi.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to The Dr. Sanford Silverburg Endowed Scholarship, Catawba College, Office of Development, 2300 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144 and Families First, NC, Lea Silverburg's Second Step Program, 130 S. Main St. Suite 225, Salisbury, NC 28144.

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

# Cemetery Details

## City Memorial Park

1316 West Innes St  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

OCT 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

City Memorial Park  
1316 West Innes St  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

NC

“ Perhaps a more recent example of his good charm, I met Sanford in 2015 (10 years ago nearly to this day), as an unsure High School senior preparing to embark on the college admissions process. He served as my Crosby Scholars appointed advisor and to this day, I have him and a few others to thank for helping me attend Duke University on a full scholarship/financial aid package. At the time I remember his particular style and that he seemed so sincere with myself and the other students he mentored. When I broke the news of my acceptance, he congratulated me and helped to prepare for that exciting, new chapter that was next.

The last time I saw Mr. Silverburg was in Fall of 2016, when we reconnected over lunch during my Fall break from school. I was happy to join his company and to share many stories from that brief time I was at school. He was extremely encouraging and sent me back off with high spirits. Although I regret not being able to see him in the flesh again, I'm happy his spirit touched me on this earth and that I was able to understand many leadership qualities through his guidance. I am now a tutor and provide mentorship to a handle of students myself, who through occasionally I see a glimpse of myself—perhaps something that may have also inspired the late, great Sanford R. Silverburg.

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**Nickolas Cox** - September 15, 2025 at 03:04 AM

LT

“ Sanford for 40 years was my dear friend. We lived beside each other in Salisbury North Carolina and I just absolutely love that man to death. I am devastated to find out today, July 1, 2025 that he passed away. I cannot believe that no one would let me know that my dear friend has gone to heaven. This is a cruel cruel world, but I can tell you this. He’s a wonderful man he loves his family, especially his wife and friends. If you were his close friend, you were his friend for life my God except him.

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**Lester Tolley** - June 29, 2025 at 04:07 AM

MC

“ DR Silverburg was truly a great man and a great teacher. I always enjoyed his lectures being truly gifted. He will be missed. Mark Canady.

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**Mark Canady** - October 14, 2024 at 10:05 PM

CM

“ When I attended Catawba College in 1969, I knew I wanted to be a teacher and I was enrolled in early childhood education. I took a class with Dr. Silverburg and I was captivated by his teaching. He inspired me to take a broader range of subjects stepping outside the courses of early childhood education. He challenged me. He was a memorable professor. He will be missed.

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**Cathy Montgomery** - October 09, 2024 at 05:03 PM

SW

“ I fondly remember Dr. Silverburg as we was a challenging professor; however always fair and pushed you to be a better version of yourself. I still remember the fear I had when walking into the classroom late and waiting for the scolding. I also remember sitting with several Political Science students in the library and the big smile on his face as he would walk by seeing we were working on his assignments. What a great man.

*"You've got to learn to play the game!" Sandy Silverburg*

*Class of 1986.*

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**Sally A Wright** - October 09, 2024 at 05:00 PM

BE

“ My condolences to the entire Silverburg Family. I was a Catawba student from 1980-84 and everyone knew of Dr Silverburg. He strived for excellence, and cared deeply for his students.

*Bradd Eldridge class of 1984.*

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**Bradd Eldridge** - October 09, 2024 at 04:51 PM

HR

*I graduated from Catawba College in '94. Dr. Silverburg was my teacher, my advisor, my cheerleader, and a mentor. He was a great teacher, challenged his students daily, and helped us be more confident and succeed. He will be missed by many.*

*Condolences to his Family.*

*"No such thing as a free lunch"*

*"What have you done today"*

*Thank you.*

*Heather Zeger Reynosa*

*(Esquire in PA with your help)*

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**Heather Reynosa** - October 12, 2024 at 06:08 PM

AV

“ Angela L Vann lit a candle in memory of Sanford Silverburg



Angela L Vann - October 08, 2024 at 11:56 AM

LJ

“ I was honored to have Dr. Silverburg as a professor and guide through my years at Catawba. I looked forward to our chats also after school when down at Homecoming. He is the primary reason I attended Catawba in 1977. I visited campus and he was kind enough to me with me and my parents. He scared me, frankly, with how rigorous his Political Science curriculum would be. That is how he challenged you, with the truth. I will truly miss him.

Lowell M Smith, Jr. - October 07, 2024 at 02:27 PM

RB

Lowel Smith was correct. I Ray Bentley Jr. respected Dr. Sanford R. Silverburg and indeed He was the fairest man I have ever known. Shalom Silverburg survivors! He resides with Saints now. Which means he belongs. Wonderful man I was rebellious and he said to me in front of his residence where I was allowed to park my old Chevy off campus. He knew that I was a Hyannisport son of the Fitzgerald Burke family. He was a great man and I wish I could have talked to him so much more than I did. Lowell Smith is right, my old teammate is eloquent and respectful of Dr. Silverburg. I am Catholic and I loved that man. Ray Bentley aka bullpen catcher for Lowell Smith hey that Mike Prillaman had a damn fine knuckleball because I threw one toohanded down to my by my Dad's old teammate Hoyt Wilhelmin a HOF like Dr. Shotsenberger

Ray Bentley - February 13, 2025 at 11:44 PM

RB

Godspeed Sir

Ray Bentley - February 13, 2025 at 11:45 PM

TN

“ Dr. Silverburg instilled in me an enduring passion for reasoned and sensible political discourse. I am the responsible citizen I am today in large part to his instruction and mentoring.

*Tom Neill Class of 1979*

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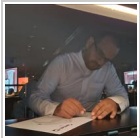
**Tom Neill** - October 07, 2024 at 10:20 AM

JP

“ Dr. Silverburg - was a tough professor who challenged you, make you work hard, but would be there when you needed him. I remember i had a family emergency and i missed class and Dr. Silverburg reached out to see what happened and helped me through it. Then helped me attend different College Democrat events. Will miss you professor.

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**julie pearl** - October 07, 2024 at 09:40 AM



“ I was about to talk to you Sanford today!

*Professor Sanford was a colleague and a co-author to me; he was a brother in every sense of the word. We spent countless hours working together, discussing ideas, and building something greater than ourselves. Our collaboration wasn't limited to paper—it was a fusion of our thoughts, values, and friendship.*

*What I cherished most about was his unwavering dedication, not only to his work but also to the people around him. Sanford, I will miss you very dearly.*

*Dr. Shadi A. Alshdaifat*

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**Shadi Alshdaifat** - October 07, 2024 at 01:48 AM

MW

“ Sandy was a generous and affable friend and colleague. In my own long teaching career, I have encountered almost no one else with such ironclad standards for his students. One of his hobbies was torturing me by leaving in my mailbox the menus of the new restaurants he found, often with his favorite delicacy circled. We have lost a very good man. Mike Wilson

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**Mike Wilson** - October 05, 2024 at 12:44 PM

MR

“ Sandy was like a second father when we would see him. He always had great advice and would point me in the right direction. I know my father would be devastated and I thank god that his illness prevents him from understanding this reality. The Silverburg and the Reich Families will forever be intertwined and we will keep you all in our thoughts. Sending love always.

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**Michael Reich** - October 05, 2024 at 08:36 AM

JB

“ I had Dr. Silverburg for a professor in 1976. He showed me my first bagel. All these years and I still remember him for that. He was a wonderful teacher and human being. Condolences to his family.

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**Jane Howard Billings** - October 04, 2024 at 01:31 PM