



Mr. Vernon A. Benson

September 19, 1924 - January 20, 2014

Mr. Vernon A. Benson, 89, of Granite Quarry, passed away Monday, January 20, 2014 at the Laurels of Salisbury.

Born September 19, 1924 in Rowan County, he was the son of the late Ruth Foster Benson and William Luther Benson.

He was educated in the Rowan County schools, graduated from Granite Quarry High School and attended Catawba College.

Mr. Benson was a professional baseball player, was signed to the Philadelphia Athletics in 1943, signed by the famous Connie Mack, owner and manager. His sports career was interrupted at a young age as Vernon courageously served with the US Army in World War II under General Patton and received the EAME Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star. He then returned from military service to play with the St. Louis Cardinals and won a starting 3rd base position in 1951. He also coached the St. Louis Cardinals, New York Yankees, Cincinnati Reds, Atlanta Braves and San Francisco Giants, he served as a major league scout. He also played baseball in Cuba with Fidel Castro in the stands. Mr. Benson also managed winter league teams in Venezuela, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic.

He was a member of the First United Church of Christ and the Granite Quarry

American Legion Post #448. He was inducted Catawba College Hall of Fame in 1978 and the North Carolina American Legion Hall of Fame in 1979. He was Minor League Manager of the Year in 1979.

In addition to his parents, his wife, Rachel Lyerly Benson whom he married October 23, 1946, preceded him in death on April 6, 2008, also his brother, William Benson, son-in-law, Benny Callahan and a grandson, Cody Randall Benson.

Those left to cherish his memory are his children, Randy Benson and wife Dale of Salisbury and their children, Shanna Hinson and husband Brian, Shea Overcash and husband Micah and Sharla Drury and husband Charlie; daughter, Bonnie Shaw and husband Bill of Salisbury and their children, Chandler Shaw and wife Mary Buford and Haley Wishon and husband Jarrett; daughter, Robin Callahan of Concord and her children, Denver and Caylan Callahan; great-grandchildren, Elinor, Elsie, Benson, Beckett, Gil, Adair and Chandler; special brother-in-law, Thomas Joe Lyerly with whom he resided; brother-in-law, James E. Lyerly and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 10-11 AM – Thursday (Jan. 23) in the First United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall with service to follow at 11 AM in the sanctuary with Rev. Carol Hallman officiating. Interment will follow at Rowan Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Church of Christ, 207 W. Horah St., Salisbury, NC 28144

The family would like to thank the staff of the Laurels, Jo Eagle, Mary Dunaway, Irene Seeley and Becky Burchette for their care of Mr. Benson

Previous Events

Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Church of Christ
207 W. Horah St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

PP

“ Dear Randy- In 2012 I befriended you at the D-II College World Series in Cary, NC.
Your Catawba club and the West Chester team, coached by my son Jad , stayed at the same hotel.
You told me wonderful baseball stories, many of them about you and your Dad.
I sensed the pride and admiration you had for your father. He seemed like quite a guy.
I watched you interact with your players ,who were all very respectful of you. It was evident that you cared about their well being , plus I know you taught them how to play the game.
You have carried on well for your father.
Randy you're quite a guy.
I'm sure your Dad was proud of you.
I'm sorry about your loss. I wish you and your family Peace.

Paul Prachniak - Dad of Jad.

Paul "Prack" Prachniak - May 19, 2014 at 05:04 PM

JB

“ my condolences to the benson family. vernon was my first mgr. at tulsa in 1960.i had great respect for him as a person and manager.i will always remember the times i had playing for him he taught me alot about life. my thoughts and prays are with you. jerry buchek kimberling city,mo

jerry buchek @ jan buchek - February 12, 2014 at 02:24 PM

JH

“ Dear Benson Family, I am sorry for our loss. Vernon was always one of my favorite managers in baseball. He managed me when I played for Tulsa in 1959-1960 and I had the utmost respect for him. Please know that my family and I are praying for you all during this difficult time and in the days to follow.



*Jim Hemric
Ronda, NC*

Jim Hemric - January 27, 2014 at 07:35 AM

TB

“ We are so sorry for the loss of Vernon. It was a real pleasure getting to know him and his family the last several years. He was a very good man, and will be missed by many.



*Thomas M Byrd & family
St Petersburg, FL*

Thomas M Byrd - January 23, 2014 at 02:42 PM



“ We wish to offer our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the immediate family, all other relatives, many associates across baseball and the large number of longtime / lifelong friends and fans of VERN BENSON upon his departure from the scene ...

He was a good ballplayer, a most popular and hard working baseball coach and manager, as well as being an even finer gentleman who shall be greatly missed but will be fondly remembered forever by all those of us who knew or met him over time ...

Only God knows how well you played the game ...

Thanks for everything, Vern ... We shall remember.

COLONEL 77

Clay Marston - January 23, 2014 at 06:24 AM

SH

“ *Vernon will be terribly missed. I know he is in heaven reminding Mickey Mantle that his own signing bonus was bigger. Who is going to tell all those great baseball stories now?*

RIP, Vernon

Steve Harvel

Sarasota, FL

S. Harvel - January 22, 2014 at 11:03 AM

MH

“ *Sharla, Charlie and Family,*
We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your Grandfather. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time and always.
The Huddlestons

Mark Huddleston - January 22, 2014 at 08:49 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Vernon A. Benson.*



January 21, 2014 at 10:53 PM