



Robert Sheppard Harrell

July 18, 1931 - September 2, 2025

Robert Sheppard Harrell (Bob) of Athens, AL passed away surrounded by loved ones on September 2, 2025, after a short illness.

Bob was born on July 18, 1931, to John Sheppard and Louise Smith Harrell in Gates, NC.

Bob left home at the age of 16 and joined the Air Force (1948-1954), to provide for his mother and two younger siblings.

After leaving the Air Force, Bob moved to Rome, GA and worked for Life of Georgia. He later moved to Augusta and continued to work in the insurance business.

In 1966, Bob joined the postal service where he retired as a Postmaster in Rome, GA in 1992. In 1989 while Postmaster, Bob served as the State President of the National Association of Postmasters (550 members approximately).

After his retirement, Bob joined the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). While in NARFE, he held every office in Georgia to include President of the Georgia Federation. Bob entered the office of Region III National Field Vice President in 2004 and held that office for three terms.

Upon his marriage to second wife Peggy he moved to Athens, AL in 2006 where he became involved with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) by volunteering as a tax preparer until he was 92. Bob was also a member of First Baptist Church of Athens.

Anyone who knew Bob knew that he was the most loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Brother, and Brother-In-Law a family could ask for. He always had a cheerful outlook and an amazing spirit. Bob was predeceased by his parents, his first wife Beatrice Dye Harrell, his daughter Karen Leigh Mooney, his sister Dorothy Jean Harrell, his brother Edward Asa Harrell, his sons Larry and Greg Jackson (Sonjia), and brothers-in-law Billy Wayne Putman, and Gary Arnold (Brenda). He is survived by his second wife Geneva Putman Harrell (Peggy), daughters Gail Miller and Kathey Gosnell (Barry), sisters-in-law Dean Morgan, Barbara Steck, and Brenda Arnold, Grandchildren Lisa McGuire (Mark), Brandon Jackson (Devon), Lance Jackson (Crystal), and Lee Brooks (Jenny). He is also survived by numerous great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to pay their respects during the visitation for Bob on Sunday, September 7th, 2025, from 1:00-2:45pm, at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 3:00pm. Bob will be laid to rest on Monday, September 8th, at 3:00pm EST, at Polk Memory Gardens in Cedartown, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Samaritan's Purse <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Cemetery Details

Polk Memory Gardens

2245 Rockmart Highway
Cedartown, GA 30125

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

Graveside Service

SEP 8. 3:00 PM (ET)

Polk Memory Gardens
2245 Rockmart Highway
Cedartown, GA 30125

Tribute Wall

JW

“ It was a real honor to get to know Bob when I was the state legislative VP and Bob was Treasurer of the Alabama Federation of NARFE. He was a consummate gentleman. He knew an incredible amount from his past stints as SE regional VP and GA state president. His commitment to NARFE and all federal employees, past and current, was shown in his repeated service as Federation Treasurer - job almost no one wants but that is essential to a successful organization. Sincerest condolences and best wishes to all his family. His memory will be a blessing.

Jim Williams - September 08, 2025 at 10:17 PM

JE

“ To the family, loved ones and friends of Robert Harrell. I am so sorry for your loss. May you find peace in the memories you created and shared with Bob and each other. I cherish the time and memories I shared with Bob, Peggy (his wife) and Dean (his sister-in-law), during meetings, conferences and cruise. Gwen May, my sister, sends her condolences for your loss. Julia May Elsberry, National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), Alabama Federation of Chapters and Chapter 51

Julia May Elsberry - September 06, 2025 at 04:22 PM

JE

“ Julia May Elsberry lit a candle in memory of Robert Harrell



Julia May Elsberry - September 06, 2025 at 04:15 PM

TA

“ I first met Bob when he attended a Putman get together with my cousin Peggy.
I always looked forward to listening to him as he joined right in with the rest of us.

I think my favorite memory is the joy and happiness that he and Peggy brought to each other. The looks they exchanged and the love that you saw written on each of their faces.

It was not just a one time thing, it was everytime I saw them together.

The love, admiration and respect for each other that was so evident in the way they spoke to and about the other.

I am so happy for the years that they were able to spend together as husband and wife.

The love that they shared with all of us as a family, especially those closest to them.

Thank you God for allowing Bob to be a treasured member of my family. He will be missed at his place beside Peggy. May God surround Peggy with strength and comfort as she continues her journey.

Teresa Putman Austin - September 05, 2025 at 01:47 PM