



## Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison

July 25, 1936 - December 10, 2022

Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison, born July 25, 1936, died on December 10, 2022, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Shirley A. Harrison; three daughters: Kim H. Painter (Eddie) of Alpharetta, GA; Kris H. Hemphill (Scott) of Bethlehem, PA; and Julie H. Leap (Darren) of Vienna, VA: eight grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and his sister Jan Rideout (Mike) of Fairfield Glade, TN.

He was a member of Henderson First Baptist Church and served in the Navy. He had family and farming interests in Henderson and returned to this area after his retirement from the service.

He graduated from Barret Manual Training High School and won a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. Upon graduation from the University of Louisville with a mechanical engineering degree, he was commissioned an ensign and entered naval flight training at Pensacola, Florida. After earning his pilot's wings, he flew antisubmarine warfare missions from the aircraft carriers USS Lake Champlain, USS Forrestal, and USS Independence.

In 1965, he entered the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California for

the study of aeronautical engineering and in 1967 was awarded the degree of Aeronautical Engineer. He then held a series of assignments with increasing responsibilities in the areas of research, development, test and evaluation, production, and support of naval aircraft and weapons systems. During those assignments he maintained his flying skills in a range of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. While assigned on the West Coast, he attended night school at the University of Southern California where he earned a Master of Science in Systems Management.

In 1987 he was selected for rear admiral lower half (one star grade) and served in several flag assignments with responsibilities for engineering and fleet support. In 1992 he was promoted to rear admiral (two star grade) and served as Deputy Commander for Acquisition and Operations, Naval Air Systems Command, an organization of about 44,000 people. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Service Medal.

After returning to the Henderson area, he built a home on one of the farms and purchased additional farm land. He also maintained his interest and contacts with the aerospace industry and served on the boards for two corporations, Griffon Corporation and Indra Systems.

Relatives and friends are invited to Robert's Life Celebration from 11:00 a.m. until the service time on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home with Pastor Sam Hinkson officiating. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY. Military honors will be rendered by the American Legion Worsham Post #40.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to First Baptist Church, 307 Center St, Henderson, KY 42420, or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD, 21741.

Arrangements entrusted to Benton- Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at [www.bentongluntan dtappfuneralhome.com](http://www.bentongluntan dtappfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memorial Gardens

8136 Highway 2084 S  
Henderson, KY 42420  
(270) 826-9623  
roselawn@ccol.net  
<http://www.bentonglunt.com/>

# Previous Events

## Life Celebration

DEC 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home  
629 S. Green St.  
Henderson, KY 42420  
(270) 827-3535  
email@bentonglunttapp.com  
<https://www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

DEC 15. 12:00 PM (CT)

Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home  
629 S. Green St.  
Henderson, KY 42420  
(270) 827-3535  
email@bentonglunttapp.com  
<https://www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

“ Afterthoughts

*When we gather to mourn Bob  
Our conversations are afterthoughts  
We speak mostly in past tense  
Of then  
Survivors queued  
Mindful if only for brief moments  
Of the inevitable*

*Recall the last time  
You heard the him speak aloud  
Among the cherished thens unique to you  
And moments shared with others  
The mingling now a collage of whispered thens*

*We ponder  
How many of our nows  
Will soon become thens  
To be recounted as afterthoughts?*

*Memory:*

*Seven of us gathered one steamy weekend in August 2021 to celebrate a sixty plus year bond of brotherhood. Then long in the tooth, aged 83 to 85, brothers in fraternity and military service. Five of us were Marines, deployed east and west after 1959 and Basic School. Preparing for a war we did not fight. We were lieutenants and captains. Short termers. We were joined by two brother veterans of the US Navy, who exceeded us in rank and time in service. A 35-year rear admiral and a career medical corps captain. We broke bread and shared our stories. Toured the campus of our alma mater, the University of Louisville. Vastly changed and grown. Visited with young men whose goals and motivations, while worthy in themselves, do not resemble our sense of service and duty, undiminished by the passage of time.*

*We toasted today's men and women who serve, and selfishly with broad grins, ourselves, for our longevity. This was days before the tragic events at Kabul airport. Each of us bleeds inside and grieves for fallen brothers and sisters, no matter their service.*

*We joked when planning the reunion that it best be done while all were vertical and in good health. A wise decision. Since then two brothers, Gary Norton and now Bob Harrison, have passed away. Gone but not forgotten.*

*Today's afterthought lifts our fallen brother Bob to his rightful place in cherished memory. From his U.S. Marine brothers, "Semper Fi"*

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**Bob Metry** - December 27, 2022 at 11:14 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison.*



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December 13, 2022 at 07:23 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison.*



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December 13, 2022 at 12:16 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison.*



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December 13, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ *The Rideout Family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison.*



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**The Rideout Family** - December 12, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rear Admiral Robert G. Harrison.*



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December 12, 2022 at 02:45 PM