



## Rodger P. Bird

July 2, 1943 - May 16, 2020

Rodger P. Bird, age 76, of Henderson, KY, passed away at 4:50 a.m., Saturday, May 16, 2020, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center.

Rodger grew up in Corbin, KY and was the youngest of the legendary “Bird Brothers” who played football and basketball for the University of Kentucky. At the University of Kentucky, Rodger was a two-time All-SEC tailback and first team All-American tailback in 1965. He was a first-round draft pick of the Oakland Raiders, was the 1966 AFL Defensive Rookie of the Year and played in Super Bowl II. When his playing career ended, Rodger made Henderson his home. He was a member of First Christian Church and owner of Henderson Insurance Services.

Rodger was preceded in death by his parents, Rubin and Bonnie Bird; brothers Jerry, Calvin and Billy Bird; and sister, Shirly Hall. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sally Bird; daughter, Sue Anne Mueller and her husband, Kris, of Louisville, KY; son Paul Bird and his wife, Beth, of Henderson, KY; sister, Nancy Carroll, and her husband, Rudy, of Corbin, KY; and 7 grandchildren.

Due to COVID-19, no public memorial will be held at this time. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to First Christian Church, 830 S. Green St., Henderson, KY 42420 or St. Anthony’s Hospice, 2410 S. Green St., Henderson, KY 42420.

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

[dtappfuneralhome.com](http://dtappfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ Rodger was always a Great Football Player and Person. He was a Friend and a Great Member of Our Bowhunters Club in Henderson; the Kentucky Bowhunters Assn and the National American Bowhunters Committee Good times Bowhunting !!! Long Remembered and Never Forgotten.... 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻🇺🇸

Bill Mills - December 23, 2023 at 03:52 PM



“ Rodger P. Bird

November 29, 2022 at 08:01 AM

SC

“ I always enjoyed my visits to the agency and talking football with Rodger. We never got much Insurance work done but I sure enjoyed those hours of engaging and picking Rodgers brain about football. My condolences to Paul, Sally and family.

Stephen Connors  
Safeco Insurance

Stephen Connors - May 21, 2020 at 10:46 AM

RB

“ As a child I was privileged to watch Calvin, then Billy, and as a teenager, Roger. I have so many memories of his exploits on the football field. To this day I consider Roger and Sonny Collins as two of the greatest running backs in UK football history. His autograph from the mid 60's is one of most prized possessions. My condolences to his family. Please know what wonderful memories he created for many young men . He was a true rock star.

Rodes Brown - May 20, 2020 at 07:49 PM

JG

“ Sally and family - I am so sorry !! I loved that guy . Joe Gambrell

-----  
**joe gambrell** - May 19, 2020 at 04:20 PM

BM

“ Condolences to Sally and the family. I always enjoyed your visits to Brandenburg and the relationship we developed through business. A great storyteller and a great guy!

-----  
**Burns Mercer** - May 19, 2020 at 12:25 PM

VL

“ Prayers for Sally and all of Rodger's family. I came to know Rodger and Sally when I worked at Inter-County and we purchased insurance through them. Such a genuine, kind, and caring family. I know he will be deeply missed



-----  
**Vickie Lay** - May 19, 2020 at 11:22 AM

DG

“ I didn't know Roger until later in life, but I knew about Eastern Kentucky and actually knew some of the same people and companies he did. We both always enjoyed reminiscing. He made it known that Henderson was his home however. Such a humble and true Gentleman. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. Dorris & Susie Givens

-----  
**Dorris Givens** - May 19, 2020 at 11:16 AM

TB

“ Rodger was a great guy, a great friend, and a great teammate at UK. One of the best football players I ever saw. His legacy at UK will be remembered always.

*Terry Beadles*

---

**Terry Beadles** - May 18, 2020 at 10:05 PM

PB

“ So grateful for the friendship of Rodger Bird. All through the years, my good friend and UK teammate, Rodger, kept in touch. I so enjoyed our phone conversations. His loyalty and kindness will always be fondly remembered by me. My deepest sympathies to the entire family.

*~Perky Bryant*

---

**Perky Bryant** - May 18, 2020 at 08:37 PM