



Dr. Harold Dean Patterson Sr.

May 29, 1932 - September 2, 2013

Harold Dean Patterson Sr., 81, of Guntersville, AL passed away Monday, September 2nd at his residence. Harold was the son of the late Obed Howard and Sara Bell Joyner Patterson of Alexander City, Alabama.

Dr. Patterson received his bachelor's degree in Music Education at Auburn University in Auburn, AL where he played basketball his first two years, starting alongside famed coach Vince Dooley. A Second Lieutenant Tank Commander in the Army, he then went on to receive his Masters and Doctorate in Education at Vanderbilt School of Education Peabody College in Nashville, TN.

Patterson's education career began as a principal at Evanston Township High School. He was the Inaugural Principal of Mountain Brook High School in Mountain Brook, Alabama. A superintendent for 25 years, Dr. Patterson has been honored as one of the Outstanding Top 100 Educators in North America on several different occasions. This prestigious award is chosen by nationally recognized experts on school administration.

A notable achievement of Dr. Patterson's was that he crafted a reorganization plan and rezoned school attendance to bring school systems into compliance with Civil Rights Acts requirements. Also as the result of some of his work, the School Improvement Act of 1984 was initiated.

Dr. Patterson served on the Auburn National Advisory Council and is an Emeritus Member of the College of Education at Auburn University. This award was bestowed on him in 2012. The Harold and Shirley Patterson Endowed Scholarship in the College of Education is one of his prides and joy. He presented his most recent scholarship a week ago.

Many students at Guntersville High School have received scholarships from Harold and Shirley Patterson to pursue higher education.

Patterson was also an active member of The Guntersville Rotary Club — with perfect attendance for 50+ years — the 1865 Society, 1915 Society, the Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, a council member for the Boy Scouts of America and a devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Guntersville. He also served as the past District President for Rotary International and president of the AASA.

An ordinary man with an extraordinary life, Patterson was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Anne Bryant Patterson. He is survived by his children, Lisa Patterson Stubbs (Harold), Anne Patterson Harper (David) and Hal Patterson Jr. (Kelly); grandchildren: Sara, Christopher and Emily Stubbs, Jordan and Chase Harper, and Tripp and Landry Patterson.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4th at Carr Funeral Home in Guntersville, AL. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 5th, at First United Methodist Church of Guntersville. Family will also receive friends beginning at 10 a.m. prior to funeral services. Interment will follow at Alexander City Cemetery in Alexander City, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: The Harold and Shirley

Patterson Endowed Scholarship in the College of Education at Auburn University. 317 S College St. Auburn, AL 36830.

Tribute Wall



“ We at Easter Seals Camp ASCCA are saddened to hear of the passing of your dad. I had the great opportunity to have lunch with him this past year and to "catch up". He was a great friend to Camp ASCCA and the people with disabilities we served and he will be missed. I know that you are comforted to know that he is now with your mom again up in heaven! Peace.

~Dana Rickman & the staff at Camp ASCCA

Dana Rickman - September 10, 2013 at 10:39 AM

MT

“ Dr. Patterson began the path, creating a sparkling new high school, Mountain Brook High School, which was then, and now and forever the premiere high school in the state. Dr. Patterson taught me a lesson that I have often referred to in my life. In 1969 I was not happy with that lesson, but in my heart I have thanked him a myriad of times over the years. It was important to see Dr. P. at several of our reunions. One would think it was amazing that he could remember something important about each of us, but as a recently retired teacher myself, I have shocked my former students at their reunions, remembering something about them that left them dumbfounded! Dr. Harold Patterson can't be only a memory to us, because his enormous and positive life force has guided Spartans to all corners of the planet. Not one of us has walked the path in life alone, because Dr. Patterson, somehow, somewhere was walking with each us, telling us we could do anything our dreams could take us.

Myron Greenfield, Houston, Texas - September 07, 2013 at 03:09 AM

LS

Thank you for your wonderful comments! We are so heartbroken to have lost Daddy. Your words are comforting. Lisa

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:01 AM

LS

Thank you for the beautiful comments about Daddy!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:56 AM

WJ

“ *I have fond memories of Dr. Patterson's leadership in his first years at Mt. Brook. He was tough, principled, yet friendly and kind. A good man and a strong leader. He commanded and got respect from a tough group to work with. I admired him very much. He will be missed by me and scores of my classmates. May the Lord bless his family. May the Lord bring him safely home.*

Walter Wood Jr. - September 04, 2013 at 07:38 PM

LS

Thank you!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:02 AM

LS

Thank you for your kind words!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:57 AM

ES

“ *Elizabeth Sweeney lit a candle in memory of Dr. Harold Dean Patterson Sr.*



Elizabeth Sweeney - September 04, 2013 at 03:12 PM

LS

Hugs! I love you!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:02 AM

LS

Love you!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:57 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Dr. Harold Dean Patterson Sr..*



September 04, 2013 at 02:21 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Harold Dean Patterson Sr..*



September 04, 2013 at 11:51 AM

JW

“ *I was a member of the first 4 year class at MBHS, graduating in 1970. Dr. Patterson was a wonderful role model for all of us. RIP Dr. Patterson. ..a job well done!*

Judy Phillips Weintraub - September 04, 2013 at 08:16 AM

LS

Thank you!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:06 AM

MC

“ With great respect and admiration we remember our first Principal Dr. Patterson at Mountain Brook High School. May your family be comforted by the peace of our Heavenly Father today and in the difficult days ahead.

Mark and Charlotte Coggin, MBHS classes of 1968 and 1969

Mark Coggin - September 04, 2013 at 07:05 AM

LS

We appreciate your beautiful words!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:06 AM

LA

“ To Dr. Patterson's family...I was at MBHS the first 4 years and we are all so grateful "Dr. P" was our first Principal. The whole school and system was "making it up" as they went along and Dr. P was amazing at making that work. He was respected by all and loved by those who would admit it as High School students. He was also kind enough to come to our 30th and 40th reunions. He will never be forgotten and you are all in our prayers in your grief.

Livy Abele - September 03, 2013 at 11:04 PM

LS

Thank you for your comments! We appreciate you guys! Daddy loved you all! He spoke of you with such pride!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:08 AM



Dr Patterson was a great man, and our first MBHS principal. I had the privilege to meet with him weekly during our first year as a member of Student Council. He was kind, smart and consistent. He treated us with respect....a great role model!

Stephen Elliott - June 15, 2023 at 09:00 AM

CC

“ *Remembering Dr. Patterson with gratitude and admiration for all he did to help us as the first graduating class of Mountain Brook High School. Our prayers and thoughts are with your family as you walk through these difficult days. May God comfort and fill you with His peace.*

Charlotte and Mark Coggin

Mountain Brook High School Class of 1968 and 1969

Charlotte and Mark Coggin - September 03, 2013 at 09:27 PM

LS

Thank you!

Lisa Patterson Stubbs - September 10, 2013 at 12:09 AM