

## Robert Ray Holbrook

February 22, 1932 - March 2, 2017

Robert Ray Holbrook

February 22, 1932 – March 2, 2017

Robert "Bob" Holbrook—pastor, advocate, husband, father, grandfather and friend—went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 2, 2017. He was 85.

Bob pastored several churches throughout his 40-year career. The last 16 of those years in San Antonio where he pastored at Harlandale Baptist before leaving and starting a non-denominational church under then-Eagle's Nest Christian Fellowship on the city's southeast side.

More than a pulpit preacher, Bob co-founded Baptists for Life in 1973 immediately following the Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision. It was one of the earliest Baptist pro-life organizations.

Testifying before Congress that same year, he spoke up for the unborn and the sanctity of human life even as Southern Baptists denounced him and other members of his organization as renegades out of step with the majority of Baptists.

Though not afraid to ruffle feathers and speak his mind and his beliefs, Bob's tenacity was greatly overshadowed by his compassion and tenderness. He

counseled and ministered many people for decades, impacting lives across generations even after his retirement in 1996.

To his family, he was a funny, playful, knowledgeable man full of deep, quiet contemplation and overflowing with joy and love—the wisest man they ever knew.

Bob is survived by his wife Pat, of 60 years, his children Melanie McBroom and husband Craig, Mark Holbrook, Lisa Smith and husband Grant, David Holbrook, Holly Keener and husband Brian, Amy Lansford and husband Mike, Brad Holbrook, grandchildren Natalie Dirting, Katie Savage, Caleb Smith, Lindsay Smith, Garrett Keener, Sarah Smith, Stephen Lansford, Hailey Keener, Zachary Lansford, Nicholas Lansford, Ethan Holbrook, and great-granddaughters Harlow Dirting and Vivienne Dirting.

Services are on Tuesday, March 7 at Summit Christian Center at 2575 Marshall Road in San Antonio. Public viewing is from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. with a service starting at 2 p.m. and a reception following at 3 p.m.

Flowers can be sent to Mission Burial Park South at 1700 SE Military Dr., San Antonio, TX 78214 or Summit Christian Center 2575 Marshall Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78259.

"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding."

Proverbs 3:13

For personal acknowledgement, you may sign the online guestbook at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) in the obituary section.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 7. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Summit Christian Center  
2575 Marshall Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78259

## Funeral Service

MAR 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Summit Christian Center  
2575 Marshall Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78259

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ I was adopted when I was 6 by a couple in Restoration Christian Fellowship by and Pastor Bob welcomed me into the church. I was scared and nervous but him and his wife, Pat, were so welcoming and warm that I felt immediately at home. I grew up with this church and loved feeling the welcoming every day in every service. I hugged this man every chance I could steal as a child and wish I could still with his beautiful heart. It was always knowledge throughout the church if you had a problem you went to "brother Bob". Heaven must be brighter now that he's there.

---

Melissa Lynn Poff - February 06, 2019 at 11:34 PM

RH

“ Susan and I are sad to hear about Brother Bob's passing. We were online planning a trip out west from Myrtle Beach, SC where we now live, and discovered the news in our search. It's hard to hold back the tears as I write this. He and Pat welcomed me to the staff at Harlandale Baptist in 1985 fresh out of seminary (I was looking for a pastor to learn from, and did I ever!) I discovered how to pastor with grace and wisdom during those years - and I discovered my wife in a Harlandale Sunday School class! We used to change our first daughter's diapers on his office desk. I hope he didn't mind. Each Sunday for four years, I would sit in the short throne (pastor chair) and he would take the big one. Pat along with the rest of the choir (I think Amy might have been in the choir by then, but not sure) would file in past the baptistry. All would go well (as long as the squirrels in the church attic didn't act up.) I never did get to that squirrel chasing thing on my job description! I've missed his voice in my life, and that of Pat's. He is in heaven serving the Lord Jesus for whom he gave his life and ministry - Brother Bob is a good friend with whom I will get to share eternity. Susan and I pray for Pat and the kids. We love you.

---

Rick Harrell - March 16, 2017 at 08:00 PM

SC

“ I am saddened about Bro Bob. It was his time. My Daddy(Albert Alvarado)and him have reunited. I always thought of him through tge years. He married my husband anl,also baptized 2 of our five children as well as my husband(age 26) and I(at age 9). He saw our family through a lot and was a generous forgiving soul. Heaven has gained a true Angel. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.



---

**Stephanie Alvarado Cao** - March 10, 2017 at 02:45 PM

LA

“ To my beloved Pat Holbrook, I am so sorry for the loss of our dear Pastor, Brother and friend. Albert and I loved him so very much. He meant so much to me and remember all he did for me in my spiritual life as well as Albert's. I remember when I first visited Harlandale Baptist Church he was the Pastor there. On my second visit I heard from the Lord these words, do not leave this man's sight. From that day in the fall of 1982 till his retirement in 2000 I served God and my dear Pastor Bob. My heart is saddened on his loss. I have many memories of him but the ones that stand out the most were the ones when he would get after me and make me think. Those times made me strong and a little wiser on how I handled things and told me not to tell the elders that I was his right hand. I want you to know that he would have been proud of Zach since he was all over the place at times because he became a Police Officer and loves the Lord. I could probably write a book on all my memories of him. Please let the family know that I have missed him and you so very much since the year 2000 and that I am so very sorry for their loss. Just want you to know that Albert passed away on Nov. 21, 2014 and I totally understand your loss. I will keep you and your family in my prayers. With all my Love, Linda Alvarado.

---

**Linda Alvarado** - March 10, 2017 at 02:16 PM

SC

*Praying for your family Pat Holbrook. ❤️*

**Stephanie Alvarado Cao** - March 10, 2017 at 02:46 PM

MR

*“ I have so many memories... This is one in particular memory I will always remember. Pastor Bob loved corvettes. Every year some would give him a toy corvette for his birthday. He would laugh and say one day you will see me driving in a corvette with wind blowing through my hair. We always treasure the wonderful memories we have with Pastor Bob. We are praying for Mrs. Pat and family for God's comfort and grace be with you all. Love Marcos, Mari, Jeremy and April Rodriguez*

**Mari Rodriguez** - March 07, 2017 at 08:49 AM

WS

*“ William R. Striebeck purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Robert Ray Holbrook .*



**William R. Striebeck** - March 06, 2017 at 04:20 PM



*“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Ray Holbrook .*




March 05, 2017 at 01:08 PM

BL

“ YOU COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER NEIGHBOR THEN BOB. ALWAYS THE JOKESTER, FRIENDLY AND ALWAYS ASKING YOU TO PRAY FOR RAIN. WOULDN'T HE HAVE LOVED YESTERDAY'S DOWNPOUR. WE WISH TO SEND OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO PAT AND HER FAMILY IN THEIR LOSS OF A DEAR HUSBAND, FATHER AND GRANDFATHER. WE FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE KNOWN HIM. BARBARA AND CLIFF LINDSEY AND FAMILY

---

**Barbara Lindsey** - March 05, 2017 at 10:20 AM

 Brad Holbrook

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



---

**Brad Holbrook** - March 04, 2017 at 05:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Robert Ray Holbrook* .



---

March 04, 2017 at 01:56 PM

RO

“ I have so many memories...where do I begin. Probably one of my favorites that I tell people to this day is when I would sleepover with Holly and we would attend church on Sunday. As Mr Holbrook would be preaching I would feel like he would be staring right at me. You know the feeling.....like a big bright arrow sign was pointing down at you. His sermon would just happen to be about today's youth and the wrongs they are doing or something like that. Enough to make you feel like... does he know....is he going to tell my parents...on and on. I can laugh about it now but then I was scared to death. Yes, his sermons were enlightening, encouraging, heart felt & a funny would happen every once in a while or at least on the few services I attended.

Although I wasn't of the Baptist faith nor was my husband, Mr Holbrook on short notice was kind enough to take time from his birthday in 1986 to marry us.

He again on short notice not once but twice was so kind as to speak at both my parents funerals. This was the kind of loving & caring man he was.

You were like a second dad during my junior high and high school years. Unfortunately after joining the military I wasn't in touch as much as I should have been but I knew you were around to guide me spiritually. May you RIP and until we meet again.....

---

Rocky - March 04, 2017 at 01:21 PM

DA

“ I love Bob Holbrook. He was a father to me. He had the gift of being able to encourage and give correction with equal grace. His legendary sense of humor has already been memorialized in our lives as we frequently quote one of Bob's witty remarks. We hold dear the pottery pieces he crafted with his own hands. His love and devotion to Pat and his children is a model of what family life should be. Above all, Bob gave himself completely to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a hero of the faith and he has finished his race. Well done, Bob.

*David and Annette Lovelace*

---

**david** - March 04, 2017 at 09:06 AM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Ray Holbrook .



---

March 04, 2017 at 08:53 AM