

Obituaries

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Mr. Richard Bartow Allen

On Monday, August 25, 2025, Mr. Richard Bartow Allen, 68, passed away peacefully at his cabin home in Peachland.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 29, 2025, at Peachland Baptist Church with Rev. Tony High officiating. Interment will follow in Peachland Cemetery.

The family will greet friends on Thursday, August 28, 2025, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Leavitt Funeral Home and other times at the family's cabin home.

Richard was born December 4, 1956, in Anson County, and was a son of the late Thomas Waddell Allen and the late Emma Belle Little Allen. He was a graduate of Bowman High School. He worked in taxidermy following high school to put himself through college and graduated from Wingate University with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

He worked for a number of years with the Wadesboro Police Department as an officer and detective. While employed by Cuddy Farms, he started Allen's Professional Investigations, which employed many men and women in the area as security officers for businesses in Anson and surrounding counties. In 2007 Richard

opened Allen's General Store in Peachland, which later became Allen's Restaurant.

A true servant of the people, Richard served the Town of Peachland as Mayor for 18 years. He also served on the Peachland Zoning Board, the Peachland Cemetery Committee, the NCDOT Board of Transportation, the NC Private Protective Service Board, and the Anson County School Board. Richard was always willing to be supportive of the Town of Peachland and Anson County, as he often sponsored teams and events through Field of Dreams, Anson County Ducks Unlimited, Wadesboro Rotary Club, and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce.

An avid outdoorsman, Richard's love for animals and nature started young. As a boy and teenager, he cared for various animals including snakes, raccoons, a fox, an alligator, and deer. He went on to obtain his taxidermy license and continued to hunt deer, turkeys, quail, ducks, and rabbits - a love that was passed down to his family. In more recent years, he was a strong supporter of Hands of a Sportsman and volunteered with the Anson County Hands of a Sportsman Youth Deer Hunt, which was first held at his cabin for youth and individuals with disabilities. This event has grown over the years to be one of the largest events in Anson County for young people.

Those left to cherish his memory include his children, Nicole Steagall (Travis) and Brian Allen (Mary Lena); his grandchildren, Emma Steagall, Allie Steagall, and Jacob Allen, all of Peachland; his brother Tommy Allen (Debbie) of Monroe; numerous cousins; and a multitude of friends who were like extended family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hands of a Sportsman, 9820 Casor Rd., Salisbury, NC 28146 or to Peachland Cemetery, c/o Gloria Overcash, 1642 Upper White Store Rd., Peachland, NC 28133.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Dr. James Vernon Sims

On Saturday, August 23, 2025, Dr. James Vernon Sims, 83, passed away peacefully at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Jerome Cash officiating. Interment will follow in Anson Memorial Park.

The family will friends on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Dr. Sims was born September 30, 1941, in Ohio and was lovingly reared by his grandmother, Mary Henry Harrington, in Lilesville, where he lived in an apartment above the telephone company. He attended all grades of school in Lilesville, graduating from Lilesville High School Class of 1959 as the Salutatorian.

He was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1965. In 1968, he earned a Master of Arts from Appalachian State University. In 1977, he earned a Sixth Year Degree in Education, and in 1985 he earned a Doctorate in Education from Nova University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. Sims was known for his long and successful career in education with Anson County Schools, where he served as Principal of Peachland Elementary School, Principal of Anson Junior High School, Associate Superintendent of Anson County Schools, and retired as Superintendent of Anson County Schools.

During his tenure as superintendent, Anson County built four new elementary schools—Lilesville, Peachland Polkton, Ansonville, and Morven. These schools were built from bond money he was instrumental in raising for their construction.

He was civically active in his community, serving on the Anson County Board of Education and several terms as a County Commissioner for Anson County. He was also a member of the Wadesboro Rotary Club, Anson County Economic Development, and the Anson County Bearcat Booster Club.

He was a member of Peachland Baptist Church where he had served as a Sunday school teacher. He enjoyed a good golf game with his friends and was always kind, congenial, caring, and willing to help others in any way he could.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his wife, Ann Terry Sims; his grandson, Cody Helms (Desiree); his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Gilda and Benny Galliher; and his nephews, Benny Galliher, Jr. and Chris Galliher and their families.

In addition to his parents and his grandmother, Mary Henry Harrington, he was preceded in death by his son, Stan Sims, and by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, James and Rosa Lee Terry.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Funny, Random & Weird Holidays

- **Thursday, Aug. 28**
Bow Tie Day
- **Friday, Aug. 29**
According to Hoyle Day
- **Saturday, Aug. 30**
Frankenstein Day
- **Sunday, Aug. 31**
Eat Outside Day
- **Monday, Sep. 1**
Emma Nutt Day
- **Monday, Sep. 1**
No Rhyme or Reason Day
- **Tuesday, Sep. 2**
Bison Ten Yell Day
- **Wednesday, Sep. 3**
Skyscraper Day



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Birthday
Dad!

Love, Frances, Sandra
David & Neal

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