



Robert "Bob" Austin Polk

September 4, 1947 - May 20, 2026

Robert Austin Polk, 78, of Summerville, South Carolina, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Born on September 4, 1947, in Effingham, South Carolina, he was the beloved son of the late Oather Mindon Polk and Nora Esther Polk.

Bob shared 55 wonderful years of marriage with the love of his life, Ginger Reynolds Polk. He was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather. He was a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Bob earned his master's degree and remained a lifelong Gamecocks fan. Bob had a dedicated career in education. He began his career as a teacher before later serving as a principal at Alston Middle School and guidance director at Summerville High School. He was respected for his leadership and devotion to helping people, especially students. Bob was known as the life of the party, always ready to tell a joke or make someone smile.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ginger Polk; his children: Leah Reason (Shelby), Blake Polk, and Kelly McDonald (TJ); his grandchildren: Maddox Patrick McDonald, Emma Grace Reason, Myers Polk McDonald, Benjamin Reason, and Connor Reason; his siblings: Christine Weatherford and Denise King; as well as numerous beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving granddaughter, Arnette Kinley McDonald; as well as his parents.

A visitation of family and friends will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 6pm until 8pm at James A. Dyal Funeral Home, 303 S. Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483. The funeral service will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, beginning at 1pm at Bethany UMC, 118 W. 3rd S. Street, Summerville, SC 29483. Burial will immediately follow at Dorchester Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Reachoutandread, <https://www.rorcarolinas.org>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Funeral Service

MAY **29**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bethany United Methodist Church
118 W. 3rd S. Street
Summerville, SC 29483

Burial

MAY **29** (ET)

Dorchester Memory Gardens
11000 Dorchester Road
Summerville, SC 29485
<http://www.dorchestermemorygardens.com>

Tribute Wall

RH

“ *What a great guy and long-time friend since our first days in grammar school... love and prayers to family.*

Rodger Hatchell - June 11 at 03:34 PM

AG

“ *Bob was a popular classmate at Southside HS in Florence. We just learned today of his passing. And tonight we are having our 60th reunion, The Southside Class of 1966. Allen Gibson*

Allen Gibson - June 11 at 10:57 AM

BF

“ *Burton family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" Austin Polk.*



Burton family - May 27 at 07:15 PM

BF

“ *Burton family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" Austin Polk.*

Burton family - May 27 at 07:15 PM

AR

“ Aunt Martha, Sandy,Patti and Randy purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Robert "Bob" Austin Polk.



Aunt Martha, Sandy,Patti and Randy - May 27 at 01:42 PM

AR

“ Aunt Martha, Sandy,Patti and Randy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" Austin Polk.

Aunt Martha, Sandy,Patti and Randy - May 27 at 01:42 PM



“ 115 files added to the album LifeTributes



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James A Dyal Funeral Home - May 27 at 11:06 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Austin Polk.



May 26 at 06:03 PM



“ Bob was a kind and generous man who loved his family with all his heart. I always loved seeing Bob when we visited in the summers, hearing his stories and making me laugh. He is a true gentleman and will be missed by all. Rest high on that mountain, Bob. Until we meet again. Sandy Mills 🙏❤️

Sandra Mills - May 23 at 02:43 PM



“ My interactions with Mr. Polk are from the Beech Hill car rider line and various school functions. He was always there for his grandkids, and you could tell how much they loved him. He always would joke with me, give me a hug if he were out of the truck, and simply bring me a little joy every time I saw him. I know he had quite a life before he made it to our car rider line, but he was in every sense of the word a true Beacon.

Jana Hooks - May 23 at 04:53 AM



“ Sending love and my deepest condolences to Ginger, Leah, Blake, Kelly as well as all the Polk family. There are many fond memories of soccer games and tournaments during the years two of my girls were coached by Mr Polk at SHS. May comfort and peace be your constant companions during this difficult time. 🕊️

Helen Hogan - May 22 at 07:25 PM

CH

“ Sending my love and light to the all the Polk Family; I love you all ❤️ Mr. Polk was my high school soccer coach 96-99. He was the sweetest, passionate and all around lovable coach with the jokes. So many memories of traveling to tournaments, hugs and high fives and cheering us on and in life. Mr. Polk always joked about having so many adopted daughters while coaching 😊 He made a positive impact on my life that helped shape me into the person I am today. I am truly blessed to have known him 🏈💚💛



Cat Hogan - May 22 at 01:16 PM

SH

“ We are saddened to hear of Bob’s passing! What a wonderful guy he was to our family and how I enjoyed my time at Alston when he was principal. Always positive, ready to lend a hand and kind to everyone! He will surely be missed and we send love and comfort to his precious family.

Sherr Houston, Madison, MS

Sherri Houston - May 22 at 12:47 PM

HH

“ Sending my heartfelt condolences and prayers to Mr. Polk’s family and friends. He was truly one of a kind and such a great asset to the community, especially for those of us who were fortunate enough to know him during our school years. His kindness, presence, and impact will not be forgotten. Rest easy, Mr. Polk.

Heather Augustine Hodge - May 22 at 11:46 AM

VW

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. He was a true treasure to the school system. Thank you for all the help, guidance and understanding that you showed to my children over the years. You will truly be missed.* 🙏🙏🙏

Vivian Williams - May 21 at 03:16 PM

DR

Bob Polk was truly a great guy. With his distinguished voice, he cared for and helped thousands of youth, through his roles at SHS, as a soccer coach and more. We need more men like him. Blessings to his family.

David Reiter - May 23 at 01:30 AM