



William Robert "Bob" Pitner

December 17, 1942 - May 22, 2025

William Robert Pitner finished his earthly journey on Thursday, May 22, 2025, after a brief illness at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth, MS.

William Robert Pitner (Bob) was born on December 17, 1942, at the home of his paternal grandparents, William Robert and Addie Mae (Mary Adeline Hopper) Pitner, in Tiplersville, MS. Delivery was attended by Dr. John Tate, who drove up from Ripley for the birth.

Bob attended 12 years of school at Ripley Schools, graduating from Ripley High School in 1960. He then attended Freed-Hardeman and Harding College. He graduated from Harding with a BA degree in 1965.

He taught and coached in Corinth and the north Mississippi area from 1965 to 2006, retiring in 2006. He was married to Betty Rathbun on June 11, 1965, in Falls Church, Virginia.

His life will continue to be cherished by his wife Betty, his children Melinda Marsalis (Chris), Will Pitner (Gareth), and Jonathan Pitner (Ania), his five grandchildren Katie Goodwiller (Bradley), Wade Simpson (Courtney), Hannah Pitner, Sophia Pitner, and Emma Pitner, and his four great-grandchildren Lauren Goodwiller, Michael Goodwiller, Thomas Simpson, and Sawyer Simpson. He is also survived by his sister Mary Jo Pitner Morris Lence (Kenneth) and his brother Wayne Pitner (Sandra).

He is preceded in death by his parents: to Bill (William Richard) and Marie (Lottie Marie Horton) Pitner; his paternal grandparents: William Robert and Addie Mae (Mary Adeline Hopper) Pitner; his maternal grandparents: Will (Willis Dixon) and Lottie (Laura Elizabeth Adair) Horton.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Doris Baker Animal Resource Center at 2407 Norman Road in Corinth, Mississippi.

Expressions of sympathy and remembrances may be mailed to:

The Bob Pitner Family

% Melinda Marsalis

2333 Blackjack Road

Ashland, MS 38603

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **27**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

McBride Funeral Home, Inc.
206 N. Commerce St
Ripley, MS 38663
(662) 837-8101
mcbriдерипley@gmail.com
<https://www.mcbridefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

MAY **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

LT

“ We are saddened on the passing of Bob. He was a kind man and wonderful neighbor. He will be missed. Jerry and Linda Tidwell

LINDA TIDWELL - May 26, 2025 at 02:24 PM

KS

“ Loved Coach Pitner. Appreciated his leadership and friendship when he was coaching at Pontotoc. Especially enjoyed playing for him on the PHS baseball team during our senior year..1971. Prayers to the family. Kyle Steward.

Kyle Steward - May 24, 2025 at 10:46 AM

S1

“ Steve Howard- Class of 1983 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Robert "Bob" Pitner.

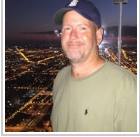


Steve Howard- Class of 1983 - May 24, 2025 at 12:34 AM

S1

“ Steve Howard- Class of 1983 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Robert "Bob" Pitner.

Steve Howard- Class of 1983 - May 24, 2025 at 12:34 AM



“ I’ve heard people say that you can tell a lot about a man’s character, by how he treats animals and children. I can’t remember ever visiting Bob and Betty when they didn’t have a house full of animals. Cats, dogs, and they were the first people I knew that owned a bird that wasn’t a chicken. He loved his old dogs and took good care of them. They were like family. He also loved children. They were drawn to him, and he spoke their language. It sometimes looked like aggravating “Michael’s a big fat chicken” or “I’ll put you on the fridge and cut off your tallywacker.” But kids and dogs know who really has their backs. That’s why they couldn’t help but be drawn to him. I guess that was part of his magic as a coach and teacher. He really loved the kids and could speak their language. In that way, he was a bit like Jesus. He was never too busy to let the little ones come unto him. As a historian he kept up with all the family stories, burial locations and secrets... although we can’t be sure how many of the stories were 100% true. I kind of believed he liked to spice them up a bit. Did Papa Bill really kill football at Freed Hardeman? Yes, Lots of folks can convey information, but uncle bob, knew how to tell a story. He could fight and refight the Battle of Shiloh over and over and do so so skillfully that former students would visit him on his death bed and tease him about civil war generals. They could not only remember the generals, but also remember which ones Bob didn’t like. Now that is teaching! He loved classic westerns John Wayne and Clint Eastwood were frequently quoted, Especially when he got together with Wayne. I don’t think uncle Bob was drawn to those movies out of any desire to “make America great again,” but he was drawn to those movies for their themes of justice and courage and looking out for people who can’t look out for themselves, even if it means putting yourself in harm’s way. I think that’s another way that Bob was a bit like Jesus. Treating people right was an important part of his ethos. Perhaps the most surprising piece of the equation for me was how much he also loved reading and rereading Faulkner. A solid task that many cannot endure. I know I can’t get through a chapter of *The Sound and the Fury* without wanting to pull my hair out, and I don’t have much hair to waste. I told Will that I thought Uncle Bob was one of the coolest

people I've ever met. Will said "well y'all have that in common. He thought he was one of the coolest people he'd ever met." He was cool. And more than cool, he was interesting. They broke the mold with Uncle Bob. He was, as Katie said "the man, the myth and the legend."

Well, after reading this drivel, y'all are probably glad I won't be there. I do know Uncle Bob was far from perfect, but to me, this is who he was.

I love y'all bunches and my heart is with you even if my body is not.

Jake Morris - May 23, 2025 at 07:17 PM

LC

“ *Mr. Bob was a great man. I am so thankful I got to know him and ms. Betty. I will keep praying for his family and friends.*”



Lind carr - May 23, 2025 at 06:27 PM

TG

“ *Sending heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family and friends.*”



Terrye Grisham - May 23, 2025 at 01:59 PM