



## Walt Parson

October 17, 1950 - September 11, 2015

Walton Ray “Walt” Parson, age 64, Haleyville, AL passed away Friday, September 11, 2015, at his home while battling nasopharyngeal small cell carcinoma.

Visitation will be Monday, September 14, 2015 from 6-9 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home where the service will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Hillcrest City Cemetery in Haleyville. Vance Hutton and Nathan Carroll officiating.

Walt was born on October 17, 1950, in Haleyville, Alabama, and graduated from Haleyville High School in 1968. That same year, he married Carol Gardner. They would have celebrated their 47th anniversary on November 27th. Throughout his life, he worked in the Mobile Home industry, the Coal industry, the Waste Management industry, and owned, operated, and sold several of his own restaurants.

Walt was “for” Haleyville, the town he loved, wanted to help it grow and thrive, and invested much of his personal life contributing to and supporting its betterment. At the time of his death, Walt was serving on the Haleyville Solid Waste Disposal Authority and he had served several terms prior. More often than not, Walt was the “Grill master” at special events in Haleyville –the Winston County Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies, HHS sports

banquets, civic organization banquets, and his church sponsored Panama City Youth Retreat, just to name a few.

Subsumed within his love for Haleyville, was Walt's love for its youth and his belief that dedication to and investment in them was not only a blessed privilege and joy, but a duty and responsibility. He committed himself to helping, teaching, encouraging, and inspiring Haleyville's young people to believe in God, practice and develop their talents, to never let "difficult" be the obstacle that ended a dream, to accept the help offered to them, graciously, and someday "pay it forward." Walt knew that these things were what created good people, good citizens, and the future good of Haleyville. Walt served as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church of Haleyville, he attended many youth mission trips and served for three years as the Coordinator for Children's Ministries and the Young at Heart program.

His own two children smile today and say, "He always put us first." He coached Kristi's softball and basketball teams and Billy Ray's basketball, football, and baseball teams. Frequently, he left home for work at 4:00a.m. so that he would not miss a game played later that afternoon.

Walt had a tremendous effect on Haleyville sports and can be directly linked to some of the Championship banners one sees upon entering the high school gymnasium. He co-founded the Dixie Youth Baseball program in Haleyville when Billy Ray was a boy. He also coached Kristi's softball team when she was eight through the Haleyville Park and Recreation Department. He continued to coach this same team for years and knew it was a powerhouse. He began appealing to the school superintendent, the school board, the city council, the booster's club, and anyone else who would listen, to establish a Haleyville High School Softball team. The HHS team became a reality prior to the 1984-85 school year and, just two years later, they won the State Championship! Additionally, Kristi and several members of that championship

team also played volleyball and won that State Championship, as well, the very same year.

Sports did not define Walt, however. He certainly never met a stranger and had more friends than one can number. And, he had a huge heart that really cared about and hurt for people. Billy Ray remembers that when he was a very young boy, Walt began teaching him to help people that were less fortunate. Long before becoming members of a church, Walt took his family to deliver bags of toys, food, or clothes to those in need during holidays. Walt was proud that Billy Ray and Kristi taught his grandchildren to do exactly the same.

Walt was preceded in death by his Grandparents, Walter and Mannie Belle Arnold, Jack and Izilla Parson, and William and Rosie Defoor.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Gardner Parson; his parents, Billy and Jean Parson; his children, Kristi Ward (Steve) and Billy Ray Parson (Amanda); his sister, LaRue Wakefield (Sonny); his grandchildren, Hayden Steven Ward, Emma Hughes and Jonathan Kent Parson; and his niece, Michelle Miller.

you may leave online condolences at [www.pinkardfh.com](http://www.pinkardfh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest City Cemetery

Haleyville, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **14**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Pinkard Funeral Home - Haleyville  
1308 21st Street Hwy. 195 P.O. 592  
Haleyville, AL 35565  
(205) 486-7662  
pinkardfh67@centurytel.net  
<http://www.pinkardfh.com>

## Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pinkard Funeral Home - Haleyville  
1308 21st Street Hwy. 195 P.O. 592  
Haleyville, AL 35565  
(205) 486-7662  
pinkardfh67@centurytel.net  
<http://www.pinkardfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pinkard Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Walt Parson*



**Pinkard Funeral Home** - September 14, 2015 at 09:59 AM

PG

*Beautiful memories of Walt with his beautiful wife, children, and grandchildren. Praying for your comfort during this sad great loss.*  
*Phyllis Burleson Grissom*

**Phyllis Burleson Grissom** - September 17, 2015 at 03:43 AM

JM

“ *Judy McCullar lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



**Judy McCullar** - October 02, 2015 at 08:45 AM



Melinda  
Edwards

“ *Walt was a wonderful man. He loved to aggravate and argue with me. I will miss that. He touched our whole family. Miss Carol, you and your family are still in our prayers!*

**Melinda Edwards** - September 20, 2015 at 05:33 PM

VL

“ *Enjoyed working w Walt and the crew at the restaurant forever ago. We always had a great time and the food was the best! Walt was a great person.*

Vickie Lawler - September 15, 2015 at 09:47 PM

LB

*sorry for your lost*

Larry baccus - September 17, 2015 at 10:38 AM

H

*to the family of Walt Parson, my most sincere condolences....grew up as a neighborhood friend of Walt and LaRue..I share in the loss of a truly great person...my heart is with you through this difficult time for all of you.*

Pam Hyde - September 17, 2015 at 10:41 PM

 Gary Williams

*Just learned of your loss.i am so sorry Walt was a good friend i will mss him. My prayers go out to you and your family.*

Gary Williams - September 18, 2015 at 11:59 AM



“ *Scotty Burleson lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



Scotty Burleson - September 15, 2015 at 03:19 PM



*My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time. May God's loving comfort bring you peace.*

Scotty Burleson - September 15, 2015 at 03:22 PM

PG

*Praying for entire family.  
Video was great of Walt ' s life with all his beautiful family. Sad for all in  
this difficult time. Walt was always nice and so friendly to all.*

**Phyllis Burleson Grissom** - September 17, 2015 at 03:50 AM

AD

“ *Alan Dempsey lit a candle in memory of Walt  
Parson*



**Alan Dempsey** - September 15, 2015 at 11:55 AM

JW

“ *JUDY WILLIS lit a candle in memory of Walt  
Parson*



**JUDY WILLIS** - September 15, 2015 at 11:42 AM

LA

“ *Larry Anderson lit a candle in memory of Walt  
Parson*



**Larry Anderson** - September 15, 2015 at 11:36 AM

NP

“ *carol and family. So sorry to hear of the passing of Walt. He was  
one of a kind. Know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Neita Pierce** - September 15, 2015 at 09:25 AM

SB

“ *Stan & Carol Bryan lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



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**Stan & Carol Bryan** - September 15, 2015 at 09:19 AM

DD

“ *Well everywhere I went Walt was there or just had been there !!!  
Going to mess running into him !! Prays for all*

*Danny Defoor*

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**Danny Defoor** - September 14, 2015 at 11:50 PM

GP

“ *Glenda Peak lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



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**Glenda Peak** - September 14, 2015 at 09:26 PM

GL

“ *Carol and Family, Gary & I were so very sorry to hear about the passing of Walt. We always enjoyed being around him-talking & listening to his great sense of humor. He was a good person who will be missed by many. May God keep HIS loving arms around your precious family and give you comfort and peace at this sad time. We won't be able to be there with you as Gary's health won't allow us, but you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Love to you all.*

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**Gary & Peggy Little** - September 14, 2015 at 12:51 PM

RL

“ *Its hard to put in words but Walt was like a brother and father to me. The other night I was watching the football game we always when there watch the game ,going to mis that. I know it's sad now but all I can remember now is the good times we had .praying for y'all*

Ronald Loden - September 14, 2015 at 12:28 PM

MS

“ *Carol & Family; we are so sorry to hear about Walt. We are in West Virginia working and will not be able to be there but please know that our thoughts and prayers are there with you. Memories of Walt will always be with us. God bless you!!!!*



Mary Stokes - September 14, 2015 at 10:31 AM

DN

“ *Denise Nugent lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



Denise Nugent - September 14, 2015 at 10:24 AM

DN

*I was so saddened to hear of Walt's passing.He was a good man with a since of humor.My thoughts and prayers are with his family.May he rest in Peace.*

Denise Nugent - September 14, 2015 at 10:26 AM

KH

*So very sorry for your loss. Walt was "one of a kind" & he will be greatly missed so many. Paul & Kathy Howell*

Kathy Howell - September 14, 2015 at 11:55 PM



“ 65 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Pinkard Funeral Home** - September 14, 2015 at 09:48 AM



“ Carol and family,  
We are so sorry to hear of Walt's passing. We will always remember our times spent with yall at the Country Cafe and the great steaks he could cook. Our prayers go out to each of you.

*Brandon and Christi Norris*

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**Christi Norris** - September 14, 2015 at 08:44 AM



“ Sorry for your loss,,,



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**Sam Heath** - September 13, 2015 at 10:09 PM

CE

“ Praying for you all during this time



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**Connie Handley & Charles Elliott** - September 13, 2015 at 09:32 PM

OE

“ Walt was a very special person and we shared a lot of fun times together. May God give you all comfort in knowing you will be with him again someday. Our thoughts and prayers are going out to you guys. Love, Opal and Ralph Edwards



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**Opal Edwards** - September 13, 2015 at 07:11 PM

FJ

“ So many memories shared with all of this family., Embracing you all with hugs and prayers.

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**felecia james** - September 13, 2015 at 05:48 PM

HH

“ I want to thank God for me know you and I will always remember you

*hutty*

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**hutty hutcheson** - September 13, 2015 at 05:34 PM



“ *Walt will always be remembered for being a great person* ”



Michael Glasheen - September 13, 2015 at 02:02 PM



“ *Jenny Rodgers* ”

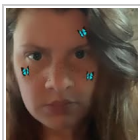


jenny rodgers - September 13, 2015 at 08:46 AM



“ *Walt you will be missed but you are with our Heavenly Father now and I am sure you will be coaching all the young children. Prayers goes out to Carol, Billy Ray, Christy and all the Family, I am so glad I got to be with you and Carol a few weeks ago. Rest in Peace My Friend!* ”

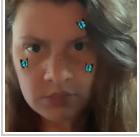
Karen Duke - September 12, 2015 at 11:22 PM



“ *Tiffany Harlan sent a virtual gift in memory of Walt Parson* ”



Tiffany Harlan - September 12, 2015 at 11:09 PM



“ Tiffany Harlan sent a virtual gift in memory of Walt Parson



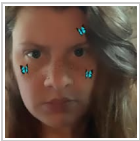
Tiffany Harlan - September 12, 2015 at 11:08 PM



“ Tiffany Harlan lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson



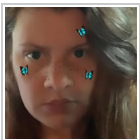
Tiffany Harlan - September 12, 2015 at 11:08 PM



“ Tiffany Harlan sent a virtual gift in memory of Walt Parson



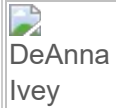
Tiffany Harlan - September 12, 2015 at 11:08 PM



“ Tiffany Harlan sent a virtual gift in memory of Walt Parson



Tiffany Harlan - September 12, 2015 at 11:07 PM



“ *DeAnna Ivey lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



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**DeAnna Ivey** - September 12, 2015 at 10:47 PM



“ *Dean Wakefield lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



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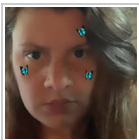
**Dean wakefield** - September 12, 2015 at 10:14 PM



“ *Walt I will never ever forget you... You are like a second daddy to me... I love you. Until we meet again.*

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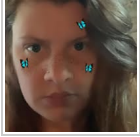
**Kris Pigg** - September 12, 2015 at 07:29 PM



“ *My family has so many wonderful memories of being with Walt & Carol. I know he is home with our Lord & Savior! Praying for his family during this time!*

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**Tiffany Harlan** - September 12, 2015 at 06:22 PM



“ *Tiffany Harlan lit a candle in memory of Walt Parson*



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**Tiffany Harlan** - September 12, 2015 at 06:19 PM



“ *My wonderful cousin and friend it was a joy to have known you ,your entire life. You enriched everyone that knew you. From your coaching young ones ,to your love of cooking,or any other endeavor you chose to undertake. I always lloved our talks and times together. I love you and will miss you dearly. I know I will be seeing you again one day when our loving heavebly father Jehovah resurrects all sleeping in the memorial tombs to a new paradise earth. Where all will never say again I am sick. Until the sleep in Jehovah's memory.*

*My to you,Judy*

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**judy hinterschied** - September 12, 2015 at 05:23 PM



“ *Walt I hope your hanging with our heavenly father and coaching all that you come in contact with. you did so much for me as a young kid being a Coach and role model I'm blessed to have known you and what mattered to you as a coach and your value's Thanks for all you did for my Sister Becky and I. Renae and Angie as well*

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**Teresa** - September 12, 2015 at 01:31 PM

WI

*Have many great memories of baseball games and helping build the Dixie Youth program. Walt loved to coach the kids and watch them play. Many interesting Board meetings also. He could always make you laugh.....He will be missed. Prayers for his family.....Harvey and Jobie Wickwire*

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**Wickwire** - September 13, 2015 at 05:25 AM

JE

*LaRue and family, we were saddened to learn of your brother's passing. We are praying for you during this time of bereavement. You will always miss your brother. He was loved by so many people! Love and Prayers, Jimmy & Patsy Estes*

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**Jimmy & Patsy Estes** - September 13, 2015 at 09:49 PM