



Roland Henry Harrison Sr

July 30, 1927 - May 2, 2025

Roland Henry Harrison passed away peacefully on May 2, 2025, at the age of 97, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A Godly man, husband and father, his life was a true example of hard work, love for the Church, and an unwavering devotion to his family. Through his words and by his example, he instilled in his seven children the virtues of honesty, integrity, and patience.

Roland was born in Austin, Texas, on July 30, 1927, to Roland Roscoe Harrison and Elna Blanche (Niven) Harrison. He received his education at Newman Parochial School through the 8th grade, and graduated from Austin High School in 1944. He served in the US Army from November 1945 to November 1946 at Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Following his time in the Army, he attended the University of Texas in Austin where he earned three degrees in Chemical Engineering: a Bachelor of Science in 1949, a Master of Science in 1952, and a PhD in 1955. He was a member of the Honor Societies of Tau Beta Pi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Omega Chi Epsilon and Sigma Xi.

In June, 1951, he married his sweetheart and square dance partner of 6 years, Mary Margaret (Margie) Fewell. In June 1955, they moved to Baton Rouge, LA, where he worked in the Esso Research Laboratories for three years. They then relocated to Bartlesville, OK, in 1958, where he began work

in the Thermodynamics Laboratories of the Bureau of Mines. Following his retirement from the Bureau of Mines, he continued his research work with the National Institute of Petroleum and Energy Research (NIPER). During his career he had over 40 publications of his research in the Petroleum Refiner, Chemical Engineering Progress, Journal of Chemical Physics, Journal of Chemical Thermodynamics, Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data, and several government publications.

After his retirement from NIPER, he coauthored with Robert Wicks a detailed biography of his grandfather, William Niven, entitled *Buried Cities, Forgotten Gods: William Niven's Life of Discovery and Revolution in Mexico and the American Southwest*, which was published by The Texas Tech University Press in 1999. The help of his wife Margie, his brother Pat, and several cousins was deeply appreciated.

Roland was a member of St. John Before the Latin Gate Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus (3rd Degree), the Bartlesville Genealogical Society, and the Photographic Society of Bartlesville. He was also an avid table tennis player, participating in multiple Senior Olympic competitions and earning numerous gold medals.

Roland is survived and missed by six children, four daughters-in-law and three sons-in-law: Margaret Duggan (Pete), Cecelia Cameron (Tom), Roland, Jr. (Stephanie), Tom (Barbara), Beth Saine (Tim), Robert (Heather), and Lisa Wagner (Stephen).

He will also be forever remembered and cherished by his 20 grandchildren: Erin Guest (Gavin), Peter Duggan, David Cameron (Heather), Joe Cameron (Megan), Roland Harrison III (Meghan), Joel Harrison (Katie), Christina Hammervold (Matt), Michael Harrison (Nicole), Jessica Rustmann (Blake), Joshua Harrison (Caitey), Adam Krier (Elise), Phillip Krier (Brittany), Morgan

Braly (Richard), Robbie Harrison, Ryan Harrison, Brian Harrison (Shannon), Andrew Harrison (Rosemary), David Harrison, Jonathan Harrison (Amanda), and Kevin Harrison (Kelly).

His memory also lives on through his 34 great-grandchildren: Anna, Harrison, and Abigail Guest; Afton, Atticus, and Jane Cameron; Rory and Rhys Harrison; Cora and Ella Harrison; Noah, Grace, and Claire Hammervold; Eleanor, Kolbe, Angelica, and William Harrison; Marie, Thomas, Lucy, Becket, and Helen (due July, 2025) Rustmann; Sullivan Harrison; Miles and Malcolm Krier; Roxas and Jensen Krier; Liam, Alec, Eddy, and Genevieve (due September, 2025) Braly; Elizabeth Harrison; and Clark and Cooper Harrison; and also through many nieces and nephews.

Roland is preceded in death by his wife of 73 years, Margie; his parents; his brother Patrick (Mary), and his sister Elna Richardson; his son William of Guffey, CO; his grandson Sean of Bartlesville; and three great-grandchildren: Hope, Oliver, and Malachi.

Pall Bearers are Joel Harrison, Joe Cameron, Josh Harrison, Phillip Krier, Kevin Harrison, and Robbie Harrison. Honorary Pall Bearers include Pete Duggan, Tom Cameron, Roland Harrison, Jr., Tom Harrison, Tim Saine, and Robert Harrison.

All services will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025:

- Public Visitation: 10:00 a.m., at the Davis Family Funeral Home, Walker Brown Chapel, 4201 Nowata Road, Bartlesville
- Rosary: 11:00 a.m., at the Davis Family Funeral Home, Walker Brown Chapel, 4201 Nowata Road, Bartlesville
- Mass of Christian Burial: 2:00 p.m., at Saint John Before the Latin Gate Catholic Church, 715 S. Johnstone Avenue, Bartlesville

- Interment will follow the Mass of Christian Burial at Memorial Park Cemetery,
4200 Nowata Road, Bartlesville

Please make Memorial gifts to St. John Catholic School Endowment Fund,
816 S. Keeler Ave., Bartlesville OK 74003.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery Bartlesville

4200 Nowata Road
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 26. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Family and Friends Gathering

MAY 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Rosary

MAY 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

MAY 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John Before The Latin Gate Roman Catholic Church
715 S Johnstone Ave.
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Roland Henry Harrison Sr*



Davis Family Funeral Home - May 23, 2025 at 12:41 PM

CN

“ *Cousin Roland Henry you were a wonderful person and always a pleasure to be around. You loves a long and great life I'm surrounded by an enormous family when you passed away you are truly blessed.*

Christopher Niven

Christopher Joseph Niven - December 07, 2025 at 02:33 AM

WN

“ *Willie and Pat Niven purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Roland Henry Harrison Sr.*



Willie and Pat Niven - May 27, 2025 at 09:43 AM

TA

“ *The Bartlesville Table Tennis Associatio purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Roland Henry Harrison Sr.*



The Bartlesville Table Tennis Associatio - May 23, 2025 at 05:43 PM

RW

“ *My favorite memory of Roland has to do with when we began collecting material for a biography of his grandfather William Niven (1850-1937). When asked, he always knew the precise location of a particular photograph, diary, letter or article in the Niven family archive which he so lovingly preserved. While I could see no order to the mass of papers in his care, over the years he had developed a unique indexing system to their organization. Nothing was written down; the location of each record or object was simply in his head. He was brilliant that way! I called it his “place value” system. Roland will always have a warm place in my heart. Robert S. Wicks “Honorary Niven”*



Robert S. Wicks - May 21, 2025 at 03:53 PM

DJ

“ I met Roland in 2006 when I moved to Bartlesville and started playing table tennis. We became good friends over the years. He and I had some things in common. We both attended and graduated from the University of Texas @ Austin. I saw where he grew up in Austin, next to the Goodall Wooten House on 19th street at Rio Grande. Up a block to the north on Rio Grande was where Marge grew up. I tore my achilles tendon in late 2017. He came over to my house and checked on me, asked if there was anything he could do. I told him I needed to have my faucet covers put on for winter. He took care of that in short order. Her was 90 at the time. Lois and I will miss him and Marge.

David S. Jones - May 21, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Roland Henry Harrison Sr.



May 20, 2025 at 07:38 PM

DP

“ Roland was a dear friend and Table Tennis buddy. I enjoyed our conversations after a session of Table Tennis. His love for his Margie set a high bar for me as a husband. He is greatly missed, but I know he was anxious to be with Margie.

Dennis Pauls - May 20, 2025 at 05:52 PM