



Billy Ray Pickle

June 25, 1928 - January 9, 2026

Billy Ray Pickle, 97, of Perryville, Missouri passed away Friday, January 9, 2026 at his residence.

He was born June 25, 1928 in Hartford, AR to Owen Galveston and Willie Margarite (Pitchford) Pickle.

Billy and Babara Harbottle were married September 6, 1958 in Hartford, Arkansas. She preceded him on November 10, 2021.

He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

Billy graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Physical Education and went on to receive his Master in Education from Southeast Missouri State University. He worked as a football coach and P.E. teacher in his hometown of Hartford, AR and as well in Booneville, AR. In 1966 Billy and his family moved to Perryville, MO where he taught P.E., Health and Drivers Education. He also was a football, basketball, baseball, golf, track and field coach. Billy was very proud of his 1968 State Football Championship. He spent many years as a bus driver for Perryville and St. Vincent schools. He was very well known as a teacher, coach and bus driver but, most importantly he was a loving husband, a proud father, PaPa and PaPa Coach.

Billy was a member of Lithium Baptist Church, and American Legion Post #133.

Survivors include three daughters, Debbie (Mark) Regelsperger, Brenda Cobb, Terri (Ron) Halter, son, Randy (Nikki) Pickle; nine grandchildren, Andrea Buell, Lindsey (Andrew) Hecht, Bethany (Jared) Kutz, Audrey Cobb, Braden Cobb, Adam (Taylor) Halter, Andrew (Sarah) Halter, Alexis (Nate) Wills, Allison (Ryan) Jones; eighteen great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Babara Pickle; three sisters, Betty Shankle, Wanda Perry, Coleta Ludwig; brother, Frank Pickle.

Visitation will be from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at Ford & Young Funeral Home in Perryville and will continue from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at the funeral home.

Funeral Service will be at 10:00 am Thursday, January 15, 2026 at Ford & Young Funeral Home with Rev. Craig Petzoldt officiating.

Burial will be at York Chapel Cemetery in Longtown.

Military Honors will be provided by U.S. Navy Honors Team and American Legion #133

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Journey Hospice or Perryville Athletic Club.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandyoungfuneralhome.com.

This was a man who has been a part of military personnel

This was a man who represented his school, country, and family well

This was a man who bled green and white

This was a man who has never ran a red light

This was a man who had pirate pride

This was a man who has given athletes a safe ride

This was a man who had a passion for education

This was a man to many students he had been an inspiration

This was a man who greeted everyone with a smile

This was a man who everyday walked at least a mile

This was a man who was along for when the girls basketball team went to state

This was a man who was a coach on Perryville's greatest football team in 1968

This is Perryville's number one fan

Who is this great man?

This great man is Coach Pickle

Wrtiten By: Winnie Frentzel

Ford & Young Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

York Chapel Cemetery

Longtown, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 14. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Young Funeral Home
110 S. West St.
Perryville, MO 63775

Visitation

JAN 15. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Young Funeral Home
110 S. West St.
Perryville, MO 63775

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Young Funeral Home
110 S West Street
Perryville, MO 63775

Tribute Wall

CD

“ *Best coach teaching life. Drivers ed hilarious, just too bad we weren't good at football at that time.
One of the “good”people of this world.
A privilege to have met him
I regret losing connection with him
Craig Davis*

Craig Davis - January 16 at 07:57 PM

MB

“ *So sorry for your family's loss. He was such a special person who touched so many people. Our community has lost a good person.*

Mark Brown - January 14 at 04:17 PM

ST

“ *What a wonderful, wonderful man! My memories of Coach Pickle go back to the late 70s when I was in elementary school. One of the kindest and most genuine persons I have ever met. I remember Coach Pickle always greeting people with the kindest smile and a pat on the back. His legacy at PHS will live on forever! I know he will be missed by many, and my deepest condolences to the family for your loss.*

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Scott Thieret - January 13 at 08:59 AM

AW

I could not agree more Scott! Wonderful man and a PHS Legacy

Angie Witherby - January 13 at 05:43 PM



“ He taught many of us to drive with patience and kindness, and he made it so fun! What a wonderful man he was!

Renee Brueckner - January 12 at 10:31 AM

BB

“ Brenda, Brent, Adam and Jessica Bohnert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Billy Ray Pickle.

Brenda, Brent, Adam and Jessica Bohnert - January 11 at 01:07 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Billy Ray Pickle.



January 11 at 01:07 PM

DT

“ Coach Bill Pickle, to all of us fortunate to have known him, embodied the true spirit of love for people. In the District #32 school system he was indeed a giant. To quote The Bard “ we shall not look upon his like again”.

David Toney - January 10 at 05:03 PM

DT

“ David and Connie Toney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Billy Ray Pickle.

David and Connie Toney - January 10 at 05:01 PM

DT

“ David and Connie Toney purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Billy Ray Pickle.



David and Connie Toney - January 10 at 05:01 PM

KH

“ Gosh, I remember Coach Pickle from the 70's. He was an amazing Coach, Health and Driver 's Ed teacher. He needs to be remembered at PHS. He had incredible Pirate Pride. RIP Coach. You were well loved and so appreciated. You all have my sincere condolences.



Karen (Riney) Harper - January 10 at 04:41 PM

BB

“ He was my drivers' ed teacher and we had to know how the engine worked before we even got close to a car. We would be driving on the highway (of course he had brakes and steering on his side too) doing 70 miles and hour and he suddenly put a big piece of cardboard in front of my face and said "Your hood just flew up" Thank goodness I immediately rolled down my window and looked ahead through the open window. I have been an excellent driver all my life and it was all due to him. I don't think I have ever panicked when something happened and I was driving since then. What a caring, thoughtful teacher! I could even perform basic maintenance on my car! And I remember you driving Der Gelbe Dachshund on our band trips. What good memories of you. You will be missed by many!

Bonnie Brumpton - January 10 at 01:39 PM

BB

Bonnie (Mills) Brumpton

Bonnie Brumpton - January 10 at 01:39 PM

SK

“ *What an amazing smile and personality that Man had. I don't ever think I saw him frown. I was privileged to have your daughter Debbie as a classmate. You were a great coach that gave me great lasting memories. .To coach Pickles family, ,thank you for allowing us to be part of your family.*

Steven Kueker - January 10 at 12:03 PM

LG

“ *Such a wonderful soul that I was blessed to know.....as a teacher, sports bus driver and Perryville's #1 fan and supporter (88-91)! And, my son was so honored to receive the "Coach Pickle Award" at his graduation. The kindest man and soul. Our family sends our deepest condolences to his amazing family that carries on so many of his wonderful traits. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all.*



Lara Thieret Green - January 10 at 10:43 AM

PF

“ *Always that smile on your face, Coach. So cheerful, so optimistic. The world is less with you not in it.*

paul flentge - January 10 at 10:39 AM

DC

“ Coach Pickle, You gave us so many memories teaching us how to drive so we were ready when we turned 16. Back in 1983-87, you took such great care of our Lady Pirates Basketball team getting us to all our away games and back home safe. You were a true inspiration to all of us who wore the Green and White!

Denise Cattoor - January 10 at 10:37 AM

JS

“ Loved him as a teacher. I don't think he ever had a student he didn't like, if he didn't let you know it.

Joy Schauptert - January 10 at 09:59 AM

PB

“ Debbie and family. So sorry and sad to hear of your dad passing. We all know he is in a better place.

Peg Bingobabe - January 10 at 09:09 AM





“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Billy Ray Pickle.



January 10 at 08:28 AM

TG

“ Coach Pickle was my absolute favorite! He was my Drivers Ed teacher and Coach. Just the sweetest man!! I will dearly miss him and keep my memories close to my heart. He lived a full life and brought me such happiness ever time I would see him! RIP 


Tammy Gonzalez - January 09 at 08:15 PM



“ Coach Pickle has a special place in my heart. He loved each and every student of his as if they were his own child. The stories he would tell always had us laughing until we were crying. Driver's Ed was so fun with him. Every time I talk about memories of my school years, Coach Pickle name will be brought up. Such a great man and an inspiration to all the students he taught. He truly loved school sports and chewing on his Pirates. He will be definitely be missed but I know he will watching PHS from the skies.

Cindy Pingel - January 09 at 08:12 PM

JE

“ I used to sit up & eat all the strawberries out the patch in his back yard & hang out in the big willow tree.

jessica - January 09 at 08:09 PM

JT

“ Absolutely a “one of a kind” gentleman. Always great to see him, visit with him and hear a story or two from him. If you met or got to know Coach Pickle, you never forgot him and you will never forget him. Coach, we will miss you.



Jim Taylor - January 09 at 07:49 PM

OB

“ Coach pickle was my football coach a freshman year high school. Gave me a lot of inspiration and made me feel that I was worth something to the team. I never forget his leadership and his friendship. My sympathies to his family he was indeed a great man.

Ollie Boxdorfer

Ollie Boxdorfer - January 09 at 07:35 PM

LM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Coach Pickle had a million dollar smile always. I know you as his daughter's did everything worldly possible to make him as comfortable as possible. You are true blessings. Prayers for all your family's.

Linda Moran - January 09 at 06:41 PM

MP

“ One of the happiest & kindest souls that loved everyone especially his students...there should be a field, court or building named after this man...a Perryville legend!

Mark Ponder - January 09 at 06:35 PM

MB

“ I'll always remember him as our bus driver from junior high to high school. 84-91. He was a true fan of sports. Sitting quietly observing the game. Rest in peace coach pickle.

Matt Boxdorfer - January 09 at 06:10 PM

SC

“ Coach Pickle was a wonderful person and beloved coach at PHS for many years. He knew how to bring out the best in all his students. He was loved by many and will be missed.

Sherry Cottner - January 09 at 05:29 PM

TN

“ Coach Pickle came to PHS my Senior Year. What a great guy and mentor. Stayed in touch with him over the years. He will be missed .
RIP

Tom Nolen - January 09 at 04:57 PM

SK

What an amazing smile and personality that Man had. I don't ever think I saw him frown. It was a privilege to have your daughter, Debbie as a classmate. you were a great coach that I have lasting. Great memories of him.
To coach Pickle's Family ,thank you for allowing us to be part of your family.

Steven Kueker - January 10 at 11:29 AM

JV

A true pillar in the community who impacted many. His life lives on through all of us he influenced. What a privilege to have known him. My prayers and thoughts for the family and the city.

Joe Vogel - January 15 at 11:01 PM