



## Dr. Harold Lee Underwood

March 17, 1933 - December 18, 2025

Dr. Harold Lee Underwood peacefully passed away on December 18, 2025. Dr. Underwood was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Tesseneer Underwood, his daughter, Anita Richmond and his parents, six brothers and two sisters. He is survived by his sister, Margaret Underwood, his son, Roger Underwood (Teresa), his son, Greg Underwood (Abby), his daughter, Lynn Underwood, son-in-law, Roger Richmond, as well as grandchildren Emily Binger (Tracy), Dylan Underwood, Jesse Richmond (Samantha), Chelsea Richmond (Chris), John Richmond, Josh Underwood, Keri Underwood, Audrey Loomis (Henry), Andrew Loomis, and Helena Loomis and great grandchildren Trenton Binger, Ryder Binger, Delaney Binger, and Eleanor Richmond.

Harold was born at home on March 17, 1933 to John & Ercell Underwood in Tishomingo Mississippi. He was the seventh of 10 children. He grew up working very hard in a farming family where the school year was organized around the cotton fields, so the children would be available to pick during harvest time. He spent four years in the United States Air Force, which led him overseas to Japan in the mid-1950s. While in Japan, he would spend his leave travelling around the country with his friend Vic. Vic was Japanese American, spoke fluent Japanese, and he had a motorcycle. Harold took advantage of both of these for their many adventures around the Japanese countryside. He was recognized for his service with an Honor Flight to

Washington D.C. in 2018. After he completed his military service, he went on to get his higher education degrees from Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, and finally earned his doctorate at Auburn University. In June 1971, he and his family relocated to Kingston, Tennessee, where he lived for over 50 years. He was one of the original faculty members at Roane State Community College. Many remember him as the Dean of Administration for many years there. He retired as the vice president of the school. He was very active in his community, particularly at First Baptist Church of Kingston, and the Kingston Lion's club. On December 10th, 2021 he was recognized as a Roane County "Golden Treasure" by Proclamation from the Tennessee State Senate. Harold loved traveling, fishing, riding his motorcycle, golfing, reading books and always learning. He loved his family and particularly enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, who called him "Pops".

There will be a celebration of life on January 10, 2026 at Kyker funeral home of Kingston with visitation from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. with a service following at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you make a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or a Parkinson's charity such as the Davis Phinney Foundation for Parkinson's. Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Underwood Family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **10**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Kyker Funeral Homes  
OUR KINGSTON CHAPEL  
PO Box 69, 350 W Race St  
Kingston, TN 37763  
(865) 376-6531  
<https://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com/>

## Celebration of Life

JAN **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

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PO Box 69, 350 W Race St  
Kingston, TN 37763  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Kyker Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Harold Lee Underwood*



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**Kyker Funeral Home** - January 08 at 03:17 PM



*Very nice! Thank you so much!*

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**Greg Underwood** - January 08 at 07:21 PM

MU

*Great job! I think Harold would appreciate this video. I know I do. Brings back a lot of happy memories.*

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**Margaret Underwood** - January 09 at 02:41 AM

BF

“ *I worked with Harold for many years. He was a great leader at the college. I remember attending TBR meetings with Harold and playing poker with him and some of the community college presidents in the evenings after the meetings — and people thought we went to the meetings to work!!! We had some fun too.*

*My prayers to his family for their loss.*

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**Bill Fuqua** - January 10 at 12:35 PM



“ 75 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Kyker Funeral Home** - January 08 at 03:10 PM

SW

“ *It was an honor to have known and work with Dr. Underwood back in the heyday of what I remember as RSCC. Days that I truly miss. Condolences to his family.*

*Susan Wry  
Retired from RSCC in 2013*

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**Susan Wry** - January 06 at 11:10 AM

DP

“ *Dr. Underwood was my supervisor at Roane State for several years and I learned a great deal from him. 1992, he gave me an opportunity to lead an academic division and that began my career as a college administrator—all because he believed in me and my abilities.*

*Dr. Underwood was also a compassionate, encouraging leader who had a warm smile and a heart of gold. He was dedicated to student success. More importantly, he had a strong love for Martha and his family.*

*I have fond memories of our years together at RSCC and I will miss Dr. Underwood very much. May he soar with the angels.*

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**Dr. Myra Peavyhouse** - January 02 at 11:04 PM



*Thank you so much!!*

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**Greg Underwood** - January 06 at 10:51 AM

DH

“ *Pops and Martha were always good to me. I remember when they took me to Dale Hollow. It was a great time. Whenever Anne and I came to Tennessee we would visit them. Pops was also important in helping me through troubled times I'm my early college years. I loved him like a father. Rest in peace.*  
*Dave Harvey*

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**Dave Harvey** - December 28, 2025 at 05:38 PM



*Thanks for sharing that. - Greg*

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**Greg Underwood** - December 30, 2025 at 04:11 PM

JT

“ To the family of Dr. Underwood: Dr. Underwood was one of the great people who made Roane State and he was also a wonderful person. I'm thankful for the educators like Dr. Underwood. You made a difference in many lives.

Jill Adams Turnbull - December 23, 2025 at 10:17 PM



Thank you!

Greg Underwood - December 30, 2025 at 04:12 PM

TB

“ Good Man...

Troy Beets - December 22, 2025 at 04:29 PM



Thank you!

Greg Underwood - December 30, 2025 at 04:12 PM