



David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb

June 16, 1935 - May 28, 2026

David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb, 90, of Albemarle, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Atrium Health Cabarrus. A memorial service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2026, in the gymnasium of Albemarle High School.

Born June 16, 1935, in Stanly County, North Carolina, Dave was the son of the late Oscar Holcomb and Ethel Chapman Holcomb. He proudly served in the US Air Force. He attended North Carolina State University and graduated from Pfeiffer College. Throughout his distinguished career in education and athletics, he left an indelible mark on countless students, athletes, and fellow educators.

Dave's accomplishments as a coach and educator earned him induction into the Pfeiffer University Sports Hall of Fame, the West Montgomery Sports Hall of Fame, and the Stanly County Sports Hall of Fame. He began his educational career at West Montgomery High School, where he served as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal from 1964 until 1974. In 1975, he joined Albemarle High School as a history teacher, head Basketball Coach and defensive coordinator of the football team. The following year became Golf coach and remained at Albemarle until his retirement in 1993.

Known throughout North Carolina as one of the state's winningest high school

basketball coaches, Dave's influence extended far beyond the basketball court. He also coached football and golf, taught driver's education, served as a lifeguard, and drove a school bus. His commitment to serving others was evident in every aspect of his life. In recognition of his heroism, he received an award from North Carolina Governor Bob Scott for saving the life of a child at the Montgomery County Country Club.

For many, he was simply "Coach Holcomb," a name synonymous with excellence, discipline, compassion, and unwavering dedication. Dave will be remembered as a legendary figure whose presence was larger than life. He was strong, determined, and deeply devoted to his family. As a coach, mentor, and educator, he genuinely cared for his students and players, encouraging them to strive for excellence not only in athletics but in life. He challenged young people to be their best, believed in them when they doubted themselves, and celebrated their successes long after they left his classroom or the playing field.

A pioneer in his profession, Dave helped break racial barriers in sports and demonstrated through his actions that respect, opportunity, and teamwork belonged to everyone. His impact reached far beyond wins and championships. The lessons he taught, the confidence he instilled, and the lives he shaped became his greatest legacy. Generations of students and athletes carried his influence into their homes, careers, and communities.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 46 years, Judy Underwood Holcomb; his son, Kyle Holcomb and his wife Cornetha of Albemarle; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons Eric Todd Holcomb and Derek Scott Holcomb.

Dave's legacy lives on in the countless students he taught, the athletes he coached, and the friends he inspired through a lifetime of leadership, service,

and dedication. Though Coach Holcomb has answered the final buzzer, the impact of his life will continue to echo through the halls of the schools where he taught, the gyms where he coached, and the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **14.** 3:00 PM (ET)

Albemarle High School Gymnasium
311 Park Ridge Road
Albemarle, NC 28001

Tribute Wall



“ *Stanly Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb*



Stanly Funeral Home - June 25 at 12:19 PM



“ *Coach Holcomb was my History teacher. He had a sense of humor. He too coaching seriously. I have fond memories of him. May he Rest In Peace. Prayers for his wife and family.*

Lorraine Watkins-Barnett - June 13 at 02:19 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb.*



June 11 at 03:46 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb.*

June 11 at 03:46 PM

S

“ Coach Holcomb was my basketball coach from 1965-1968 at West Montgomery High School. He expected the best from each of us, in our play and in the way we conducted ourselves off the court. As a player I always appreciated Coach's fairness in terms of how his rules were kept. When we failed to live within his guidelines--any of us--we each paid for it. I think Coach Holcomb took a personal interest in all of us and followed us as students. I have fond memories of our teams and the success we achieved, due in great part, to Coach's pushing us to do better. He went on to make a mark on many people in his coaching career, players, other coaches, and the communities in which he lived. Condolences to his family and friends as they grieve his loss, but more importantly, celebrate his life.

Sammy R. Haithcock
Durham

sam haithcock - June 10 at 06:05 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb.



June 08 at 08:05 PM



“ Coach Holcomb, class of '95 here. What a great man, Coach, and friend. Cut me from freshman year basketball team. Cook, what are you doing. Backer juice, yelling and all, but you know what, that actually made me so much better. What don't kill you makes you stronger. Then for me years later to be his A player in dogfights. If you know, you know. Definitely going to miss you. Love you, Coach

Jody Cook - June 01 at 01:23 AM

BA

“ Coach Holcomb was one of a kind! I am forever thankful and grateful to have called him my friend! He actually helped me campaign in my bid to join the Albemarle City Council. That was just of one of the many things “Coach” did to help me along the way. Prayers for Judy and family during this time. Coach Holcomb will always be remembered for his “corporal” punishment for students that wouldn't shut up in his World History class. RIP Coach! We love you and will always cherish the memories

*Bill Aldridge
AHS C/O 1992*

Bill Aldridge - May 31 at 03:35 AM



“ Wonderful coach and man. God bless his family
Jeff waisner

Jeff Waisner - May 31 at 01:31 AM

D'

“ *Dave AHS '84 and Charles Grigg AHS '87 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David Phillip "Dave" Holcomb.*



Dave AHS '84 and Charles Grigg AHS '87 - May 30 at 09:49 PM

BM

“ *A Great Man !*

Billy Mills - May 30 at 07:15 PM

DE

“ *Such great memories of the times we had at Albemarle High School with Coach. All liked him, in class, in hallways, and in sports! God Bless you all.
I wish you comfort and peace in the days ahead, and memories to carry with you every day. RIP Coach.*

Debra Erk - May 30 at 02:25 PM

C

“ *Class of 94 here and what an awesome teacher he was definitely a favorite I loved his class and sayings I can still see his smile and hear his smart comments*

Charm Thompson - May 30 at 11:52 AM



“ One of my favorite teachers- what an impact he made and a legacy he left behind. I was telling a story about him to my children the other day with a smile on my face.

AHS Class of 1994

Kim McKean - May 30 at 11:27 AM

KH

“ Prayers for the family during this difficult time
🙏



Kathy Carter Hilliard - May 30 at 10:03 AM

DB

“ Prayers for the family and friends. God bless...

David Burris - May 30 at 04:45 AM