



Robert E Hayes

September 22, 1952 - February 15, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert E. Hayes who departed this life on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at the age of 73. Born on Monday, September 22, 1952, in Salem, Illinois, Robert is the son of Robert Hayes and Marie (Beasley) Mullins.

Robert was a devoted family man, cherished by his wife, Ann Hayes, and his beloved daughter, Julie Wiley (Tony) of Centralia. He was the proud grandfather of Jordan Wiley, and his legacy of love and kindness continues through his extended family, including his brothers, John Hayes (Ginger) of Centralia and Charlie Hayes (Brenda) of Iuka; sisters, Belinda Riggs (Tom) of Centralia and Patricia Lehman (Greg) of Colorado. He is further remembered by his aunts, as well as several nieces and nephews. Robert was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Michael Hayes and Russell Hayes, and his sister, Sharon Whited.

A dedicated professional, Robert worked as a truck driver for CalArk, where he was respected for his hard work and commitment. He proudly served his country in the United States Army, reflecting his deep patriotism and love for his fellow citizens.

Robert had a passion for adventure and camaraderie, especially enjoying riding motorcycles and connecting with friends over the CB radio. He was a

fan of westerns and action movies, finding joy and escapism in their storytelling.

To honor his memory, visitation will be held at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, Illinois, on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. A funeral service will follow at Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel from 10:30 am to 11:00 am, where family and friends will gather to celebrate his remarkable life. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Legion Post 446 and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Robert's Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Sutherland Funeral Home Facebook page.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family please visit our Sympathy Store.

Robert's lively spirit, devotion to family, and zest for life will be dearly missed, but his memory will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home
235 N. Sycamore Street
Centralia, IL 62801

Funeral Service

FEB 21. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM.

Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert E Hayes*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - February 20 at 04:21 PM



“ *Our friendship with Robert began back in 2000, as a Driver for Calark as well. well. For all of these years Robert has been almost a daily part of our lives. Passing the time on the phone and talking about our day. Learning from each other and laughing along the way for 3 million miles. He has been a true friend to us. Rest in peace Robert. Sending our most sincerest condolences to the family and prayers for peace. Christo (Chris) and Marissa*

Chris and Marissa - February 21 at 11:40 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Robert E Hayes.*



February 20 at 10:40 PM

SP

“ I had the privilege of working with Robert as his Dispatch Manager for many years. He will be greatly missed here at CalArk . His strong work ethic and dedication to his role were truly second to none.

I would occasionally joke and refer to Robert as “Grump,” as many of our conversations began with him sharing stories about the days events- whether it was a challenging trip, a four wheeler cutting him off, or maybe it was an “early” wakeup call from night dispatch; no matter what it was one of us would be laughing at the end of the call. I moved into a new role with CalArk taking me out of dispatch a few years back. Despite the changes Robert would still make it a point to stop by my desk and catch up on family, motorcycles, and life in general.

I will sincerely miss our visits and conversations
Shane P.

Shane Perryman - February 20 at 03:31 PM

RC

“ It has been a true privilege to work alongside Robert Hayes throughout his many years with Calark. His dedication, professionalism, and steady commitment to always strive to follow.

He built strong working relationships across departments, and earned respect of customer, dispatcher and fellow drivers alike.

His contributions have left a lasting impact on our team, and he will always be remembered as a valued part of the CalArk family.

We will miss you Robert.

Rhonda Del Castillo - February 20 at 10:59 AM

CL

“ Robert, you were a wonderful driver, and we will always appreciate you. You worked for Calark for so many years, and will be greatly missed! I am sending prayers to your family. I am sorry I couldnt make it to your funeral, being in Arkansas. I am very glad to have gotten to know you the 12 years I have been here with the company. You were always a joy to be around and when you would get to come into the office and visit with everyone was a joy as well. Sending hugs, Cynda Lawrence

Cynda Lawrence - February 20 at 10:56 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Robert E Hayes.



February 20 at 03:07 AM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Ann, Julie and family.

Mary A Hanks - February 18 at 01:43 PM