



Roger Harmon

July 23, 1942 - October 26, 2025

"May all beings be at peace, and may this begin with us"

Celebration of Life for Roger Harmon

Prelude Please enjoy the photo loop, as you enter, created by Boon and Kavi Knik, with contributions from many family and friends.

Welcome Reverend Stacey Mitchell

Amazing Grace Ari Knik

Hymn Spirit of Life

Remembrances

Roger and Nancy Nancy Harmon

Greensburg, KS Cheryl Mcleod and Clay Hansen

Seattle, WA Steve Wilke, Boon Knik, and Pinh Brown

Musical Interlude Ernie Murray “Winter” by Antonio Vivaldi
Ernie Murray “ Dragon Dances” by Soon Hee Newbold

Remembrances

Thailand and Lao String Ceremony Myron Berkman

Refugee resettlement Ann Morgan and Jesse Bunch

Albuquerque Mitch Tappan

Travel Kerry Glaus

Virginia Satir Jesse Carlock

Musical Interlude “Seagull” by Toshio Mashima Kavi Knik

Poem “When Great Trees Fall” by Maya Angelou Livia Walsh

Song of Peace

Benediction Reverend Stacey Mitchell

Postlude “This Little Light of Mine” Soweto Gospel Choir

Please join us in the Social Hall for a reception and stories after the service.

The Measure of a Man by Steve Wilke

We gather today in the light
of a life that gave so much.

Roger's story is not one of grand gestures,
but of quiet, constant compassion.
He met the world with open eyes,
and an even more open heart.

He gave his time to those
who had fled war, loss, and uncertainty —
to Southeast Asian refugees
beginning again in unfamiliar places.
He listened, guided, and learned from them in turn.
To Roger, every person held a story worth hearing.
Every culture was a lesson,
every encounter a bridge.

He believed connection was the truest kind of wealth —
and he shared it freely.

Those who knew him
will remember his laughter,
his gentleness,
his unshakable curiosity about people and places.
He found joy in diversity,
and strength in empathy.

Roger showed us that compassion
is not a virtue to speak about —
it is a way to live.
And he lived it, fully.

Though he is gone,
his presence lingers in countless hearts —
in the families he helped rebuild,
in the friends who carry his warmth forward,
in every moment of kindness
he set in motion.

The measure of Roger's life
is found not in the years he walked among us,
but in the light he left behind —
a light that will not fade.

The Story of Roger's Life

Roger Harmon was born July 23, 1942, in Greensburg, Kansas, to Paul and Uila Harmon, the second of three children. He was proud of his small-town upbringing, where he gained his strong sense of integrity from the values of family, farmers, teachers, coaches and Scout leaders. Roger's curiosity about people led him to engage with everyone he encountered. He lovingly lived this quote by family therapist Virginia Satir: "In our similarities we connect; in our differences we grow."

Joining the US Peace Corps and serving in Malawi, Africa, in the mid-1960s set him on a lifelong exploration of the world's people and cultures. He earned a PhD in cultural anthropology from University of Washington, doing field work on Buddhism in Thailand and becoming fluent in Thai. He returned to Asia through the US State Department to help create and oversee a post-Vietnam War program in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines to prepare refugees for American culture and our educational system.

Over the 15 years of its existence, the program settled 500,000 refugees better equipped for success all over the country. Always honoring Peace Corps' mission, he served as Training Director for volunteers in Thailand, Central Asia and Eritrea in the late 1990s. Newly married to Nancy, he became Country Director in Thailand from 2000-2003. In 2006, Roger established his own travel business, Worldviews 2000. Often with Nancy along, he led more than 30 small groups of travelers through SE Asia, Bhutan, Central Asia and the lagoons of Baja, demonstrating how to engage people with curiosity, laughter and joy, whether in a temple, rice field or fishing boat.

Roger called Albuquerque home for 30 years. He loved the beauty and light of NM and delighted in creating photo cards from his rich photo images of nature and people around the world, sharing them wherever he went. He valued personal growth work and connection through several men's groups, including NM Men's Wellness. One of his proudest achievements (and Nancy's after she met him) was encountering a newly arrived Laotian refugee family in Seattle and nurturing a chosen family of "spirit" children and now grandchildren.

May his light continue to shine on the many lives he touched



In lieu of flowers, Partners in Health works with national governments to provide care and strengthen public health systems around the world. Donate at pih.org.