



Flip Atkinson

February 19, 2026

William “Flip” Philip Atkinson, 66, of Portsmouth, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 19, 2026. He was born in Illinois, the son of the late Phyllis and William Atkinson Jr. He spent much of his life along the East Coast before eventually settling in the Hampton Roads area. He attended both Ferrum College and Old Dominion University.

Flip was an avid sports fan who loved cheering on Virginia Tech Hokies athletics, the Washington Redskins, and NASCAR — especially the intimidator Dale Earnhardt Sr. His enthusiasm was well known, and it occasionally got him kicked out of games for cheering a little too loudly. One of his greatest joys in life was watching his sons, Ryan and Derek, play sports.

Flip also loved fishing, a good lottery ticket, and good conversation. Flip had a larger-than-life personality and an unforgettable mind — part human calculator, part walking GPS — and he left an impression on everyone who met him.

Flip and his best friend and partner, Betsy, were proud "Parrotheads", who loved tending their garden and setting off on adventures to explore nature, while Motown music often found him happily singing along.

He is survived by his loving partner, Betsy; his sisters, Cathy and Karen

(Rich); his sons, Ryan (Kacee) and Derek (Kathleen); and his grandchildren, Peyton, Scout, Decker, Miles, Dakota, and Austin, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hokie Club at Virginia Tech in his memory.

Please come join us as we celebrate the life of our beloved Flip Atkinson, who has gone to be with our Lord. We will be getting together at the Elks Lodge 2541 Gum Rd., Chesapeake, VA on Sunday, April 12th from 1:00–4:00 PM.

We will have a memory box where you can share a favorite story or memory of Flip-a keepsake we know will bring comfort and a few smiles to family and friends.

Thank you all so much for the love and prayers during this time. It truly means everything to us, and we hope you can join us to celebrate Flip's life.

Previous Events

A Visitation and Celebration of His Life Service

APR **12**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Elk's Lodge
2541 Gum Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Tribute Wall

TM

“ I didn't know Flip really well but got to know him real fast! When I first met him with Betsy it was like I'd known him for years!! He was such fun and a really special person. He will be missed but his memory will always be with all of us.

Teresa (Terri) Madden - March 02 at 05:01 PM

SL

“ Knew Flip for many years! He was a kind soul who loved Betsy with all his heart. He was a lot of fun, usually the life of a party. I'm gonna miss him.

Sue Lawrence - March 01 at 10:19 PM

TH

“ I am going to miss my basketball, monopolyGO friend. Sail on my friend...GO HOKIES!, GO 'CUSE!! RIP Flip❤️

Theresa - March 01 at 09:51 PM