



Robert Hayden Herndon, II

November 9, 1965 - September 24, 2023

Robert Hayden Herndon II, 57, of Rancho Cucamonga, California, went home to be with the Lord on September 24, 2023, in Palm Springs, California. Born on November 9, 1965, in Carson City, California, Robert was the beloved son of Robert Hayden Herndon and Juanita Ruth Herndon.

Robert spent his formative years in Porterville, California, where he attended Monache High School. From a young age, Robert exhibited a profound love for animals, particularly enjoying raising chickens. He often assisted his father in the family auto shop, sparking a lifelong passion for mechanics. Robert became renowned for his mechanical skills, his perfectionism ensuring there was no problem he couldn't solve.

A gifted musician, Robert mastered the acoustic, electric, and bass guitar, often performing alongside his mother, Juanita "Nita Jo," and her band at various venues and events. Throughout his life, he played in numerous bands, most recently including Bad Dog, Outfall Band, and Made of Metal. His talent extended beyond performance; he also created the "Von Herndon" series guitars, celebrated for their precision craftsmanship.

Robert's professional journey was as diverse as his talents. He spent many years as an auto mechanic before transitioning to law enforcement. His career included roles as a security officer at College of the Sequoias, a Police Officer

at the Lindsay Police Department, and ultimately serving as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Chief at the Huron Police Department. Following his retirement from law enforcement, Robert joined the Navy, stationed at the Naval Air Station Lemoore in California, where he served as an E6 Master-at-Arms and weapons instructor.

His love of music and expertise in guitar design led him to a position at Fender as a guitar inspector, known affectionately as "Inspector 20" in the online music and guitar community. Robert also spent sometime as an instructor at the Rockstars of Tomorrow Musicians Academy in Southern California. He shared his extensive knowledge and experience with students, helping to nurture and develop their musical talents.

Robert's final and perhaps most fulfilling role was with the Law Offices of Soheila Azizi and Associates in Rancho Cucamonga, where his deep knowledge of the law proved invaluable.

Robert's boundless talents and relentless pursuit of excellence made him a pillar of his community and a cherished friend to many. His legacy of love, dedication, and mastery will live on in the hearts and memories of all who knew him.

Robert is survived by his parents, Robert Hayden Herndon and Juanita Ruth Herndon; his sons, Robert Michael Herndon, Marc Von Herndon, and Quinten Alexander Herndon; his uncles, James Dwight Herndon, Nick Herndon, and Marion Huber; his aunts Joy Herndon and Patty Herndon; his cousins, Rose Bonnell, Brad, Casey, and Britney Yarbrough, and Jackie Whelpy; and countless friends from around the world.

Memorial services will be held 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Saturday, May 25th, 2024 at

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Immediately following the memorial service, a celebration of Robert's life will take place at Rise Church, 1023 N. Chinowth Street, Visalia, California, 93291.

Family, friends, and all who knew Robert are invited to honor and remember a truly remarkable man.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Memorial

MAY **25**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Robert Hayden Herndon, II*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 24, 2024 at 04:16 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Hayden Herndon, II*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 24, 2024 at 04:12 PM

QH

“ *We all knew my dad smart awesome guitar player always put family first loved cars we all had each of our own good memory's with him I wish it was me not him but unfortunately it doesn't work like that I still wake up on Sundays to see if that yellow mustang would drive by. sincerely the youngest Quinten Herndon*

quinten herndon - August 28, 2025 at 07:55 AM



“ To Mom and Papa Herndon, Marc, Robbie, Quinton and the whole family, this was a beautiful tribute to Robert. As I listened to you guys talk and sing, I couldn't help feel that only God could fill you with the strength to make it through and to do such an amazing story of Robert's life and all he means to us. Love and Prayers,
Mark Laschinsky

Mark Laschinsky - May 26, 2024 at 02:18 AM

PT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul Tetreault - May 25, 2024 at 06:36 PM

NH

Thank you for this it's beautiful

Nita Jo Herndon - May 30, 2024 at 12:14 PM

JW

“ Sending my love to your family from my home in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana. I was so grateful to be able to view the service as you shared your memories of Robert. Your loving words and the beautiful songs hold meaning for me as well.
Growing up in Kentucky, we did not get the blessing of getting to know you all, especially Robert. He reminds me of my dad, Jerry. The family resemblance is strong as is their sense of humor and love of music. May you remember all the little things that bring you joyful memories. Love always, Joanna Herndon Williams (daughter of Jerry and Patricia)

Joanna Herndon Williams - May 25, 2024 at 06:31 PM

NH

Thank you dear thank you so much

Nita Jo Herndon - May 30, 2024 at 12:16 PM

PT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul Tetreault - May 25, 2024 at 06:07 PM

NH

What a blessing to get to see these Oh Paul thank you so much

Nita Jo Herndon - May 30, 2024 at 12:17 PM

PT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul Tetreault - May 25, 2024 at 04:38 PM

DT

“ *Sending my deepest heartfelt condolences to the Herndon family. I pray for God's Grace and Love to be with you tomorrow and always .I miss you my friend and always will. I will see you again someday*
❤️ . Dana

Dana T - May 25, 2024 at 03:27 PM

NH

Thank you

Nita Jo Herndon - May 30, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.*



May 25, 2024 at 02:44 AM

CY

“ *Cyndi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.*

Cyndi - May 25, 2024 at 02:44 AM

DT

“ *Dana T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.*

Dana T. - May 24, 2024 at 11:19 PM

RM

“ *Rest in peace brother. Another friend gone too soon. We were High school friends, fellow mechanics and Mopar enthusiasts, Navy Veterans, fellow law enforcement officers, music enthusiasts. Until we meet again.*



Ron Morgan - May 24, 2024 at 11:04 PM

NH

Thank you Ronnie so good to hear from you

Nita Jo Herndon - May 30, 2024 at 12:19 PM

SH

“ Uncle Billy and Aunt Nita, We are so sorry for the loss of your son, and our cousin, Robert Hayden. I am Jerry and Patty's youngest, Susan. I was just sharing Robert's obituary with my children, and we all wish we had met him. It is obvious how much he was loved and will be missed. We are praying for you both, the boys and the whole family. May God bless you and ease your pain. Much love from Kentucky.

Susan Hager - May 24, 2024 at 09:09 PM

NH

Thank you so much

Nita Jo Herndon - May 30, 2024 at 12:20 PM

KB

“ Kristina Behrens purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.



Kristina Behrens - May 24, 2024 at 05:28 PM

KB

“ Kristina Behrens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.

Kristina Behrens - May 24, 2024 at 05:28 PM

BY

“ *Becky Yarbrough purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.*



Becky Yarbrough - May 24, 2024 at 04:41 PM

RB

“ Dear Uncle Billy & Aunt Nita, and cousins young Robert, Marc, and Quinten, Our hearts go out to you and we send our love ahead of us across the miles from Utah. It's our heart's desire to be there to extend love and support, and we would be there if at all possible. Hopefully we can come in a few weeks. Please know our hearts are with you in love and prayer, and will be with you during the memorial and celebration of life services.

Being first cousin, (first living in KY, then NC, and UT, while y'all lived in CA), our paths only crossed in KY when we were very small, so I don't have in-person memories together. But (your son/your dad) Robert reached out to me by phone, years ago, to ask about genealogy, wondering about the name "Younger" in our mutual ancestry. We have ancestors named Younger Herndon (1785 VA-1859 KY), and Younger Newton Herndon (1836 KY-1904 KY), and both were named after Younger's maternal uncle Younger Newton (1763 VA-1847 SC), and we don't yet know what or who inspired the Younger given name. (He wondered if our ancestry connects back to ancestors of the famous Younger gang. Don't know.) But that's what sparked our regular communications for awhile. He told me about his interests, his family, his parents, his sons, his music, (didn't know about his career occupations till reading the obituary, so nicely written). I enjoyed talks. He was catalyst that linked family generations together. For, although our Dad Jerry kept in touch with his brother, (called Billy from childhood), it was your son/dad, my cousin, who put me in touch with Aunt Nita, and Uncle Billy, by phone and mail, connecting the niece-generation with the aunt/uncle-generation, even though we are live hundreds of miles apart. And that connection has been a blessing of years, praying and supporting each other across the miles.

Just know I remember our calls fondly, and I am so grateful for the catalyst and blessing he was in bringing us together.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW HIS MUSIC INFO:

Musician Always
1988-1989, 2010-2011

Sang with mother's band EZ River, and with his own Robert Herndon Project: (REF: <https://www.reverbnation.com/robertherndonproject/songs> & <https://www.soundclick.com/artist/default.cfm?bandID=204190> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20hSCpGPqPM>.)

Mother-Son "E Z River Band"

1988-1989

"Do Yellow Roses Mean Goodbye?" Live rehearsal 9/21/1988, acc to Radaris, formerly on YouTube. Band members: Nita Jo Haze, Kenny Dumar, Rick Davis, Les Adams, Robert Herndon. (URL: <https://open.spotify.com/track/07fVqc3JsVP9Nq7KhPIE6u#login>.)

"Better Man" Duo with Mom: "Nita Jo Haze" in E Z River Band 1989

(REF: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20hSCpGPqPM>; STABLE URL: <https://web.archive.org/web/20230926201305/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20hSCpGPqPM>.)

His Work in the Music Industry

1990-2010

Robert lived in Los Angeles during the 1980s and has done soundtracks for video documentaries, TV / radio commercials and private studio recordings. (REF: <https://www.soundclick.com/artist/default.cfm?bandID=204190>.)

"About the Artist"

2010

(URL: <https://www.reverbnation.com/robertherndonproject/songs>.)

Early Bio and Songs

2010

(URL: <https://www.soundclick.com/artist/default.cfm?bandID=204190>.)

Formed Own Band

2010

Named the "Robert Herndon Project" its "sound has been described

as "Electric Delta Blues." (REF: <https://www.soundclick.com/artist/default.cfm?bandID=204190>.)

Final Repertoire

2010-2023

Songs are currently (Sep 2023) posted online. (URL: <https://www.reverbnation.com/robertherndonproject/songs>.)

AWARDS Listed on His "Our Stage Profile"

2011 • California, USA

Achievements: Top Ten: Blues Winner, Nov 2011. Top Forty: in Blues, Oct 2011. Top Forty: in Blues, Dec 2011. (URL: <https://ourstage.com/profile/olgfijbmcccw>.)

His YouTube Channel

18 Jun 2013

His "Robert Herndon" (@robertherndon514) YouTube Channel. (URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYQc8gXgXShMIqsjVi93zYw>.)

All my/our love,

Rose Bonnell (& Patty Herndon)

Rose Bonnell - May 23, 2024 at 12:08 AM

VD

“ Sending our deepest condolences and love to our cousin Robert's family. We pray for God's blessings and grace for his children and our Uncle Billy and Aunt Nita. While we did not have the privilege to know our cousin Robert in person, it is clear he was a wonderful and talented person who is greatly loved and will be greatly missed by all. May our love and God's blessings stretch across the miles from Kentucky to comfort his loving family. Love from Vicky Herndon Dalton and Trent Dalton (one of Jerry's girls)



Vicky Herndon Dalton - May 23, 2024 at 12:05 AM

DT

Sending my deepest heartfelt condolences to the Herndon family. I pray for God's Grace and Love to be with you tomorrow and always .I miss you my friend and always will. I will see you again someday❤️.
Dana

Dana Turner - May 24, 2024 at 11:42 PM

IS

“ Isaiah S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Hayden Herndon, II.

Isaiah S. - May 22, 2024 at 08:49 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the album Robert and friends



Don OConnell - May 22, 2024 at 12:39 PM

SA

Not "fallen" but rather an ever shining STAR ✨ ! Shedding his light eternally on the lives of everyone whom he encountered 🥰💙. My work family and faith community had the honor of knowing Robert for a short time before the Lord chose to relieve him of the bondages of his material existence and decided to utilize his Divine attributes in the realm of angels. May his beloved family and especially his mother Juanita, whom Robert adored and kept an amazing relationship with, find comfort in knowing how Robert touched the lives of others with his pure soul and affectionate commitment to doing God's work while he was on this earth 🌍💙🙏! Faramarz and I loved Robert and are honored to know his loving family and most specifically his adorable Mother and sons 🙏💙🙏! Soheila Azizi 🥰💙🙏

Soheila Azizi - May 25, 2024 at 02:03 PM

CH

I really miss playing music with Robert. He was a great friend and a fantastic musician. This picture was taken in my office during one of our many jam sessions!

CHRIS HUMISTON - September 10, 2024 at 12:14 PM

QH

we all new my father he was kind always smart independent and caring for others always put family first he always loved both his cars his black mustang and his yellow mustang that my brother Robbie has I wish I could of had more time to bond I will always have a deep pain in my heart that will never be filled. I remember always meeting up with him on Sundays for visitation even today I still wake up and see if he will come pick me up like how he did before he passed we all had good times with him. sincerely the youngest Quinten Herndon

quinten herndon - August 28, 2025 at 07:44 AM