



Mr. Robert Nowlin

August 10, 1957 - July 27, 2025

Our beloved, Robert Doyne Nowlin (Robby), passed away on July 27th 2025 at the age of 67. Robby was born on August 10, 1957 in Blytheville Arkansas. He was the son Bobby and Aleta Nowlin. He was preceded in death by his parents, his great niece Haleigh Juel Cloud, and godson, David Michael Smock.

Robby grew up in Blytheville. He was a graduate of Blytheville High School. He was a member of the first graduating class of Mississippi County Community College, receiving his degree in 1978. He continued his education, earning a BFA from Arkansas State University and an MFA from the University of Arkansas. At the time of his death, Robby was pursuing a second master's degree.

Robby leaves behind many bereaved family members to treasure his memory, his brother Van Nowlin (Becky), nieces Heather Nowlin Cloud (Jason), Jennifer Boogaart (Jeff), Laura Beth Baker (Josh), and nephew Justin Nowlin (Tracy), and his adopted by love sister, Becky Wright (Mike). He also leaves behind his beloved great nieces and nephews Sydney Cloud (Jeriko), Blake Cloud (Brittany), Meredith Boogaart, Hannah Baker, Haleigh Baker, Hannah Adlon (Steven), Rachel Bybee (Brandon), Harrison Baker, Ryker Nowlin and Rhett Nowlin, two great nieces, Bella, Alexandra, and two great nephews, Oliver and Tildon. He is also survived by his loving cousin Tina Ahlemeyer, her

children Nick and Jessica, and two godsons, John Christopher and Zachary Stephen Smock.

Robby was a social creature who, with his vibrant personality, made friends easily and maintained lifelong friendships, which he treasured. Some of his special forever friends mourning his loss are, David Webb, Vicki Pasmore (Peter), Ellen Boone, Sarah Louise Sears, Donna Vernon, LaDawn Fuhr, Wanda Conley, Patty Summers-Cherry, Bonnie Foster Webb and numerous other new and lifelong friends

A passionate animal lover and advocate, Robby rescued, raised and found homes for many abandoned animals. He considered his beloved pets his children and treated them as such.

A member of the Blytheville Very Little Theater as a young man, Robby honed his theatrical skills, performing in numerous theatre productions at the Ritz. He appeared in Harvey, My Fair Lady, and Annie to name a few. He had the starring role in the BVLTL production of Dracula, bringing a unique interpretation to the role. Robby exhibited his artwork at the Ritz Theatre, always maintaining a strong connection to his hometown. While growing up in Blytheville, Robby, an accomplished singer, enjoyed singing at Trinity Baptist, and North 10th Street Baptist Church.

At Arkansas State University Robby continued acting and art performing in ASU theatre productions and art exhibitions. Due to his exuberant personality Robby was regarded with affection by professors and fellow students alike. He also acted in repertory theater throughout the US during the summers, including the Minnesota Repertory Theater,

Robby's teaching career began in Marked Tree Arkansas where he taught art. He continued his teaching career in Risen Arkansas, Little Rock, St Louis

Missouri, and Baltimore Maryland. In addition to teaching, Robby was an interior design consultant in Little Rock, Memphis, St Louis and New York City. He was also owner of The Pea Tree Dish Interiors in Little Rock.

His curiosity and love of knowledge led Robby to continue studying all his life. Throughout the years he studied at the University of Missouri St Louis, Savannah College of Art and Design, The University of Minnesota Duluth, and Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

Robby's hobbies included spending time with his friends, traveling, thrifting and collecting antique furniture and art. His passion was collecting antique Chinese porcelain.

Robby's great gift was his creativity. He was a dedicated, natural artist. Creating art to him was as necessary as breathing. Whether he was drawing, painting, or creating one of his extraordinary collages his art was intricate, personal, expressive, and unique. It will stand the test of time.

Everyone who encountered Robby knew he lived his life large. He was an adventurer who followed his own path. Strangers who met him enjoyed his company and were never strangers for long. His friends loved his wit, his affectionate nature, his intelligence and generosity. Everywhere Robby went his exuberant presence filled the room and made it a better place.

Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial for Robby.

Celebration of the Life of Robert Nowlin

August 17, 2025

The Ritz

306 W Main Street

Blytheville, Arkansas 72315

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be made to the Blytheville The Ritz Civic Center Foundation.

Tri-City is honored and privileged to serve the family of Robby Nowlin. Online condolences may be expressed at www.Tri-CityLLC.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 17. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

The Ritz
306 West Main Street
Blytheville, AR 72315

Tribute Wall

TM

“ To all those who share, along with me, the sense of loss from Robby's passing: You have your friends, and then you have your real friends. Put Robby in the latter category. What a big heart. You knew it quickly after meeting him. Conversations with him always seemed so rich and personal; there was simply nothing mundane about Robby. He was flamboyant in the most positive way possible. Which seemed all part and parcel of his creativity.

And now I learn how apparently modest he was. He never mentioned his big life in theater to me. He would surely have spoken of it if asked. But I didn't know and I regret not having those conversations with him. Indeed, I miss all the wonderful conversations I expected from him for years to come.

I loved Robby. I really did.

Tony Mansell - August 14, 2025 at 06:35 PM

HN

Thank you for your kind words! You have made my heart smile!
Heather Nowlin-Cloud

Heather Nowlin-Cloud - August 16, 2025 at 09:26 AM

CA

“ Carrie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Nowlin



Carrie - August 14, 2025 at 11:31 AM

BK

“ of course I knew Rob back in high school when I was Beth Lehmann. Sometime around 2017 or so we reconnected on FB as friends.

He invited me to join a group of friends (lovely people) he'd found who eat out together every Wednesday night and have done so for years. I enjoyed my visits with them and Rob and I did artsy-fartsy things together - the cheaper the better! So many opportunities for music, fun, theater and visual arts exist in Little Rock.

I sometimes helped him with one of his antique booths. The one I remember was in a nice place on Cantrell.

My most fun was finding a green leather mid-century office chair at a Goodwill for \$7.00. I did all the research showing how good the brand was and how it was the real deal. I think it ended up selling for over \$150.00! That was FUN.

I was tickled to see the photo of him in his big fur coat. He wore that to a recital in a church and carried it off as only he could. I can understand why so many loved him and miss him.

I'm sad we drifted apart. (Thanks, Covid.) I was looking forward to getting back in touch at our 50 year high school reunion in October.

Peace be with all family and friends.

Beth Lehmann Kirk - August 12, 2025 at 06:36 PM

HN

*Thank you so very much!
Heather Nowlin-Cloud*

Heather Nowlin-Cloud - August 13, 2025 at 02:51 PM

CH

He will be missed, only knew him briefly, but his brother is my best friend. I grieve and celebrate with the family.

Charles Hall - August 13, 2025 at 10:58 PM

HN

Thank you for thinking of us, Charles! Our family loves you and your precious family!

Heather Nowlin-Cloud - August 16, 2025 at 09:28 AM

CC

“ Diana Stephen’s, Robby, and myself had lunch together every day at the bowling alley my senior year of high school. David Bowie was just beginning and we all loved his music. I tried to put toothpaste on him but he beat me to it! Always so fun. Loved him

cindy crocker - August 12, 2025 at 05:29 PM

HN

*Cindy, Robby always said that he loved you dearly! Thank you for sharing! I’m playing Fame at his Celebration of Life tomorrow! He’ll be dancing, I’m sure!
Heather Nowlin-Cloud*

Heather Nowlin-Cloud - August 16, 2025 at 09:29 AM

JD

“ I met Rob at the University of Texas at Dallas, UTD. We were in the same classes. We were in many plays at UTD. Rob was part of our theater group, and I am sure you know what a wonderful, caring, funny, beautiful person he was to all. My memory of Rob was the play we did, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." I will always remember the fun and laughter...

Jennifer Devereaux - August 12, 2025 at 05:08 PM

SC

Rob was always such a joy. He was a hoot! I don't think I've ever known anyone as kind as he. I will miss him.

Skip Carter - August 14, 2025 at 11:11 AM

GB

Robbie was a great actor friend. The world has lost a bright star.

Gini Heath Brighton - August 15, 2025 at 03:49 PM

HN

Thank you all for your kind words. He is and will always be loved and missed dearly!

Heather Nowlin-Cloud

Heather Nowlin-Cloud - August 16, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Tri-City Crematory Funeral Home. ~ Serving for over 10 Years - August 12, 2025 at 12:13 PM

MA

Robby was so very kind and genuine! We had so much fun and laughter while we were at ASU Theatre together. He was so full of love and I know how much he will be missed! RIP Robby 🙏🙏

Mary Walker Aycock - August 20, 2025 at 05:25 PM