



Mr. Charles Claude Harris Jr.

August 26, 1944 - May 1, 2019

Charles Claude “Chuck” Harris Jr., 74, of Springfield, Missouri, died on the evening of May 1, 2019 at 9:35 pm. He was surrounded by his loving family, joined hand in hand, during his last moments before ascending to Our Lord. He was the loving husband of his cherished wife of 55 years, Shirley Ann (Smith) Harris.

Chuck was born at home near Vanzant, Missouri on August 26, 1944 to the late Verba and Charles Harris. He was eldest son of six siblings.

His childhood was filled with hunting, fishing, rough-housing and helping around the house. He played multiple sports throughout his youth and was an accomplished football player at Willow Springs High School. Following high school; his family moved to Walla Walla, Washington and he worked odd jobs until his father directed him to find a purpose in life.

This prompted him to join the United States Navy on July 24, 1962. He grabbed his toiletries and headed off to San Diego for Boot Camp and Radio Operator training, where he volunteered for Submarine Duty, earning the title “Bubblehead”. He completed RM A-School, and dove in with both feet to conquer Submarine Basics at New London, CT. Full of spit and vinegar, Chuck reported to the warm waters and bikini clad beaches of Key West, Florida; arriving at the brow of USS Sea Poacher (SS-406), then cross-decked onboard USS Chopper (SS-342).

Throughout his Navy adventures, Chuck continued to communicate with his high school sweetheart, Shirley Ann Smith, and was determined to marry her. He proposed, she accepted, and on very short notice, they were wed in Birch Tree, Missouri on August 9, 1963. They packed their belongings into their 1963 Ember Red Chevrolet Impala and darted off to sunny Key West, Florida, where Chuck finished his Navy tour.

Upon being honorably discharged on August 20, 1965, he and Shirley moved to Enid, Oklahoma and they began planning their family. Chuck worked building telephone distribution stations and this resulted in follow on employment with Frisco Railroad, where he worked for 23 years.

Not afraid of opportunities or challenges, Chuck held a number of positions and owned several successful businesses in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi before finally retiring to Springfield, Missouri in 2009.

Chuck relished the research of improving his race horse breed inventory associated with their 3-C's Ranch. This unique time provided endless learning opportunities for the whole Harris' Family. They traveled to many dirt road accessed race tracks and farms, met many unique, well natured, individuals and shared humble times with many families less fortunate than they. Chuck always assisted in any manner he could. He piloted his own plane, survived a plane crash, and mustered up nerve to overcome and proceeded to fly again.

"Never give up, this dog has a lot more fight" he would often say.

However, his favorite occupations were; loving husband, proud father, indulgent grandfather, big brother "Bud" and faithful friend. He adored his family and they him. He cherished lifelong friendships with a handful of people and could always be counted on to retell funny stories and keep everyone laughing; just ask his grandkids.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother in law Richard Eding.

He is survived by his devoted wife Shirley and their sons; Charles (Chad) Harris III and his companion Ms. Fareedah Washington of Rolla, Missouri, and Cody Harris and wife Despina of Cranston, Rhode Island. Grandfather to four: Charles IV (Virginia), Elisha (Texas), Madison and Mason (Rhode Island). He was the dear brother of Lillie (Steve) Wheeler, Ella (late Richard) Eding, Stanley (Vina) Harris, Netta (Royce) Yardley, Robert (Jeanne) Harris. He also leaves behind several beloved great grandkids, nieces, nephews, friends and the Greek Nation.

He was larger than life and we loved him dearly. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. May he rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 from 11:00am – 12:00pm at Willow Funeral Home LLC, 106 E 3rd St., Willow Springs, MO 65793. The funeral immediately follows. Burial will be at Howell Memorial Park Cemetery, 5604 US Highway 63, Pomona, MO 65789.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Cemetery

Howell Memorial Park Cemetery
5604 US Highway 63
Pomona, MO, 65789

Events

MAY 7 Visitation 11:00AM - 12:00PM
Willow Funeral Home, LLC
106 E 3rd St, Willow Springs, MO, US, 65793

MAY 7 Service 12:00PM
Willow Funeral Home, LLC
106 E 3rd St, Willow Springs, MO, US, 65793

Comments



“ Dear Shirley, Cody, Despina, and the entire circle of Chuck’s family ‘n’ friends,

Though I’ve never met Chuck, I have worked with Despina for some time here at EB and, being a SUBVET myself, she has regaled me with a few sea stories shared from her father-in-law. You could tell he was a man who lived life fully and fairly, and left strong, fine impressions in his wake!

Understanding the hole left behind, regardless the inevitability or forewarning, pray this helps some wee bit...to allow...enable...the grief...which will come...is painfully necessary...but is also a measure of the loving impact this very special man had on everyone! So truly sorry to hear about your husband, father, friend. At least now he’s at peace with our Lord...definitely keepin’ y’all in our prayers!

When my mother died, even after a years-long battle with cancer, I was shattered by the loss...inconsolable...she was my mentor! I like to think that I got my character from my father, but my mind and its capacity from m’dear sainted mother!!! BUT, "If your faith assures you she's in heaven, then what are the tears all about?!" I hold eternity dearly close...a cherished, hard-won prize...but, in the interim, that answer lies below.

SELFISH TEARS

(I Eulogize My Beloved Mother - March, 1989)

Today we cry...must admit they're selfish tears.
You see...our faith assures your journey's done.
But it's not for you we mourn, at all, my dear;
It's for those of us you've left behind...alone!!!

We share your joy...share your happiness at rest,
Your painful fears now for forever stilled.
You've fought the good fight, passed the final test,
But you've left behind a hole that can't be filled!!!

So, until we each rejoin you some someday,
And, while your memory buoys us through those years,
We'll miss you...but continue on our way,
And, from time to time, we'll cry our selfish tears!!!

Ray Hamilton ~*~ March 19, 1989

Our fond, sincerest condolences and prayers,

(-=< Ray & Mindy >=-)



“ Thank you for the comments and as you know, our lives have a hole that will not be filled-- we just have to make a path and direction that if worthy of his great spirit. God is still good, although I admit I have cried a bushel of "selfish tears" since May 1 when he passed from this life. The boys and I will remain grounded and united in our desire to find a way to honor his legacy.

Shirley Harris - May 16, 2019 at 08:30 PM



“ Prayers and condolences for the Harris family at this time. Chuck was a wonderful person and we enjoyed being with him, Shirley, and his family. He will be missed greatly by his family and friends! Love to you all!

Candy and Mary Kaye - May 06, 2019 at 06:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Chuck Harris Video Tribute



Charles Harris - May 06, 2019 at 05:22 PM



“ May all who was blessed with his interactions have joyous time reflecting on times had; blessings from Momma, Chad, and Cody Harris. RIP Pops!

Charles - May 06, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ A beautiful glimpse of a remarkable man and his family , gave me a wide insight into his life. Chuck lived a love life, may God bless your family.

Doug Hart - August 26, 2019 at 04:33 PM



“ May you watch us from heaven and give us strength as you know we need it in the days forward. Love is forever, dearest one.

Shirley Harris - August 26, 2019 at 09:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Charles Claude Harris Jr..



May 04, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ To the family of Charles Harris I send our love and very deepest condolences. He had a huge heart and even bigger soul. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched. The thing I loved about Charles was he made everyone he came in contact with feel like family.



Laurie Benoit - May 04, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ Cody Harris is following this tribute.

Cody Harris - May 03, 2019 at 04:12 PM



“ Chuck and Shirley were a fun couple to be around and even more kind and gracious. I am so very sorry to hear of his passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to Shirley and her sons Chad and Cody. I am not certain at this time that I will be able to attend the service for Chuck, but I will be with you all in spirit for sure. May Chuck rest in peace as we rejoice in his freedom from his earthly body that rids him of all pain and suffering. What a party they are having in Heaven with him added to the fold! Blessings to you all. Theda "TJ" Vaughn



Theda Vaughn - May 03, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ Patrick Householder lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Claude Harris Jr.



Patrick Householder - May 03, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ Chuck was a great guy and I am sure he will be missed.

William C Smith - May 03, 2019 at 09:51 AM



“ James L Pfister lit a candle in memory of Mr. Charles Claude Harris Jr.



James L Pfister - May 03, 2019 at 09:35 AM



“ We have known Chuck and Shirley since the '60s. when he and I were stationed on the USS Chopper SS-342. We are so sorry for your lose, our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with all his family. We'll miss you shipmate, Love Myrna & Jim

James L Pfister - May 03, 2019 at 09:44 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. I served with Chuck aboard USS CHOPPER in 1963-64. It was my pleasure to meet his son Cody in New London CT when we had our reunion there, and I regret Chuck could not make it due to a broken leg. Cody and I exchanged ballcaps and I still have his to this day. Sail on in eternal peace, shipmate, and may the happy memories of better days help sustain Shirley and the family.

Patrick Householder - May 03, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ I am so very sorry. Chuck was a great guy! We had lots of fun back in the days before the sellout. I know he will be terribly missed.
Jim Dicken

James Dicken - May 03, 2019 at 07:32 AM



“ I'm so sorry to here of Chucks passing.He was a great guy. Every time I think of him I hear his laughter, seems he laughed a lot. He and Shirley were made for each other if two people ever were.I'm grateful to both of them for their friendship and fort their ,and your family's service to our country.
My sincere condolence, Mike Ppinson.

Mike Pinson - May 03, 2019 at 07:14 AM