



## Robert Claude Harris Jr.

January 16, 1930 - February 25, 2023

Robert Claude Harris, Jr., 93 of Springdale passed away Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Willard Walker Hospice in Fayetteville. He was born January 16, 1930 in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Claude Harris and Ethel Eddings Harris. Claude was a proud member of the Cherokee Nation. He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Betty Kennedy Harris, to whom he was married September 23, 1950; one son, Danny Harris, three sisters and two brothers. He leaves behind seven children: Theresa Harris Moore (Joe), Paula Harris Stansell (Charles), Don Harris (Debra), Gayla Harris (Ken Bielak), David Harris (Renaë), Gary Harris (Judy), Tim Harris (Carla); 28 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren

Claude's faith and his family were the most important things in his life. His relationship with the Heavenly Father and love for his Son and Savior Jesus Christ brought true joy into his life that was evident in all who knew him. He married the love of his life, Betty Jean Kennedy, on September 23, 1950 and they had 44 years of marital bliss. "My Betty" remained his love and inspiration for a lifetime. Their reuniting now helps ease the loss of his passing. As a Dad he loved all of his kids dearly and was as good a Father as any person could ever dream of having. He was a parent when he needed to be, he taught morals and ethics and values, he raised his family in a home that served the Lord, he was selfless in sharing all he had and did with his family when it came to needs, vacation time and events, while also demanding

accountability and self reliance in a way that makes people better. He set high expectations for himself and his family and it made everyone around him better people.

Claude's story can't be told without Walmart. He was a merchant for Woolworths in the late 1950's when he met Sam Walton. Over time Mr. Sam convinced him to come to work running stores within his Ben Franklin franchise. When the fledgling Walmart Stores began in the early 1960's Mr. Sam asked Claude to start the buying division from scratch and he became the company's first buyer. He proudly called Sam Walton his friend and partner and they, along with other early associates, (Claude was close with Bud Walton as well), were instrumental in helping shape the tenants and culture that laid a cornerstone for the Company it is today. He went on to other executive roles within the company and remained a direct report and personal friend of Mr. Sam's until his retirement. With his appreciation for the company he never fully "retired". Even recently he was sharing ideas on how Walmart could improve and do better for its customers and people. His pride and support of Walmart and those wonderful associates lasted a lifetime. He was a merchant and associate until the end.

The Arkansas Razorbacks and St.Louis Cardinals lost a fan in Claude. His passion for his teams and sports/competition brought so much enjoyment. Decades of family memories were made going to Cardinal games, Cardinal Spring Training, Razorback games of all types, Bowl trips, the old SWC basketball tournament, his love of horse racing and the horses associated with the family. Claude and Betty were in Charlotte in 1994 when the Razorbacks won the NCAA Basketball National Title, which was a special memory for them both. He took great pleasure in not only playing sports himself, but attending events so he could watch his kids, grandkids and even great grandkids participate in sports and activities themselves. Claude and Betty were both athletic and their love of sports and being active spilled

across the entire family and shaped much who they are today.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 1pm at First United Methodist Church in Springdale with Rev. Andrew Thompson and Rev. Jen Ryerson officiating.

Claude would want to thank all his friends and family for the wonderful life well lived. The family requests that gifts in honor or memory may be made to Bread of Life, a food and emergency needs ministry of First United Methodist Church at 206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, AR 72764 or the Washington Regional Medical Foundation Friends of Hospice Fund at P.O. Box 356, Fayetteville, AR 72702. The Friends of Hospice fund supports Washington Regional Hospice patients and families with care-related and emergent needs.

Online condolences may be left at [www.siscofuneral.com](http://www.siscofuneral.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
206 W Johnson Ave  
Springdale, AR 72764

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Claude adn the family in the early years of Store 3 in the old Springdale location. He was the best of the best and was a man to be admired and emulated. Many of us are better for having known him. Rest i Peace Claude.

*Don Walker and Family*

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**Don Walker** - April 04, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..



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April 03, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..



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April 03, 2023 at 08:58 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..*



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April 01, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Mr. Harris was one of the kindest, most humble gentleman I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. I loved his smile and the way he shared his wisdom and advice. It was free of charge! You just had to ask for it. Mr. Harris is definitely one of a kind and will be sorely missed. I know he was welcomed with open arms into the gates of heaven!*

*Robyn Breshears*

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**Robyn Breshears** - March 27, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ *Mr. Harris was and still is, highly regarding within the Walmart community. Fate helped connect him with the Walton family and his contributions to Mr. Walton's vision helped set the stage for the success of our business today. He will be greatly missed and always be seen founding leader in the retail industry. Our thoughts and prayers are will all of his family.*

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**Alan Biggerstaff** - March 08, 2023 at 05:48 PM

JS

“ To all the Harris family, from the Striegler's

*Such a loss for all of us. Your mother, dad and family were very special to us as young couples raising our children in a new thriving church. We had many good times and memories. Myself now confined to my same house at age 90 on the farm. Remember the big fireworks display we had on the farm.*

*We send our love and sympathy to all. God Bless, Joyce*

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**joyce striegler** - March 08, 2023 at 12:27 PM

PF

“ We will miss this kind gentleman visiting our office. He was truly one of a kind and we honor the legacy of his life that is so evident in the family left behind. Our prayers for you all as you mourn his loss but rejoice in his homecoming. Sincerely, Phil & Shawna Ford, Tiffany Dillard & Alvaro Badillo

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**Phil & Shawna Ford** - March 06, 2023 at 04:41 PM

SB

“ Claude was one on the finest gentlemen I have ever met. I had the privilege of working at companies that owned in the 90s. His love for the employees was always the driving force of the success of these companies. My condolences to the entire Harris family. I will forever have a place in my heart foe Claude.

*Stephen Ballard*

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**Stephen Ballard** - March 05, 2023 at 01:16 PM

DR

“ *What a legacy! It was through family members we felt we knew Claude. We have been blessed by the kindness, generosity and shared commitment to Jesus that he instilled in his children and grandchildren. Thank you Claude. David and Donna Reed*

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**David and Donna Reed** - March 05, 2023 at 06:32 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..*



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March 03, 2023 at 11:10 PM

MB

“ *Claude was such a wonderful Godly man! He was always so kind to us. Our love and prayers go out to all the family! He and Betty are having a great reunion! Mike and Carolyn Buckner*

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**Michael Buckner** - March 03, 2023 at 09:03 PM

PS

“ *Angels are rejoicing as one of their own is now at home in Heaven. My sincerest condolences to The Moore's and the rest of his loving family. I know his passing leaves a huge hole in your hearts. He was a precious soul and will always be "Grandad" in my mind. I can still remember vividly him waving back to us from the stands when the band played "Hey Baby"!!! Such fun times and great memories! Love you all ❤️❤️❤️*

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**Penny Smith** - March 03, 2023 at 02:47 PM

SM

“ I had the great privilege of meeting and getting to know Mr. Harris through my work at the HELPCard company. With all his great accomplishments in life and work, he was the humblest of people and an absolute joy to talk to. People like him make the World a better place, though he is now made it to his true home.

Steve Murray - March 03, 2023 at 12:43 PM

MC

“ Praying for your family.

Michael Coleman - March 03, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..



March 03, 2023 at 08:29 AM

JS

“ Jimmy and Gail Sampley purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..



Jimmy and Gail Sampley - March 02, 2023 at 07:40 PM

CC

“ Carl and I loved Claude. I remember him at standing at Sunday School door greeting everyone and asking us to count for him. When he got count when we were starting class he would say “Did you count Theresa” and then put count on board. Our class we miss him . He knew the Bible and could quote it from heart. Rest in peace our special friend.

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**Carl and Molly Campbell** - March 02, 2023 at 06:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Claude Harris Jr..



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March 02, 2023 at 05:59 PM