



## Robert Stephen Ray Harris

September 20, 1988 - March 5, 2025

Robert Stephen Ray Harris, age 36, passed away on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Robert was born on September 20, 1988, in Fayetteville, the son of Don and Debra Harris. Robert is survived by his parents, sister Brittany Adcock and husband Aaron Adcock, sister Melissa Doty and husband Blake Doty, nephew's Owen, Jackson, Harrison, nieces Ava, Beaux and large number of cousins, uncles and aunts across the Harris and Ray families. Robert worked as an administrative assistant at Lifestyles where he cared deeply for both clients and the team he worked with.

Robert's story is miraculous, inspiring and remarkable. There is Robert, the person of family, faith, friends, writing, entertainment, food, socializing, travel and more. Then there is Robert the survivor, overcoming mind boggling odds to live a life of 36 years.

Robert the person loved his church and those who lifted him up for decades. His love of family is legendary. Nobody matched his ability to know everyone's birthday, anniversary or occasion to celebrate better than Robert. He loved attending family events and taking selfies with others, especially his niece, nephews and friends. He loved theater, movies, music and arts/entertainment. His recall for Academy Award winners in all categories was stunning. He never lost a movie trivia night. He loved to travel with friends and family and the memories made on trips to places and beaches far and wide will live with us forever. He had a knack for writing and poetry. Anyone who followed his thoughtful postings either shared personally or on Facebook noted the

thought, consideration and grace in his writing. This meant so much to him. Robert did enjoy his meals! But mostly when shared with a friend our at a local eatery with someone he cared about.

Robert the fighter is inspirational. Born in 1988 with hypoplastic left heart syndrome (left side of the heart failing to develop) he was given nearly zero chance to survive for two weeks. He was taken to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Transplants were not being done at the time, so Doctors decided to try a Norwood Procedure that could potentially rework the heart's function. It was an option, but a long shot. Robert miraculously survives this procedure the day after birth, becoming the first child to do so at ACH. Future years required further procedures to keep him alive. At age 5 in 1993 Robert's heart was struggling and by then ACH Little Rock had a Heart Transplant Program. Robert was placed on the transplant list. His new heart came on Oct 26, 1993. Robert's body received this gift of life and for the next 31 years this same heart allowed him to blossom into the loving son, sibling, relative and friend he became. It also led to his love for superheroes, especially Batman, due to his perseverance to overcome.

Heart transplants on average last 15 years or less. Recently Robert's heart was showing signs of rejection, and he was in the process of being re-listed for a second transplant at the time of his passing. The Lord took him home, so a new heart was not meant to be for Robert. As deeply as we miss him, we know he is now joined with his beloved Grandad, Claude Harris, whose special bond was beautiful. Please say yes to being an organ donor.

Visitation will be Wednesday, March 12 from 5-7pm at Sisco Chapel in Springdale. Funeral services will be at First United Methodist Church in Springdale on Thursday, March 13 at 11am. Graveside Service will be at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville at 2pm on Thursday, March 13. In lieu of flowers please consider a gift to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock or Northwest Arkansas, or to Lifestyles in Fayetteville in memory of Robert Harris.

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



# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Memorial Gardens

1728 E. Mission Blvd.  
Fayetteville, AR 72703

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel  
705 W Meadow Ave  
Springdale, AR 72764

## Funeral Service

MAR 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Graveside Service

MAR 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Fairview Memorial Gardens  
1728 E. Mission Blvd.  
Fayetteville, AR 72703



# Tribute Wall

PM

“ I am so saddened to hear of Robert’s passing and pray for God’s perfect peace and comfort for you all in this difficult time. The wonderful obituary recalled many of the fond memories I have of Robert and your family as he grew up. He was the first patient who received a heart transplant after I arrived in Arkansas in 1993 and I called Debra to let her know we had a heart for Robert and she had no idea who I was! She thought for a minute it was some sort of prank! It was my pleasure and honor to help care for Robert over the years and I became great friends with this special family and I grieve for your loss, but take comfort in knowing we will see Robert again. May God bless and keep you all.  
With love and respect, Paul Seib, MD

Paul Seib, MD - March 15, 2025 at 11:58 AM

CH

“ Dear Debra and Don, my heart breaks for you both. What a beautiful soul you raised. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment I spent with Robert and feel blessed to have known such an incredible man. Though I can’t be with you today, please know that my love and prayers are with you. May God grace you with peace and comfort.  
Love Carla Hodges

carla hodges - March 13, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.



March 12, 2025 at 02:54 PM

TB

“ *Trey and Brittany Brown purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*



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**Trey and Brittany Brown** - March 12, 2025 at 09:53 AM

7T

“ *7th grade Woodland Basketball Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*



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**7th grade Woodland Basketball Team** - March 10, 2025 at 03:31 PM

LJ

“ *Lauren, Kelsey, Chelsea and Jennifer purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*



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**Lauren, Kelsey, Chelsea and Jennifer** - March 10, 2025 at 02:08 PM

LJ

“ *Lauren, Kelsey, Chelsea and Jennifer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*

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**Lauren, Kelsey, Chelsea and Jennifer** - March 10, 2025 at 02:08 PM

HE

“ Holly & Glen Elarbee purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.



Holly & Glen Elarbee - March 10, 2025 at 10:16 AM

HE

“ Holly & Glen Elarbee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.

Holly & Glen Elarbee - March 10, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.



March 09, 2025 at 07:51 PM

MS

“ Much love, Paul & Lisa Scroggins purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.



Much love, Paul & Lisa Scroggins - March 09, 2025 at 03:08 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*



March 09, 2025 at 02:03 PM



“ *Cody and Amy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*



**Cody and Amy** - March 08, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ *Cody and Amy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Stephen Ray Harris.*

**Cody and Amy** - March 08, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ *Robert cared so much about others he had a heart of gold! He was a good person!!!! Robert will be missed by so many...❤️❤️❤️*



**Ashely Goodman** - March 08, 2025 at 04:36 PM

NI

“ My heart goes out to the Harris family during this incredibly difficult time. I am deeply sorry for your loss of Robert. His sudden passing is such a shock, and I hope you find comfort in the cherished memories you shared. Please know that you are in my thoughts, and I'm here if you need anything.  
Nik Paunov

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**nik** - March 08, 2025 at 02:23 PM

EB

“ Debra, so sorry to hear about Robert. He was always special to me. Always enjoyed him on our basketball trips. Prayers from Me and Harlan



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**Evelyn and Harlan Brown** - March 08, 2025 at 01:54 PM

RF

“ I will forever cherish working alongside Robert at the children's hospital. He had a heart of gold. 🧡

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**Rebecca Fletcher** - March 08, 2025 at 12:14 PM