



John Tolbert Harris

September 20, 1940 - August 25, 2020

John Tolbert Harris passed away on Tuesday August 25, 2020 at his home surrounded by family. He was born September 20, 1940 in Rogers to Laurence and Lynda Harris. He was a 1958 graduate of Rogers High School and a 1962 graduate of Hendrix College in Conway.

John's career included being a bank examiner, a loan officer at First National Bank (now Arvest) with his father and two uncles, Gene and Ray Harris, and an investment broker at Merrill Lynch.

In 1985, he married the love of his life, Kaye Wilkinson, and five years later he decided to retire and have fun. Kaye and John had an apple and pear orchard, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries, native plants, and a variety of unique trees.

John was happiest working in his yard and garden, baking breads and keeping Kaye busy picking and preparing their produce. You would often find John checking in to see friends and family to share his homegrown produce and his delicious bread. He often provided First United Methodist Church with his homemade bread for Communion service.

John was an unconventional man. He loved to share his knowledge and encourage others to discover new things. Whether it was to try new foods (persimmons and rhubarb), experience new things (cut down Christmas trees in Anderson, Missouri), grow new and interesting plants, learn how a chrysalis turns into a butterfly, or teach his grandson, Zoel, how to drive a golf cart at age three, John was all about new adventures.

From his optimistic personality to his laughter, to shying away from the camera, to helping young people with the proper use of the English language-John kept all those around him entertained. John was great at selecting unusual plants and trees and would go out of his way to find that special one, or two or three to bring home. He loved studying every plant, when it bloomed and for how long and what environment it liked best. He was persistent at recording the rainfall and diligent at keeping up with the Farmer's Almanac.

John had many friends and always showed interest in others accomplishments. He never met a stranger. He was generous, sincere, kindhearted, forgiving and a loving man.

As a Master Gardner serving on the state and local boards and President twice, John was host to several garden tours on their land. He was a Rogers Rotarian and a member of Central United Methodist Church. John served his community as Commissioner and Chairman of the Board of the Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission from 1989 to 1996.

John is survived by his wife, Kaye, his three daughters, Laurie (Jim) Walker, Sandra Lockhart and Jill (Mike) Vaughan; grandsons Jack Lockhart and Zoel Vaughan; his sister Mary Lynn Reese and his “favorite” sister-in-law, Vivian Dunnaway and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to John’s caregivers, Carrie and Amy, and to Circle of Life Hospice.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to: Circle of Life Legacy Village, 1201 NE Legacy Pkwy, Bentonville, Arkansas 72712; Central United Methodist Church, 2535 W New Hope Road, Rogers, Arkansas 72758 or First United Methodist Church, 307 W Elm, Rogers, Arkansas 72756.

Due to Covid-19, A family graveside service will be held at the Rogers Cemetery under the direction of Stockdale-Moody Funeral Services.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.stockdalemoody.com

Comments



“ I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a delightful man, and such an asset to his community, going out of his way to help whenever he saw the need. He always had a smile for everyone he came in contact with and was a big-hearted soul. I was a better person, having known him! He will be missed by many! Thinking of you Kaye and sending condolences to you and your family. Janet Carson

Janet B Carson - September 01 at 12:52 PM



“ I extend my sincerest condolences to Kaye and the Harris family. Seeing John Harris' name on an obituary stung my heart. I told my husband, “John Harris died.” He looked equally concerned and bewildered, not knowing who John was. I said he was the president of the Master Gardeners when I started, and he was a sweet man with a warm heart and a wide smile – a consummate good guy. In a Western, he'd wear a white hat. I liked and respected him immensely. Kaye, I'm so sorry for your loss. I pray God comforts you in this season and brings you joy and peace in your memories.

Lisa Kelley - August 31 at 04:27 PM



“ Sorry for your loss... I was fond of John for many reasons, when I started working for Arvest Investments in '88, greeting you @ church, celebrating “circuit riding horseback” @ CUMC, introducing me to the Master Gardeners program, but most of all your generous spirit when I wanted to grow those 10 foot corn stalks in your back yard...We give our best to Kaye & family.... love, Kent & SueAnn Thieman.....

Kent & SueAnn Thieman - August 30 at 12:26 PM



“ Kaye, I am so very sorry for your loss. I remember the first time I met you @nd John with Vivian when you first moved back to Rogers. Such a lovely man that you really deserved. I watch his love and bond with Zoe, and it was so beautiful. I have loved you as a sister for so many years. Please know how very much I love you and am praying for you and your family, which is also my family. Love you

Tracy Stewart - August 27 at 10:29 PM



“ John was a great neighbor and we must have run or walked a thousand miles around Walton Circle early every morning before work. We also played high school basketball together and later on the First National Bank team in the Industrial League. Rest In Peace, my dear friend. I will miss you. -Steve Roberts.

Steve Roberts - August 27 at 09:48 PM



“ Dina and I tried a few morning jogs with y'all.....and nothing was greater than hanging out during those intramural basketball games on a Monday night. Love you, Steve (I know you don't feel the same because of my relationship with JTH)

Sandra - September 10 at 07:58 PM



“ Someone said when notifying us about John's passing "another one of the good ones" I say he was not just one, but he was "the good one" . John and I grew up in sunday school together at Central Methodist. John was a friend to everyone and was one of the most positive people I had the privilege to know. They simply didn't come any better. Didn't get to see you much in the last many years John but I will miss you and the world was a better place to have you here. Go in Peace.

Larry & Marquita Whitaker (class of 58)

Larry Whitaker - August 27 at 08:08 PM



“ Larry, your thoughts mean so much.....thank you!

Sandra - September 10 at 07:48 PM



“ The loss of John is a loss to this world! I knew him through Master Gardeners. At our meetings, he always went out of his way to greet everyone and to make them feel welcome. You could observe that he was brightening eveyones' day. He was a role model for others to show concern for others. He was a warm, sincere, caring person. I will miss his smile. Jim Gately

james m gately - August 27 at 04:11 PM



“ I am sorry to hear of the death of my cousin and friend, John. We have been friends all of our lives. Our mothers, who were sisters, made sure of that. John will be missed.

Bill Osborne

Bill Osborne - August 27 at 01:27 PM



“ Thank you, Bill. Sandra

Sandra - September 10 at 07:54 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of John's passing. We became friends with John at First National Bank and and thru the years would talk to him about family, classmates and business issues. He was always helpful and a very cheerful to talk to. When my Mother passed, he called to offer his condolences. If he thought about classmates or their family he would sometimes called to ask each was connected and who was related to whom. John will certainly be missed by all your family .Thank you for sharing him with us for years.

Linda Setser - August 27 at 12:54 PM



“ John was most gracious and welcoming to my young family when we moved to Rogers to join the First National Bank over 40 years ago. His optimism and friendliness was always contagious, no matter what setback he might face. He was a fine man, and will be missed. May God welcome him into his loving arms, and grace his family with peace in their loss.
Rob Brothers family

Rob Brothers - August 27 at 12:30 PM



“ I remember that over 40 years ago....kinda seems like 10 years ago. Thank you for your thoughts. S.

Sandra - September 10 at 07:54 PM



“ I remember John from his time as a loan officer my wife and I were young and starting our lives together there were times when we needed a personal loan John was always willing to do that and we always paid it off. In later years I have always admired the way he took care of his property. he will be missed.

Mike Holloway - August 27 at 11:51 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers and deepest condolences are with the entire family.
Janie Darr

janie Darr - August 27 at 11:03 AM



“ Thank you, Janie

Sandra - September 10 at 07:49 PM



“ Pat Austin lit a candle in memory of John Tolbert Harris



pat austin - August 27 at 09:34 AM



“ John was always warm and friendly. Everyone always spoke highly of him. I am better for having known him.

Joel Bailey - August 27 at 09:32 AM



“ I am truly at loss of words on the passing of this friend to me and many...he was one of a kind. Sincere regrets to Kaye and family.
Gene Bland

Gene Bland - August 27 at 08:43 AM



“ Thank you for your thoughts, Gene.

Sandra - September 10 at 07:51 PM



“ John was a wonderful person. He was there for me when my parents passed away and supported me when I needed it the most . This is a great loss

Patty Wesner Burnett - August 27 at 12:19 AM



“ Sorry to hear of your passing.

John Bornefeld - August 26 at 11:46 PM



“ May John Rest in Peace. He was my brother's very first friend. I treasure pictures of them from babies through Scouting. You will be missed. Love and prayers to all of John's family and many friends.

Karen E Burks - August 26 at 11:33 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of an ole friend of 50 years and first co worker at First National Bank that helped me in my banking so much. He was one of a kind, caring, sharing, loving person. And could be ornery at times. We gave each other hard times at work, all in fun. Praying for God's peace and comfort for the family and love ones.

Rosie Roberts - September 01 at 07:44 AM