

Celebration of Life

For



Charlie Dan Harris

SUNRISE: *June 4, 1931*

SUNSET: *July 25, 2023*

Friday, August 4, 2023

FAMILY HOUR: *10:30 a.m.*

SERVICE: *11:00 a.m.*

In the Sanctuary Of

Easterny Baptist Church

3111 Garrison Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dr. Stephen J. Russell, Sr., Officiating

Smith Chapel Baptist Church

10923 Highway 903
Halifax, North Carolina

Reverend Joseph L. Battle, Officiating

Because of Covid-19, please be mindful of your social distancing.



My Story

I was born June 4, 1931, the eighth of thirteen children, to Landis and Lucy Harris in Halifax County, North Carolina. I also had two older brothers from my father. Heaven became my forever home on July 25, 2023. As I walked through the pearly gates, I was welcomed with open arms by my wife, mom and dad, daughter, and all my siblings.

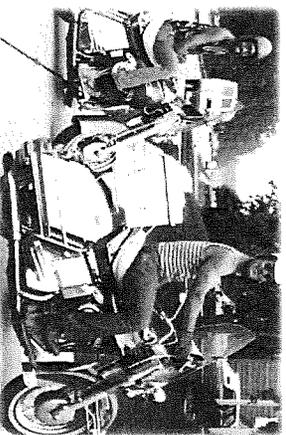
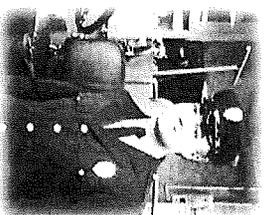
I was educated in the Halifax County Public Schools until the twelfth grade when I enlisted in the United States Army on December 8, 1950. I was sent to the Military Police Training at Camp Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. From Camp Gordon, I was sent to the all-black 212 MP Camp in Chuncheon, Vietnam. The Korean people were kind to us and appreciated our presence. I enjoyed all my time there and never regretted signing up to serve.



On my parents' 33rd anniversary December 29, 1952, I married the love of my life, Mattie Bell Lee in Emporia, Virginia. My daughter, Doris, was born on November 5, 1953. Soon after, I was discharged from the Army with the rank of Sergeant on December 7, 1953. We moved to Baltimore on January 4, 1954, to join some of my siblings who were already there. My brother, Cleveland (Bro), worked at Western Maryland Dairy and helped me to get a job there. While working there, I became the 1st black door-to-door milkman. My son, Michael "Tony", was born on October 30, 1955. I was not making enough money to support my family, so I left the Dairy during the summer of 1956 to drive dump trucks for Western Electric (W.E.).

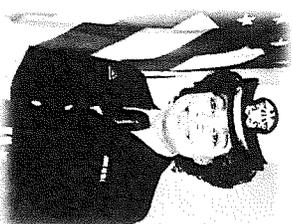


Despite my military MP service, I had to fight for seven years to get a position as a security guard at W.E. because of segregation. While working as a security guard, I decided to go to trade school for electronics because it was one of the highest-paid trades at that time. It took another seven years before they would allow me to get an electronics position, but it didn't deter me. Once I showed them what I was capable of doing, they were more willing to put other African Americans in these positions. I guess you could say, I broke down some barriers in my time at Western Electric. After retiring, I went to work driving hearses and limousines for various funeral homes around the city. I became a certified Blood Pressure Measurement Specialist and taught the community about the proper management of your health. I also volunteered with a local food pantry program.



When I wasn't working, I was enjoying time with my family. I enjoyed photography and videography, capturing memories on film to last for generations was my goal. If I didn't have a camera in my hand, I was riding my motorcycle. I got my first bike in 1971, a 1969 touring bike. My youngest brother, Linell, and I enjoyed riding our Harley-Davidsons. Later, I upgraded to a 1977 Electra Glide which has remained in the family all these years later. It didn't matter what the weather was, I would ride my bike year-round. And if driving dump trucks, motorcycles, hearses, and limos wasn't enough, I also obtained my pilot's license later in life.

I adored and admired my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I know that my presence will be missed by many. Please find comfort in knowing that my spirit is still with you. To my children, Doris (Jesse) and Tony (Carolyn) - I will always be near and continue watching over you. To my grandchildren, Katrina, Sherron (Jerome), Brandon (Davianne), Britney (Daryl), Christopher (Alicia), Paul, and Andrew - please know that I will never let you walk this journey alone. To my great-grandchildren, Ryan, Dominic, Anisa, Cidney, Jax, Lolo, Micalah, Avery, Emerson, Dylan, Dyson, and Brielyn - always strive for greatness. Some may not know this, but I had another daughter, Cheryl L. Burgess-Valdivieso (Michael) who was born on August 8, 1960. She followed in my footsteps joining the military (Navy). Unfortunately, she preceded me in death in December 1993 after a battle with Cancer.



I cherished my role of uncle to my numerous nieces and nephews - please know that I loved each and every one of you dearly. During my journey here on Earth, I was blessed to be called Dad by others - to my "bonus" children - Debbie (Ronald), Stephanie (Carl), and Darlene - I was blessed to have you in my life. To my "bonus grands" - Rhonda, Taylor, Nyia, Taleshia, Nathaniel (2), Antonio (3), Roger, Jeffrey (1), Jesse W., Jeremiah, Morgan, Jesse R., and Ja'Bir - keep striving to do and be your best. After my wife passed in 1997, my great-grandson helped me find companionship with Belinda Taylor. Belinda - Thank you for sharing the last twenty-six years with me. Your daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are special to me.

My journey now continues from above. I am at peace, and I want you all to be as well.

Love, Charlie



Order of Service
Bahary Baptist Church
3111 Garrison Boulevard * Baltimore, Maryland 21215
Dr. Stephen J. Russell, Jr., Officiating

PROCESSIONAL OF THE FAMILY
MOMENTS OF VISITATION

*
PROCESSIONAL OF CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS

OPENING SELECTION.....*The Congregation*
"Blessed Assurance"

PRAYER OF CONSOLATION.....*Clergy*

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Old Testament: Psalm 23.....*Clergy*
New Testament: John 14:1-3.....*Clergy*

MINISTRY IN SONG.....*Marissa White*

WORDS OF REFLECTION.....*Pastor Patrick Hopkins*
Open Heart Food Outreach Ministry
Michael "Tony" Harris
Son

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....*Margi Tillman*

OBITUARY (To be read silently).....*My Deary*

MINISTRY IN SONG.....*Marissa White*

GOSPEL PROCLAIMED.....*Dr. Stephen J. Russell, Jr.*

RECESSIONAL

SONGS OF JUBILATION

*At this time the casket is closed



Order of Service

Smith Chapel Baptist Church
10923 Highway 903 * Halifax, North Carolina
Reverend Joseph L. Battle, Officiating

PROCESSIONAL OF THE FAMILY

MOMENTS OF VISITATION

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PROCESSIONAL OF CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS

OPENING SELECTION.....

"Blessed Assurance"

The Congregation

PRAYER OF CONSOLATION.....

Deacon Edward Richardson

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Psalm 23

Cherry

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Cherry

MINISTRY IN SONG.....

Augustus Egfield, Jr.

WORDS OF REFLECTION.....

Dale Smith
Nephew

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....

Fa. William Webb
Great-great Nephew

OBITUARY (*To be read silently*).....

Wj Cherry

MINISTRY IN SONG.....

Augustus Egfield, Jr.

GOSPEL PROCLAIMED.....

Reverend Joseph L. Battle
Quankey Missionary Baptist Church

RECESSIONAL

SONGS OF JUBILATION



*At this time the casket is closed

Dad,

How do we say thanks for all that you have done?
For treating each of us like we were the only one...
For your unconditional love and guidance and showing us the way
For teaching us by example, each and every day.
Your strength and Love of God will sustain us
as we move forward without you around,
But God's Grace, Love and Mercy
within us will certainly Abound.
There will be many days when we'll wish that you were here,
But we will treasure all the memories made and hold them very near.
So, rest easy now Dad, you certainly earned your rest.
We truly love and miss you, but our Heavenly Father knew best.

Doris and Tony



My Poem to Our Granddad

BY ANISA SHIRD,



Upon his steed, he soared through the breeze, A spirit unbound, his passion would appease.
Through winding roads and landscapes unseen, He'd chase the horizon, where dreams convene.
His love for motorcycles, a flame burning bright, the rumble of engines, his symphony of delight.
With every twist of the throttle, he'd conquer the road, leaving trails of adventure, wherever he strode.
Although faded photographs, his spirit remains, a testament to love that forever sustains.
For in those captured frames, his essence shall live, a legacy of joy, and the love he would give.
So, I'll cherish the memories, the stories he'd tell, of a great grandfather who lived so incredibly well.
In the depths of my heart, his spirit holds tight, a guardian of dreams, forever shining bright.

*Your Grandchildren
and Great-Grandchildren*

Last of The Harris' Warriors

Uncle Charlie was a great man. Out of the Harris clan he was the last to stand.
A father, a husband and even a grand. Was a jack of all trades
A loving Unc and was well liked, Loved to take photos, tell stories, and ride his bike.
He was the CEO of the family, held family secrets, dug up our roots and more.
If you needed a memory, he had a picture for sure.
I'll miss how he would shift his nose to the side,
and watching him jump on his bike to take a ride.
I have to stop writing and take a pause,
And say my heart goes out to Tony and Doris.
Uncle Charlie will be missed but now he's free,
He's passed his photography down to Cousin Judy.
So, I'm sitting here thinking with my wondering mind,
The CEO of the family is left to Donald and Dale, the next in line.
I love you Uncle Charlie, you can rest in peace,
Just sharing my thoughts as a loving niece.
Love,

Prickie

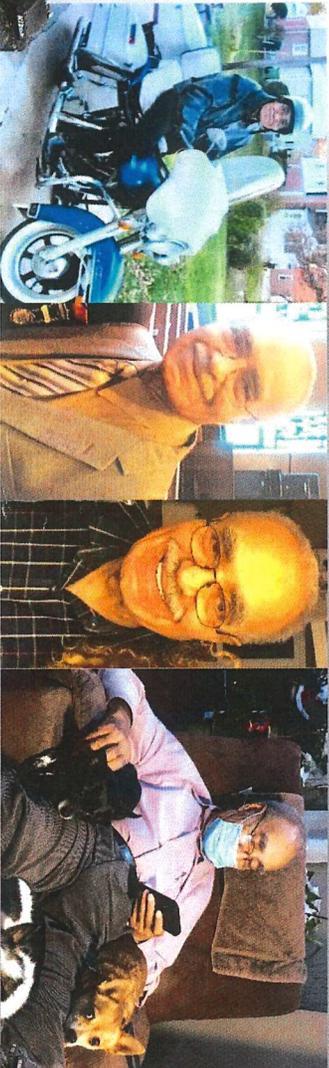


Pallbearers
His Nephews

Flower Bearer
His Nieces

Acknowledgements

We, the family of Charlie Dan Harris, would like to thank our extended family and friends for the many expressions of love and support shown during this period of bereavement. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to sustain each of us with His Grace and Mercy. Special Appreciation to his "Bonus" daughter, Darlene Greer for her daily care and assistance along with VA Home Care and Gilchrist Hospice.



Interment

PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY
Enfield, North Carolina
On Tuesday, August 8, 2023
(Immediately following Service)

Professional Services Entrusted To

JOSEPH H. BROWN FUNERAL SERVICES
2140 North Fulton Avenue * Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-383-2700

COFIELD FUNERAL HOME
501 West Third Street * Weldon, North Carolina 27890
252-536-3171

Program Layout and Design

Diane A. Mondie-Milkes
dianewilkes@netzero.net