

A Steady Life

He did not chase the spotlight, he didn't raise his voice,
But showed up day after day and made the steady choice.

A paper route at nine years old, a pressroom late at night,
Building homes when morning came -
Work done honest, work done right.

He served his country quietly, s captain, firm and true,
And served his town for twenty-two long years that slowly grew.

A voice upon the radio, calm words when trouble came,
Reporting what was happening, never seeking fame.

He loved his wife, his family, his children gathered near,
Grandpa, Gramps, and Uncle Dubby - a presence strong and clear.

He loved the lake, cold Coca-Cola, model trains that ran just right,
Downtown scenes in careful detail built with patience, built with sight.

Though earthly vision faded, his truest sight remained—
A life of faith, of hope, of love that loss cannot contain.

Now what was dim is clear at last, no shadows, no disguise,
For now he sees not partially but face to face—new eyes.

A steady life. A faithful man. His work, his love, his way
Still spoken of, still lived out in those he leaves today.

Remembering

THE LIFE OF



Lester S. Harrell, Jr.

August 10, 1929 - December 10, 2025

Lester Sidney “Les” Harrell, Jr., 96, of Sedalia, passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at E.W. Thompson Health & Rehab Center.

He was born August 10, 1929, in Sedalia, the son of Lester Sidney Harrell, Sr. and Bessie (Gearhart) Harrell. On July 2, 1954, in Sedalia, he married Julia “Judy” Blaine, who preceded him in death on February 19, 2025.

Les was a 1947 graduate of Smith-Cotton High School. He began working for the Sedalia Democrat at age nine as a paperboy alongside his brother, Jim. Over the years, he advanced through the organization and ultimately served as production manager until retiring in 1990. While working nights at the newspaper, he also built houses during the day, reflecting his strong work ethic and commitment to providing for his family.

He served 21 years of active duty and six years of inactive service in the Army National Guard, retiring at the rank of Captain.

Les was committed to his community. He served 22 years on the Sedalia City Council and contributed his time to the Police Personnel Board and the Pettis County Ambulance Board. He also worked as an on-the-scene reporter for KDRO for many years.

Survivors include his daughter, Brenda Buckner (Terry), and his son, Lester S. “Sid” Harrell III, both of Sedalia; a grandson, Leslie Harrell (Tiffany), of Greenwood, MO; two granddaughters, Ja’Nae Buckner (Andres), of Sedalia, and Ca’Teesia Spencer, of Houston, TX; 11 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Alberta Young; his sister, Betty Joann Brewer, both of St. Charles, MO; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Jim Harrell.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Lester S. Harrell, Jr.

FUNERAL SERVICE

2:00 pm Monday, December 15, 2025

Heckart Funeral Home
Sedalia, Missouri

OFFICIATING

Jeff Page

MUSIC

“Wind Beneath My Wings”
“In the Garden”

PALLBEARERS

Leslie Harrell
Army National Guard

INTERMENT

Crown Hill Cemetery

Memorial contributions are suggested to the
Sedalia D.A.R.E. program