



## Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris

November 30, 1934 - December 9, 2020

### JOSEPH EUGENE HARRIS

GODFREY – Joseph Eugene (“Joe” or “Gene”) Harris, 86, passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at his home in Godfrey with family by his side.

He was born November 30, 1934, at the Harris family farm in Hickory Valley, Tennessee, to Wiley Lake and Effie Jane (Goddard) Harris, Sr.

Following graduation from Grand Junction (TN) High School in 1952, Joe went to work at Sears, Roebuck and Co. in Memphis.

In 1955, Joe moved to Alton where he worked 64 years at several companies, including Alcan Ammunition; Owens-Illinois Glass; Cope Plastics; and TheBANK of Edwardsville. He enjoyed working alongside many friends and colleagues over many years, finally retiring at 84.

He was baptized in 1960 at the former Central and Madison Church of Christ in Wood River, and was an active member of the Vaughn Hill Church of Christ in Wood River since its inception in 1966.

Joe was a veteran of the United States Army Reserves where he served six years (1957-1963).

Surviving are his two sons, Michael (Melanie) Harris of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Gregory (Kimberly) Harris of Williamsburg, Virginia; along with seven grandchildren, Lauren, Nathan, Grace, Mary Abigail, Hannah, Macey, and Jack. He is also survived by his good friend and former spouse of 35 years, Joan (McKelvey) Harris.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his two brothers, Wiley Harris, Jr., and Richard Harris.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, graveside services will be private at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Vaughn Hill Church of Christ ([www.vaughnhill.org](http://www.vaughnhill.org)) or to Orphan Helpers ([www.orphanhelpers.org](http://www.orphanhelpers.org)).

Condolences and memories may be shared online at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *The Orphan Helpers Board & Staff purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris.*



**The Orphan Helpers Board & Staff** - December 15, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ *I've only known Joe over the past year and he impacted my life in the most positive way. I'm new to the neighborhood and he was one of the first people to befriend me, always with a smile and good conversation. I always looked forward to going for a stroll around the neighborhood and finding Joe outside so we could stop for a chat. It was truly the bright spot of my walks. I'm going to miss him terribly.*

*My deepest condolences to the family.*

**Christy White** - December 15, 2020 at 05:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris.*



December 14, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris.*



December 14, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Joseph Eugene "Gene" Harris.*



December 14, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ *fond memories of Gene when he drove the JOY bus for us. Going to miss you very much.*

**Betty Stauffer** - December 14, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ *Joe was a great friend and neighbor. He is missed.*

**John McDaniels** - December 12, 2020 at 06:01 PM

RF

“ *Condolences on the loss of your loved one ,I remember Joe from the Owens -Illinois Mold Shop, he really was one of Gods ambassadors .A man with a big heart and smile .*

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**Ron Frost** - December 12, 2020 at 03:50 PM

KH

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Kim Harris** - December 12, 2020 at 09:14 AM

BF

“ *Very fortunate to work with Joe for many years at TheBANK. He came to work every day with a cheerful greeting and kind remark. He worked hard, was helpful to everyone, represented TheBANK at almost every community event we sponsored, and supported the successes of his colleagues. Joe’s energy was contagious and he never met a stranger. He was ‘genuine Joe’ at all times and I am so sad to hear of his passing. My prayers are with his family.*

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**Belinda A. Feezel** - December 11, 2020 at 05:41 PM

LW

*Well said, Belinda! My sentiments exactly. Joe was such a gem.*

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**Linette Warnecke** - December 11, 2020 at 09:02 PM

NM

*Nelson & I were long-time friends with Gene beginning at Central & Madison in 1958. He was a true friend and he will be missed.*

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**Nelson & Wilma Montague** - December 14, 2020 at 01:43 PM

DW

“ I worked with Joe during his time at TheBANK of Edwardsville. What a genuine soul. He really brought a smile to everyone he encountered. I know he improved my life just by interacting with him. I can see him shaking his finger as he was imparting some wisdom upon me. We have missed him tremendously.  
-Danielle Wisely

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**Danielle Wisely** - December 11, 2020 at 05:04 PM

DE

Joe was a co-worker/friend that felt like family to me at TheBANK. I always shared my lunches at work with him and he was always invited to my family parties. He had a heart of gold and just never stopped helping others. I will never stop thinking about him cleaning out his neighbor's gutters and cutting their grass after working at the bank for 40 hours. And he was in his 70s and just kept going strong... Heaven gained one sweet and caring man. Joe was truly a "one of a kind" kind of guy. - Denise Horton

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**denise** - December 11, 2020 at 06:49 PM

PS

I also worked with Joe and his brother Wiley. We all worked the the O-I Mold Shop. The shop was a special place to work and it was people like Joe and Wiley that made it that way. My condolences to his family. Rest in peace Joe, Paul W. Stilwell

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**Paul Stilwell** - December 11, 2020 at 07:48 PM