



## Jerry Harris Jr

December 7, 1959 - March 14, 2025

Jerry Harris Jr., born December 7, 1959, in Chicago, Illinois, to Annie Louise (Kinard) Dunn and Jerry Harris Sr., passed away on March 14, 2025, at the age of 65 in Peoria, Illinois. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Jerry's life was marked by his deep love for his family, dedication to his community, and unwavering faith in Christ.

Jerry grew up in the Englewood area of Chicago as the second of three children. He attended Hinton Elementary School and later graduated from Lindblom High School in 1978. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Illinois State University in 1982, followed by a Bachelor's in Information Technology from DeVry University, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Jerry's career was varied, yet always driven by a desire to make a positive impact. He began his professional journey working as a group home manager for children in foster care, a position where he met his future wife, Jill, the love of his life. His time in the Illinois National Guard, where he served as a Sergeant, was also an influential part of his life. Jerry's commitment to service continued throughout his career at Caterpillar, where he worked in IT, then transitioned into marketing, and ultimately into Six Sigma, a position that

allowed him to travel the world and visit countries such as Brazil, Singapore, Australia, the Philippines, Egypt, Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, India, and the United Kingdom.

After retiring, Jerry found fulfillment working as a substitute teacher for the Dunlap School District. He was also a proud member of Omega Psi Phi, Chapter Theta Xi, and dedicated much of his time to service projects through the fraternity. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family, especially during vacation trips, and was a passionate volunteer, often giving back to his community.

Jerry's love for life was evident to all who knew him. He was known for his vibrant personality, his ability to uplift others, and his infectious love of dancing. Always the life of the party, Jerry was a man who believed in seeing those around him succeed. His personal motto was simple: live a good life, be a great husband, father, and provider, and never have regrets.

A devoted Christian, Jerry attended Northwood Church and dedicated his life to Christ, living out his faith through his actions and relationships with others.

He is preceded in death by his father, Jerry Harris Sr., his mother, Annie Dunn, his sister-in-law, Brenda Harris (Juan Harris), his father-in-law, Bob Grubar (Mona Gruber), his brother-in-law, Randy Grubar, and his beloved granddaughter, Kandice Fudge.

Jerry leaves behind his loving wife, Jill Harris, his four children: Kelly Harris,

Kimberly Fudge (Alan), Kristina Harris by Andrea Turner and Tracker Harris (Scarlett) by Jill Harris. He is also survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchild. He will be deeply missed by his brothers, Juan Harris and Marcus Harris, and his sister, Ajuana Linzy, and a host of extended family members and friends.

In his own words, Jerry was proud of the life he lived and the legacy he leaves behind. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his love, spirit, and faith will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have crossed his path.

Celebration of life services for Jerry Harris will be announced. Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation Service is in charge of the cremation. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made his wife, Jill Harris or to the Theta Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, supporting student scholarships, mentoring, and community outreach, service projects close to his heart. Contact [riverscityques@yahoo.com](mailto:riverscityques@yahoo.com) for donation instructions to the fraternity.

Words of comfort can be shared with the family at [www.SchmidtHaller.com](http://www.SchmidtHaller.com).

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ *Jill and Tracker, Kayleigh and I are very sorry for the loss of your husband/father.*

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**Tom and Kayleigh Miller** - March 26, 2025 at 04:25 PM

GA

“ *My prayers are with the Harris family.\n\nNothing is more painful than losing someone you love so dearly. God bless the family\n\nJerry was a friend. I met Jerry, Juan, Sue and Ms Lindsay, in August of 1977, when Juan and I attended Langston University. Juan and I was assigned to be roommates. \n\nJerry was a wonderful man. Jerry and I continued our friendship as we grew as adults. \n\nJerry will truly be missed. God bless the Harris' family.\n\nGary Anderson*

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**Gary anderson** - March 23, 2025 at 10:43 PM

KK

“ *Brother Harris, I will miss you greatly. Your wisdom was very influential to me and my sons. Rest easy.*

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**Keith King** - March 19, 2025 at 05:50 PM

GC

“ To The Family of the Late Jerry Harris Jr.,  
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eye; And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, Neither shall there be any more pain. For the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4  
God hath not promised skies always blue, Flowers-strewn pathways all our lives through. God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain. But God hath promised strength for the day, Rest for the labor, light for the way, Unfailing and undying Love.  
We the Pastor and members of Grace Baptist Church, Peoria, Illinois wants the family to know that our hearts are with you in the passing of your loved one. You have our sincere prayers.  
“Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart.” Psalm 27:14  
Humbly Submitted  
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
405 N. Richard Pryor Place  
Peoria, IL 61605  
PASTOR C.L. WHITE JR.  
ALNEIDA FORD, CHURCH SECRETARY

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Grace Baptist Church - March 18, 2025 at 01:25 PM

CE

“ Jerry, Juan and I were like the Three Amigos. We were inseparable as kids and grew up from little boys as brothers in all that we did. From grammar school at Hinton elementary to middle school at AA Stagg to high school at Lindblom Tech we were all for one and one for all. Only time and life could separate us and now death has put a permanent wedge between us. Rest well my dear brother and friend until we meet again.

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Cedric R. Edgeworth - March 18, 2025 at 12:38 PM