



James "Jim" Preston Harris III

February 20, 1939 - March 29, 2022

Harris, James Preston "Jim" III, age 83, of Wilsonville, passed away on March 29, 2022. The visitation will be from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2022 at First Baptist Church of Columbiana. The funeral service will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the church with Dr. Mike Miller officiating. Burial will be at 2:00 p.m. at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. Bolton Funeral Home is directing.

Jim was born in Jefferson County, Alabama and raised in Pleasant Grove, Alabama, moving to Wilsonville in 2004. He was a proud son of the South, a Christian and a member of First Baptist Church of Columbiana. He attended Fairfield High School and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, studying accounting. Jim had a long career in real estate, first as a mortgage banker and then in the real estate title industry in Birmingham. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to found several successful businesses – Cambridge Title, Preferred Title and Common Bond Title, from which he retired at the age of 80.

Jim was predeceased by his parents: Agnes Amelia Glen Harris and James Preston Harris, Jr. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Mary Jane Aldridge Harris; daughters Mary Lee Carter (Ed), and Suzanne Lynne McAdams (Mark); sister, Glenda Aileene Robertson (Carl); grandchildren Rebecca Lynne Gattus (Bill), Andrew Wheeler McAdams and Lydia Jane McAdams; and great-grandson, Carter James Gattus.

He served his country with honor as a member of the Alabama Army National

Guard, the Civil Air Patrol and the USAF Auxiliary. Jim was a very active member of his community and served in many volunteer capacities. He served for several years as Chairman of the Pleasant Grove Planning and Zoning commission. His passion for aviation led him to serve as Past President of the Birmingham Aero Club, Past President of the Birmingham Soaring Society and to serve on the board of the Southern Museum of Flight. He was the Co-Founder of the Shelby County Aviation Society and a member of the Birmingham Hangar of Quiet Birdmen. He also volunteered for many years as chairman and treasurer of the Fourmile Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

After his family, Jim loved to fly more than just about anything else. He was a commercial multi-engine aircraft pilot and a commercial glider pilot. Flying was more than just a passion for Jim. He believed every hour in the air was a gift from God. His most meaningful flying was as an Angel Flight pilot transporting medical patients and their families. He also loved nature and the outdoors, and over the years spent many hours with friends and family hunting, birdwatching, backpacking, canoeing, camping, sport shooting, flying, riding motorcycles and taking care of his animals. Even as his health declined, he made sure that his animals would be cared for lovingly. Jim loved his life, family, friends and co-workers. He is dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Cancer Society or the Southern Museum of Flight. Please sign online condolences at www.boltonfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Alabama National Cemetery

3133 Hwy 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 11:30 AM - 12:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Columbiana
208 N Main St.
Columbiana, AL 35051

Funeral Service

APR 4. 12:30 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Columbiana
208 N Main St.
Columbiana, AL 35051

Burial

APR 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Alabama National Cemetery
3133 Hwy 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Preston Harris III.*



April 05, 2022 at 01:18 PM



“ *There are those rare folks who never disappoint you by being truly genuine, kind and giving. That was Jim. In the 40 or so years I was around Jim, in the Birmingham Aero Club, C.A.P, or at Shelby County Airport, it was always better when Jim was present. It's the honest truth for so many.... He really will be sorely missed! R.I.P. my friend.*
~ Dollar Bill ~

Bill Lawson - April 05, 2022 at 11:19 AM



“ *I am going to miss Jim. I really liked him and all the conversations we had on the farm. He truly loved his family. And sure did like them horses too. We will see you again James Preston Harris. What a day that will be.*

phillip autry - April 03, 2022 at 08:25 PM

CH

“ *Century 21 Advantage - Paul Holley purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of James "Jim" Preston Harris III.*



Century 21 Advantage - Paul Holley - April 01, 2022 at 04:03 PM

HH

“ *One of my favorite people! He will be sorely missed by everyone that knew him!*
Hayes Hutchins

Hayes Hutrchins - March 31, 2022 at 04:00 PM

BW

“ *Mrs. Harris, Mary Lee and Suzanne, please accept my deepest condolences. Mr. Harris and I met in 1999. He was more than just a special person, friend, mentor and father figure to me. I could go on forever detailing my admiration for him. There has never been anyone like Mr. Harris. His huge heart, love for life, love for family, friends (human or otherwise), co-workers and anyone he met is unmatched. I helped him with computer issues at his office. Some of my fondest memories are listening to his stories or just sitting in his office listening to the old music station on his Sirius radio. When I was around him, I knew that the time we shared was special. I was very blessed to have spent so much time with him. My wife and I attended his 80th birthday party. Thank you all so much for allowing us to attend. My heart also goes out to Lynn and all his family at Common Bond Title.*

-Bryan White

Bryan White - March 31, 2022 at 02:42 PM

YA

“ *Your friends in University Advancement purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of James "Jim" Preston Harris III.*



Your friends in University Advancement - March 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM

BC

“ *On behalf of the Shelby County Senior Squadron, SER AL 132 of the Alabama Wing, Civil Air Patrol USAF Auxiliary, our most heartfelt condolences to the Harris Family. Captain Harris served this Command proudly and was a true friend to all. Since taking command of this squadron, and hearing of his condition, never did I hear anything discouraging or detrimental as he fought bravely against this invisible disease. He was an inspiration to me, his squadron mates, community, country, and most important, his God he served until the Father reached into this earthly realm and welcomed him home. His last mission was to receive a new set of Heavenly Wings.*

Farewell Captain Harris; fair winds and blue skies as you fly West.

Barry L. Colley, Commander

barry colley - March 31, 2022 at 12:31 AM