



## John Taylor Harris

December 14, 1967 - January 20, 2025

John Taylor Harris, 57, was called into the presence of his Lord and Savior on January 20, 2025.

John was born on December 14, 1967, in Athens, Georgia. He grew up in Tennessee and graduated from Middle Tennessee Christian School in 1985. He then earned a B.S. degree from Lipscomb University in Nashville in 1989.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Disciples Fellowship Church (3064 Lorna Road, Hoover, AL 35216) from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A service will follow at 11:00 AM.

John was preceded in death by his mother: Linda Roberts Harris, and his grandparents: John William Harris, Sr., Blanche Taylor Harris, Jesse Watts Roberts, and Bertie Pinkerton Roberts.

John is survived by his wife: Liesl Ward Harris; his father: John William Harris, Jr.; his sister: Cathy Ficzero; his brother-in-law: Joe Ficzero; his nephew: Joseph Turner; and his niece: Bailee Ficzero. He is also survived by his brother- and sister-in-law: Hal and Jane Ward; his sister-in-law: Laurel Ward; his nephews: Isaac "Nacho" Ward, Kye Winn, and Matthew Winn; and his niece: Chloe Ward.

John and Liesl did not meet until they were both nearly forty years old. Each of them simply thought that marriage was not part of God's plan for their lives, so they were delighted when God brought them together through love, persistence, and a little match-making mischief from the Disciples Fellowship congregation! They loved each other well for over fifteen years of marriage. They taught each other about patience, tenderness, forgiveness, and grace. They delighted in each other's company and enjoyed nothing more than spending time together. While they loved each other dearly, they also just liked each other! They were best friends.

While John spent much of his career in private industry, he devoted the last three years of his professional life working as a Jeff Coach at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama. He had truly discovered his calling. He loved nothing more than helping and serving students. He often marveled that he had found a job he loved so dearly. Liesl and John carpoled to Jefferson State nearly every workday. They became later-in-life college sweethearts!

While John and Liesl did not have biological children, over the years of their marriage, they opened their home to five international students from across the world. They also adored their "Phi Theta Kappa" honor students from Jefferson State. John may not have had biological children, but he was a father to countless students.

John will be remembered for so many wonderful characteristics and qualities. One of his happy places was being near the water, fishing pole in hand. His other happy place was spending time with his family, especially his father, Cathy, Joe, Joseph, and Bailee, whom he loved beyond words. John had gorgeous, expressive blue eyes. He also had a deep, booming bass voice, which he loved to use to praise God through song. But even with his deep, booming voice, John was gentle. Little children especially were drawn to him.

He had a tender heart of compassion for all.

John had overcome many health challenges before. He faced Hodgkins Lymphoma in his early twenties. He had also undergone open-heart bypass surgery and a heart valve replacement. When John told Liesl that he needed to go to the emergency room, she thought it was another challenge that he would, once again, beat. She did not know that God was calling him home. John's earthly body wore out, but his eternal body is healed—whole and perfect. John is using his beautiful bass voice to praise God in Heaven. His voice is also urging us to continue in this life as we desperately cling to the hope of resurrection and a future reunion soon.

Philippians 3:20 reads: But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." While we grieve for John deeply, we rejoice that his healed body is now a citizen in Heaven, and we eagerly look forward to seeing him again.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Disciples Fellowship Church  
3064 Lorna Road  
Hoover, AL 35216

## Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Disciples Fellowship Church  
3064 Lorna Road, Hoover, AL 35216  
Hoover, AL 35216

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ I was blessed and honored to have known John, Liesl, and their family (including the fur babies). Living with them and experiencing American life with a real American family is one of my most treasured memories. It was a true blessing to have a second family while living far from home.

John was an amazing father figure. Every year on my birthday, he sent me videos of Sterling and Silver (their cats). We laughed about how chubby Sterling was and loved it so much. If that's not something a father would do, I don't know what is.

John will be deeply missed and forever loved. I wish I could be there to give Liesl and the family the biggest hugs. Love you all so much!

— Your PTK daughter, Megan

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**Megan Phan** - January 28, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Taylor Harris.



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January 28, 2025 at 08:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Taylor Harris.

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January 28, 2025 at 12:59 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Taylor Harris.



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January 27, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Taylor Harris.

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January 27, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ Last year at Catalyst several of us went to dinner. All I can say is that John enjoys a steak better than anyone! We all had a wonderful time, in no small part because of his story telling ability (in between bites of his steak, of course)

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Paul Roscelli - January 27, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Taylor Harris.



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January 27, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Taylor Harris.

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January 27, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Taylor Harris.

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January 27, 2025 at 12:20 PM