



Brooks Harris

September 21, 1931 - May 4, 2024

Colonel John Brooks Harris, USMC Retired, was surrounded by multiple generations of his family when he passed away on May 4, 2024 at the age of 92. Colonel Harris (known by “Brooks” to all) was born in Rockville Centre, NY to Retired LtCol Clinton G. Harris , US Army, and his wife, Meta. He is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia Parrish Harris, with whom he very recently celebrated 36 years of marriage. Brooks leaves behind three children, Michael D. Harris, Kathleen Ann Keene and her husband Richard, and Karen Elizabeth Robbins. He is also survived by two stepchildren, Catharine Staley and her husband Fred, and Kyle Parrish and his wife Laura. He loved and was proud of his eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Brooks graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1949. After a couple of overly enjoyable years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps in February 1952. He was commissioned in September 1952 and retired in 1983. He finished his degree at Old Dominion University Summa Cum Laude in 1972. In the Marines, Brooks served with the 1st Marine Division in Korea and later with the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam. His awards include the Legion of Merit with Combat “V” and a gold star in lieu of a second award, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and other service medals. His service includes a tour as CO of Marine Barracks, US Submarine Base, New London, CT, Executive Officer of the 12th Marine Regiment, and Commanding Officer of the 11th

Marine Regiment. His last assignment was as Chief of Staff, Landing Force Training Command, Little Creek, VA. He was a Life Member of the Marine Corps League, Tar Heel Detachment.

After retiring from the Marines, Brooks focused on his “softer side.” In 1985, he graduated from Johnson and Wales University Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Culinary Arts. He put this to good use as a caterer in Virginia Beach, providing “food for fifty” at many church-related and local community events. He also tried his hand at painting and became a stained-glass artist. Many are happy to have pieces of his glass by which to remember him.

Colonel Harris had been very active in the Episcopal Church throughout his life and was an active member of the Cursillo community. At his death, he was attending Christ the King (CTK) Lutheran Church with his family members in Cary, but he reminded us all that he was an Episcopalian right up until the end. Before moving to CTK, Brooks was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Cary and had been a thirty-two year member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach, VA where he had served on the vestry and for several years as treasurer. He was a charter resident of SearStone CCRC in Cary.

Please join us in a celebration of life on Saturday, May 18 at 11:00 am at Searstone Retirement Community, Highview Auditorium, Cary, NC
Please consider wearing red in honor of Brooks' service in the United States Marine Corps.

In lieu of flowers, Colonel Harris requested that memorial donations be made to Lee’s Friends, [<https://leesfriends.org/>] a cancer support organization in Norfolk, VA in which he had been very active.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Searstone Retirement Community, Highview Auditorium

17001 Searstone Dr.

Cary, NC 27513

<http://www.searstone.com>

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Rhesa remember the ginger bread house and the raspberry cookies and the peanut brittle I will miss from Brooks all the time love Rhesa*

rhesa Berman - May 18, 2024 at 08:15 PM

CA

“ *1 file added to the album Brooks Photos*



Catharine - May 08, 2024 at 07:55 PM

BS

“ *I was deeply saddened by the passing of Brooks. He was a compassionate, understanding, and outstanding American who proudly served his country as a Marine, Christian, and considerate friend to all who fortunately crossed his path. I will miss his astute and timely jocular and his devoted support to the Emmanuel Episcopal parish family in Virginia Beach, VA. Prayers and thoughts to his family and especially to his wife, Pat. (I will also miss his "SOS"!)*

Bob Sullivan - May 08, 2024 at 12:13 PM

LC

Brooks and Pat took me under their wings when I came to Emmanuel in 1987. They urged me to become involved in the life of the church and to make my Cursillo in 1991. Brooks had a wonderful, dry sense of humor. This tough marine could be moved to tears easily. I am better for having known him.

Lynne Coates - May 08, 2024 at 03:29 PM