



John Ivey Harris Sr.

June 10, 1939 - August 28, 2024

John Ivey Harris Sr. of Cary, North Carolina, passed away on August 28, 2024, at the age of 85, but his enthusiasm for life will not be forgotten. He was born June 10, 1939, the only child of John Lyman and Reba Bullock Harris. John was proud about growing up on a tobacco farm with deep roots in Greenville, NC, with a passion for faith, family, and country.

At the age of 20, broken hearted with the early death of his mother, John joined the United States Air Force with tours at Mountain Home in Idaho and Guam as the Vietnam War was heating up. Twelve years ago, he began to re-connect with his Air Force buddies that he served with. After locating about ten of them from all over the United States, they committed to getting together every year for a reunion on the Snake River in Idaho, fishing and sharing war stories.

Returning to Pitt County after the service, John met Jean at East Carolina University. Not only did they become partners in marriage, but they also became partners in business opening Harris Realty Company in 1972 and later JH Construction. After moving to the Triangle in 1986, they enjoyed 26 years with Re/Max United in Cary, NC. John was a hardworking, outgoing man and never met a stranger. He loved airplanes, flying to the Outer Banks, and volunteering for the Kinston and Raleigh Civil Air Patrols. His favorite car was a Jaguar, and he spent many hours washing and waxing them.

John loved the Lord, and he was not shy in sharing his faith. The Men's Bible Study Fellowship at Apex Baptist Church was important to his growth. He belonged to and served at several different churches over the years.

John also deeply loved his family. John is survived by his loving wife, Jean Teal Harris; two sons John Ivey Harris Jr. (Patti) of Acworth, Georgia and Michael Craig Harris (Kimberly) of Raleigh, North Carolina; daughter Christy Louise Harris (Lawrence) of Honolulu, Hawaii; five grandchildren, Courtney Long (Andrew), Jackson Harris, Chloelle O'Toole, Wyatt Harris, Graham Harris; five great grandchildren, Anastasia, Arthur, Louie, Catalina

and Haley Long; sister in law, Ann Teal Walker; sister in law, Linda Kaye Teal.

The graveside service with Military Funeral Honors will take place Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 10:00 am at the Wake Memorial Park, Veterans Garden of Honor, 7002 Green Hope School Road, Cary NC 27519.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 11:00 am at Westwood Baptist Church, 200 Westhigh Street, Cary, NC 27513. Memorial donations may be made to Westwood Baptist Church, 200 Westhigh Street, Cary, NC 27513.

Cemetery Details

Wake Memorial Park

7002 Green Hope School Road
Cary, NC 27519

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP 12. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park
7002 Green Hope School Rd
Cary, NC 27519
(919) 465-0888

Funeral Service

SEP 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Westwood Baptist Church
200 Westhigh St
Cary, NC 27513

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Such a warm, friendly neighbor. John always stopped to say hello and chat when out in the neighborhood or when we were walking our dogs. Looked forward to seeing him in the morning carefully tending to his Jaguars. He was always kind and found something to compliment you for, no matter how small. He truly was kindness personified. Rest well John.*

Doreen & Pete Burke - September 12, 2024 at 07:35 AM

AS

“ *Dear Jean and Harris family, We met John in 2004 on the referral from his son Michael Harris who happened to be working as a summer intern student where I worked in Cary. He said something about his Dad as realtor and to be ready when we meet... as he is intense! Michael was right! And we never looked for another agent after we met John and Jean. Together they have been loyal to us and we to them. I remember how John was very particular in cleaning and making sure light switches and light switch plates were clean and lined up in every house we were in together. He pulled out his hand kerchief right away to rub away a spot on any light switch and base plate. Also, he loved his fleet of Jaguar cars... and they were spotless too! Over the years, you both became dear to us and we could count on you for our rental, house purchases, sales, advice on tradesman and overall friendship. We will miss John very much. Jean, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. Much Love, Aparna, Mike, Maya and Max.*

Aparna Sproelich - September 11, 2024 at 01:48 PM

WG

“ *With Love, James & Amy Goody purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of John Ivey Harris Sr..*



With Love, James & Amy Goody - September 11, 2024 at 10:51 AM

MB

“ *Mason and Shannon Byers purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of John Ivey Harris Sr..*



Mason and Shannon Byers - September 11, 2024 at 08:44 AM

KL

“ Mr. John and his family were our next door neighbors for a very long time. Mr. John was always busy in the yard, with his cars, or with real estate clients. As busy as he was, he always took time to connect, to ask how everyone was, and to share stories. He was a good man who created good memories for everyone. We loved Mr. John and we continue to love and pray for Ms. Jean and the family. Kathy, Mike, and Ellison

Kathy Lambert - September 10, 2024 at 04:21 PM

GA

“ We moved in across the road from you in 1997, when you became such wonderful neighbors and friends to us. I never thought I would meet someone so late in my age that I would call a true friend. John came through with excellence any time I asked for his help. John and I made many rounds of that Apex lake together at the crack of dawn. In those rounds we had many, many talks, and learned a lot about each other. Any time I visited, John always sat me down to continue that long conversation. I really cherish those memories, and am sad that conversation has finally ended... George A

George Adomavicius - September 09, 2024 at 12:42 PM

GA

“ George, Janice & Gia Adomavicius planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Ivey Harris Sr..

George, Janice & Gia Adomavicius - September 09, 2024 at 12:32 PM

GA

“ George, Janice & Gia Adomavicius purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of John Ivey Harris Sr..



George, Janice & Gia Adomavicius - September 09, 2024 at 12:32 PM

BN

“ Jean, I am so sorry for your loss. John was my friend for more than 30 years. What an incredible man he was. I met John one day at an open house off of Penny Road when John was just starting out in the Triangle area. I knew this real estate agent was one that I would spend lots of time together. John made things happen when I honestly didn't think it could. He was brutally honest which was awesome. Jean, John loved you so much. He would always talk about you and how blessed he was. He loved his family and his faith. I will miss John very much. Jean, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. Much Love, Bruce Nochlin

Bruce Nochlin - September 06, 2024 at 04:01 AM