



Elizabeth Harris-Henry

June 9, 1941 - May 15, 2019

Many of you know Top, by her nickname, but did you know that she was christened as Elizabeth Mae Harris? She earned the nickname Top because, as a baby, she had only grown a small tuft of hair in the top of her head and the name was descriptive. Even though she later grew a head-full of hair, sporting bangs and a swinging ponytail, Top, became her name for life. She was named Elizabeth in memory of our paternal grandmother and a maternal aunt.

Top was the first of seven children born to William and Beatrice (Causey) Harris. She was born in Dover, Delaware, on June 9, 1941, with the skills and assistance of a midwife, for Kent General did not admit Negro women into the hospital to deliver their babies, during that era of segregation.

Elizabeth was always a good student and attended Booker T. Washington Elementary School and graduated from William Henry High School in 1959-60. Getting an education was a goal that Bill and Bea Harris always encouraged for their children. Elizabeth went on to higher learning after working at the Dover Day Care Center, for the State of Delaware for ten plus years. She worked with children who had special needs. She moved to Paterson, New Jersey, after marrying Oscar Henry and continued pursuing her education. Top worked with the Head Start Program while obtaining her Bachelor Of Science degree at Petersburg College in New Jersey. After

several years at Head Start, Top transferred to the Norman S. Weir School, under the Paterson Public School District. She taught early elementary developmentally able children for nearly fifteen years. Top had patience and dedication toward her students. Elizabeth was also active in her teacher's union and became a life member in the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA).

Top was a woman of faith and was active in her church in New Jersey and served on the Scholarship and Education Committee. Since her retirement and return to Dover in 2004 -2005, she rejoined Union Baptist Missionary Church and became active with the Nurses Unit and Kitchen/Hospitality services. Actually, Elizabeth was known for her plate sopping gravy and coleslaw!

Growing up, Top developed many skills, such as sewing and singing. She made matching outfits, skirts with changeable bib tops, for herself and her two younger sisters, Mildred and Geraldine when they were a church singing trio. Top always knew how to capitalize on her skills, and make it profitable. She had that entrepreneurial spirit. Elizabeth did hair and made potholders with the loom and loops and sold the potholders for fifteen cents each or two for twenty-five cents. When she was about fourteen or so, Top decided that she and her siblings were going to have a yard party. She charged the neighborhood kids a nickel or dime for admission. They played games including checkers, jacks and marbles and music on the record player. Top sold slices of her home-made cake and cups of Kool-Aid. They had so much fun and were thrilled that they made enough money to purchase school supplies for her siblings and herself to start the school year. Keeping with the entrepreneurial theme, after retiring from the Paterson School District, Top completed her training and became a Notary. She also started her home business, WE Henry Studio, providing computer and office services. Top liked helping people and didn't mind seeing her name in print while doing so!

Other little known facts about Top that I bet you didn't know: Did you know that Top was a good driver? She could drive anything, automatic, stick-shift, four-on-the floor, school bus and go-cart. Their dad had taught her how to drive on his city work truck. I bet you didn't know that Top could box a bit. Their father again, had taught her and the two brothers how. So if need presented itself, Top could take care of business! So beneath that petite facade, "Top didn't take no stuff. She was a little piece of leather, but well put together!"

After battling several health challenges for over a year, God said, "That's enough, Thy good and faithful servant." The family finds comfort in knowing that Top will see her loved ones in the afterlife. Preceding her in death were her parents, Bill and Bea Harris; her husband of twenty-nine years, Oscar; her son, Dougie; her sister Mildred; her brothers, Boy/Skeet and Philip; and daughter-in-law Vanessa.

Left to miss her spirit and her physical presence are her son, Wayne; granddaughters, Latasha, Wykeishia, Khalidah "Peanut" and Deztiny; great-grandchildren, Tajera Johnson, Ta'Niya Clay and Alex Monclova-Rodriguez. Top, Elizabeth Mae Harris Henry, touched so many lives and leaves memories of love to all her nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Losing parents and siblings makes one feel like they are disappearing. Feeling the loss of their big sister are Wilma, Daryl and Geraldine (Gerri). Reflecting on their life-long relationship and holding dear, Remembering affectionately, There were seven, Now there are three!

May God Be With You, May He Take Your Hand and May You Rest In Peace!
Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

Tribute Wall

AR

“ I like to express my deepest sympathy for your loss. It was never God’s intent that death should rule over mankind. - Romans 5:12; 1Corinthians 15:26, 55; God will do away with death. But for now God has provided hope-as stated at John 5:28, 29. During this most painful time please find comfort from God’s word.

Artina - May 31, 2019 at 12:00 PM

BP

“ I am truly sorry about your loss it's hard when we lose a loved one. However, I wanted to let you know that we can be comforted by a future hope. Soon there will be no more pain or sorrow. All the former things have passed away. (Rev 21:3,4)

BP - May 29, 2019 at 07:35 PM

MW

“ Please accept my sincere sympathy. Acts 17:31, which states: “Because [God] has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead.” Jesus’ resurrection is our guarantee of a future resurrection.

Ms Woodson - May 27, 2019 at 12:40 PM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief, by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible, you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces.\u201c

Hinton F. - May 27, 2019 at 08:10 AM

JO

“ My deepest condolences to the family. May God be with you and give you peace In your time of grief. Reading from the Scriptures can help. (Revelation 46:1).

JoyceA - May 23, 2019 at 03:32 PM

JS

“ WILMA AND FAMILY ,SORRY TO HEAR THE LOST OF YOUR SISTER, I REMEMBER HER AS A GENUWINE PERSON WITH A PLEASANT SMILE, MAY THE ALMIGHTY SAVIOUR KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN HIS COMFORTS DOING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

James MUNSON Sr. - May 23, 2019 at 11:58 AM

WB

“ Praying for peace, comfort, strength during the difficult days that lie ahead. Sending condolences from our Pastor, Bishop Doreina C. Miles and the entire Union Baptist Church family - - - "Top" will be dearly missed by all who knew her

Wendy Brown - May 21, 2019 at 10:01 PM

EJ

“ *The Efucational Fund Committee Ministry of Canaan Baptist Church of Paterson, NJ offer our sincere condolences to the family of Elizabeth Henry. She was a member of this Ministry for many years and continued to support it once she moved. God Bless and keep you in His care*

Ellen Watson - The Educational Fund Committee Ministry of Canaan Baptist Church , Paterson, N J - May 20, 2019 at 09:44 PM

BC

“ *Those we love and lose are together with us in heart, forever with us in memory. RIP \u201cTOP\u201d Brenda (Evans) Chandler*

Brenda A Chandler - May 20, 2019 at 06:44 PM

VM

“ *I am sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in knowing that your dear one is safe in the memory of God, who will remember every detail about her and back her back again.*

VM - May 20, 2019 at 02:11 PM

AB

“ *Rest in Peace Top !*

Adrian Baynard - May 20, 2019 at 11:46 AM

LO

“ *To the family and friends, I am so very sorry to hear of your great loss. I hope you can find comfort in the words at Revelation 21:4 where it says: "And he (Jehovah God) will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."*

Lauren O - May 19, 2019 at 08:51 PM

AB

“ The Officers and Members of William Henry High School Alumni, Inc. are saddened on the loss of our fellow alum, Elizabeth Henry. We will continue to pray for the family as you go through this difficult time. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF WILLIAM HENRY H.S. Anita Boyer, President Gloria Deputy Minus, Vice-President Sheila McDowell Griffin, Secretary Vivian Starnes, Asst. Secretary Shirley Riley, Treasurer William Holden, Jr., Asst. Treasurer/Historian Bessie Stroud Crain, Ways and Means Roger Young, Parade Coordinator

Anita Boyer - May 18, 2019 at 08:15 PM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. Times like this are so difficult to deal with as we mourn those we love. May you find some comfort in the promises Almighty God gives us in His Word, the Bible (Hebrews 4:12). One outstanding promise He gives is that one day his only-begotten son, Jesus Christ has been given the power and authority to bring back to life all those who have died (John 5:28, 29). Jesus showed he could and would do this when on earth he raised a dear friend from death (John 11:43, 44). Death is an enemy even to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). That is why He is going to have death removed forever along with other things that cause mankind pain and suffering (Revelation 21:3, 4). Keep that real hope alive and it will strengthen you in the days ahead! Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - May 18, 2019 at 09:16 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss Jesus Christ Loves Me We Love You

Thomas Widgeon - May 17, 2019 at 09:35 PM