



Francis "Bernard" Harris

July 31, 1939 - April 10, 2025

The Wonderful Life of Francis Bernard Harris, Sr.

Francis Bernard Harris, Sr., affectionately known as Bernard, transitioned from this life to eternity on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the University of Maryland Easton Hospital. Bernard was born on July 31, 1939, to the late Thomas Harris and Dorothy Lindsey of Chestertown, MD. He attended Garnet Public Schools in Chestertown, MD, where he graduated in 1957.

On May 6, 1961, Bernard married Shirley Ann Brown of Centreville, MD. They shared a beautiful life together, raising three children and were married for 41 years until Shirley's untimely passing in 2002. He met his special love and companion, Brenda Stanley of Cambridge, MD and they shared many years together until his passing. Bernard worked at Campbell Soup Company in Chestertown, MD, before moving on to Kraft (General) Foods as a Crew Leader in Dover, DE, until his retirement in 2002. Post-retirement, he pursued his passion for lawn care and worked as a Male Attendant for the Bennie Smith Funeral Home.

Bernard was a man of many interests and talents. He enjoyed working around the yard, riding on his lawnmowers and tractors; he had a knack for mechanics, often doing his own vehicle maintenance and repairs. His love for music was evident as he would often come home late from work, listening to his favorite songs on his headphones, singing at the top of his lungs, waking up the entire house. Photography was another passion of Bernard's. He loved capturing moments of his family and friends using his extensive collection of photography equipment.

In his younger days, Bernard, known as the "Jazz Man," enjoyed talking on his CB radio, listening to his police scanner, and attending outdoor parties with friends at the Walley's. He was also an avid fisherman, spending time at the Cliff City pier or taking his boat out on occasions. Bernard's love for adventure took him on cruise ships,

where he enjoyed exploring other countries, dining at various restaurants, and trying his luck at the slots.

Bernard was a dedicated member of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church for many years, serving in various roles such as Board of Trustee, Treasurer, Usher, Maintenance Custodian, Grounds Keeper, and a member of the Souls of Faith, Chancellor, and Men's Choirs.

Bernard was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Shirley, his parents; Thomas and Dorothy Harris; his brother, Richard Harris, and sister, Sylvia Commodore.

He is survived by: his daughter, Teresa Ortiz of Dover, DE; his sons; Francis Harris, Jr. of Virginia Beach, VA and Elmer Wheeler, Jr. of Chestertown, MD; daughters-in-law, Patricia Harris and Tina Wheeler; seven grandchildren, Melvin, Jr., Lisa, Nakina, Markegan, Jalyynn, Tiffany, and Tamika; nine great-grandchildren, Justice, Messiah, Aaliyah, Micah, Josiah, Kennedi, Nyla, Kendall and Chase; companion, Brenda Stanley; several godchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In this time of sorrow, let us remember Bernard for the joy he brought into our lives, his unwavering love for his family, and his dedication to his passions. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished in our hearts.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel United Methodist Church (Pomona)
6698 Church Lane
Chestertown , MD 21620

Visitation

MAY 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Baptist Church
401 Morgnec RD
Chestertown, MD 21620

Funeral Service

MAY 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Baptist Church
401 Morgnec RD
Chestertown, MD 21620

Live Stream Broadcast on Facebook

MAY 3. 12:00 PM.

Bennie Smith Funeral Home MD / VA

Tribute Wall

KM

“ *Kim Briscoe Moody lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris*



kim Briscoe Moody - May 05, 2025 at 07:37 AM

RR

“ *So sorry for your lost.keeping the family in prayer.*



Rev Raymomd &Evang Patricia Russell - May 03, 2025 at 11:27 AM

MG

“ *Monica Graves-Bentley lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris*



Monica Graves-Bentley - May 03, 2025 at 10:04 AM

FM

“ *Fern Carter Moore lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris*



Fern Carter Moore - May 01, 2025 at 08:39 PM

CL

“ *Sending love and hugs to Brenda and the entire Harris family. So sorry for your loss. May Bernard RIP.*

Cecilia Lukenich - April 30, 2025 at 10:08 PM

GD

“ Gary, Sheila, Robin, & Duane purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Francis "Bernard" Harris.



Gary, Sheila, Robin, & Duane - April 30, 2025 at 01:38 PM

TS

“ May God bring peace and comfort to the family Mr. Bernard was always a fun loving person who loved his family, friends, community and church.



TSD Eaton - April 28, 2025 at 01:28 PM

MB

“ Michelle Bratcher lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Michelle Bratcher - April 28, 2025 at 11:16 AM

MJ

“ Mary Johnson lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Mary Johnson - April 28, 2025 at 08:45 AM

SS

“ Keeping the family in my prayers

Sharon Smith-Lunn - April 27, 2025 at 04:06 PM

RD

“ *My deepest condolences and prayers! Mr. Bernard will be missed!* ”



Rev. Monique Upshur Davis - April 26, 2025 at 09:28 AM

RJ

“ *Rev. Emanuel L. Johnson lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris* ”



Rev. Emanuel L. Johnson - April 25, 2025 at 09:50 PM

JH

“ *Jessie Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris* ”



Jessie Hopkins - April 25, 2025 at 09:04 PM

LB

“ *Sending heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Bernard. We will miss him at our family gatherings. RIP in peace. Brenda's sisters and brothers. Howard, Richard, Rolinda, Laverne, Donzelle, Burnette, and Randal. God bless you all* ”



Laverne Bowens - April 25, 2025 at 08:17 PM

JP

“ *Janet Pauls lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris* ”



Janet Pauls - April 25, 2025 at 04:24 PM

BJ

“ *My condolences to the family*



Brenda Jeff - April 25, 2025 at 03:14 PM

BJ

“ *Brenda Jeff lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris*



Brenda Jeff - April 25, 2025 at 03:10 PM

TC

“ *Tracy & Eric. Foote , San Diego Ca purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Francis "Bernard" Harris.*



Tracy & Eric. Foote , San Diego Ca - April 24, 2025 at 07:03 PM

TC

“ *Tracy & Eric. Foote , San Diego Ca planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Francis "Bernard" Harris.*

Tracy & Eric. Foote , San Diego Ca - April 24, 2025 at 07:03 PM

RW

“ *Rose Wickes lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris*



Rose Wickes - April 24, 2025 at 02:14 PM

SB

“ *Sending my prayers and love to Brenda and the Harris family 🙏❤️*

Sarah Johnson Brown - April 24, 2025 at 12:33 PM

SB

“ Sarah Johnson Brown lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Sarah Johnson Brown - April 24, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ Reg W Wilson lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Reg W Wilson - April 23, 2025 at 07:19 PM



My Condolences and Prayers for the Family

Reg W Wilson - April 23, 2025 at 07:21 PM

HM

“ Keeping family in prayer and asking God to give strength, in the days to come. We enjoyed many good times at Kraft Foods, Dover, everyone was family.



Herb & Jennie Mills - April 23, 2025 at 03:24 PM

SS

“ Samuel Scott lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Samuel Scott - April 23, 2025 at 11:09 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - April 23, 2025 at 06:20 AM

DW

“ Frankie, my prayers & condolences to you and your family. May God continue to give you strength, comfort, peace & love during this difficult time 🙏🙄🕊️❤️, Your Classmate, Dorvonda



Dorvonda Warren - April 23, 2025 at 01:37 AM

DW

“ Doreen Walker lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Doreen Walker - April 22, 2025 at 09:30 PM

JW

“ Uncle Bernard, I'm gonna miss you. You'll always be in our hearts. You in a better place now. You are in God's hands. Rest Easy unc. Love you much

Jared Wilkerson - April 22, 2025 at 05:50 PM

EW

“ Eddie &Pat Warner lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Eddie &Pat Warner - April 22, 2025 at 03:15 PM

IC

“ Iris Carter lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Iris Carter - April 22, 2025 at 02:50 PM

SH

“ Keeping the family in my prayers. Sharon Smith-Lunn



Sharon - April 22, 2025 at 01:49 PM

JB

“ Juanita Burris lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Juanita Burris - April 22, 2025 at 10:39 AM

JB

Sending prayers to The Harris Family you have my deepest sympathies....

Juanita Burris - April 22, 2025 at 10:44 AM

VP

“ Praying for the Family James and Voncille Phillips Praying



Voncille Phillips - April 22, 2025 at 09:26 AM

JB

“ Jackie Brown lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Jackie Brown - April 22, 2025 at 09:14 AM

BR

“ BRITNIE lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



BRITNIE - April 22, 2025 at 08:29 AM

CB

“ Cheryl Butler lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Cheryl Butler - April 21, 2025 at 11:14 PM

JS

“ Condolences to the Harris Family



James Munson Sr. - April 21, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ Areatha Perkins lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Areatha Perkins - April 21, 2025 at 09:01 PM

LP

“ LORI BUTLER PERRY sent a virtual gift in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



LORI BUTLER PERRY - April 21, 2025 at 08:42 PM

DC

“ Donnette Commodore lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Donnette commodore - April 21, 2025 at 08:21 PM

VD

“ Vera "Tiny" Dozier lit a candle in memory of Francis "Bernard" Harris



Vera "Tiny" Dozier - April 21, 2025 at 08:16 PM