



Hugh Harris

July 8, 1930 - May 4, 2025

Hugh Harold Harris, 94, of Eatonton, Georgia, passed away on May 4, 2025, surrounded by loving family.

Mr. Harris was born July 8, 1930 in San Antonio, Texas, son of Hugh Bascom Harris and Jess Lee Pulliam.

Mr. Harris graduated in 1948 from Brackenridge High School, where he met and fell head-over-heels in love with his lifelong sweetheart, Mary Lou Eldridge. They married on July 15, 1950 at the chapel at Randolph Air Force Base near San Antonio.

Mr. Harris started work that same year as a floor sweeper at a new Nabisco plant in Houston. In 1952 he was drafted into the Army and spent 11 months in Korea during the war there. It was a challenging start for the young couple, but they always told each other, "It's you and me against the world" and the world didn't stand a chance. Mr. Harris resumed his Nabisco career upon returning home and began a steady climb to top positions including director of operations at the bakery company's world headquarters, as well as manager of its Atlanta plant. Although his life was filled with many achievements, Mr. Harris regarded his most meaningful accomplishments to be his nearly 75-year marriage to Mary Lou and the close-knit family they created together. Their unchanging values of mutual respect, faithfulness, kindness, and caring saw them through every joy and hardship, and they passed on these values to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Harris's strong work ethic, boyish charm, and personable ways endeared him to everyone he met.

He was so well loved that his Nabisco colleagues and friends threw him a one-of-a-kind retirement party in 1985 aboard the paddlewheel boat at Stone Mountain Park. In retirement, he and Mrs. Harris moved to their dream place they called “Happy ‘Ours” on Lake Sinclair. It began as a wooded lot, but after several years and countless fun family workdays, it was transformed into an idyllic home they enjoyed together for decades.

Mr. Harris was a passionate amateur gardener and turned the lakefront lot into a jewel filled with flowering azaleas and dogwood trees, with a long winding driveway lined with colorful birdhouses. “Happy ‘Ours” also became the setting for another of Mr. Harris’s passions — planning and hosting countless family gatherings, from summer boating weekends to holiday celebrations. All of his grandchildren have happy memories of Mr. Harris ringing the dinner bell amid a long day of recreation.

Another passion was watching and attending University of Georgia football games. Although he did not attend UGA, Mr. Harris was a longtime season ticket holder and attended games for nearly three decades with his son Daryl, a graduate.

Mr. Harris also enjoyed the many enduring friendships he had with people at his beloved Lake Country Baptist Church. He volunteered on many projects, served as an usher, and enjoyed meeting a group of close friends every Thursday for breakfast at Huddle House or Waffle House.

Mr. Harris was preceded in death by his cherished son-in-law James Mark Baxter.

Survivors include his wife Mary Lou; daughters Sandra Baxter of Eatonton and Karen (Scott) Thurston of San Diego; son Daryl (Angela) Harris of Woodstock; half-sisters Pam (Ray) Deters of Penney Farms, FL, and Jeanette Ricks of Kerrville, Texas; grandchildren Laura (Anthony) DiStefano of Peachtree City, Brian (Emily) Johnson of Peachtree City, Mark (Keri) Johnson of Peachtree City, Stephen (Emily) Thurston of San Diego, Kevin Thurston of Dallas, Texas, and Kendra (Seth) Cannon of Bentonville Ark.; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, May 24, at 2:00 pm with a visitation hour from 1:00 to 2:00 at Lake Country Baptist Church at 1259 Crooked Creek Rd, Eatonton, GA 31024.

In lieu of flowers, donations to honor Mr. Harris may be made to Lake Country Baptist Church or to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Lake Country Baptist Church
1259 Crooked Creek Rd.
Eatonton, GA 31024

Celebration of Life

MAY **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lake Country Baptist Church
1259 Crooked Creek Rd.
Eatonton, GA 31024

Tribute Wall



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Hugh Harris



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - May 20, 2025 at 01:26 PM



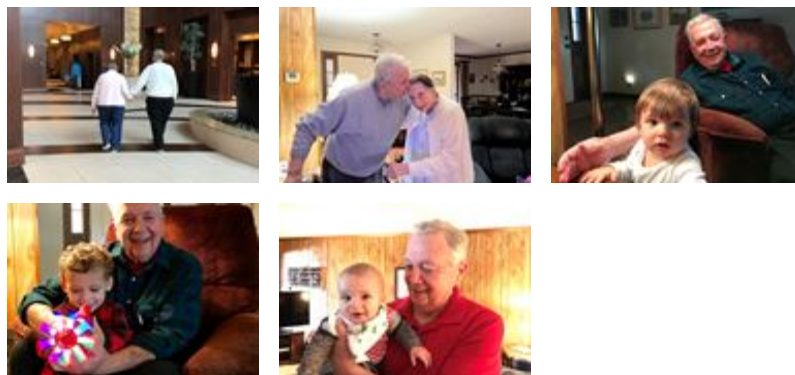
“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - May 23, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - May 20, 2025 at 01:08 PM

AT

“ I am so glad that I met Mr. Hugh Harris, he was always so kind and thoughtful and happy I could call him friend and was family to me! His children are wonderful and I'm glad i have a close relationship with Sandy! You will be missed Mr. Harris, love you forever

April Thompson - May 14, 2025 at 12:56 PM

HJ

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Mr. Hugh. He was always a pleasure to have as a customer at the Boat House.

Harold Baugus Jr. - May 12, 2025 at 11:26 AM

LM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.



Luther Minor - May 08, 2025 at 06:41 AM

GH

“ Gary & Teresa Hawk lit a candle in memory of
Hugh Harris



Gary & Teresa Hawk - May 07, 2025 at 03:37 PM