



John Joseph Harris

December 15, 1931 - December 27, 2020

John Joseph “Jay” Harris, 89, of Stamford, Connecticut passed into eternal rest on December 27, 2020 to reunite with his loving parents Gordon and Esther Harris, brother Phillip, and son Robert Michael.

His battle with multiple medical issues in recent years showed his courage in facing life challenges with a smile. Despite moments with pain, Jay continued to center life around love of family, community, serving God, and the joy of Jesus.

John is survived by his only wife, Ethna Harris, mother to his children: Kevin (Tonya), Dennis (Ingrid), Colleen, Roger (Claudia) and Brian (Lillian); 10 grandchildren Kelsey (Jay) Lucas, Samantha, Liam, Alexa, India, William, Michaela, Zachary, Avigail, and Annabelle; 2 great-grandchildren James and Annie Lucas.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, he graduated St. Anthony Parochial School and was a Franciscan postulant in the footsteps of his older brother Philip (deceased). Discerning his call outside the order, he earned degrees from Siena College and St. John’s University. While raising a family, he earned his PhD in Human Behavior Sciences at Sarasota University, FL. He worked as an educator in High Schools and Community College before transitioning to the corporate world as a managerial psychologist and trainer.

His renewed devotion to Jesus Christ led to the founding of Branches Ministries based upon John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Jay remained active in ministry as a counselor, advisor, encourager and intercessor. His joy-smile-laughter-are missed and held in our hearts.

The family extends our gratitude for the friends, neighbors, doctors and caretakers in Jay’s life. He valued each uniquely with the times of prayer and sharing.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, April 15th from 5pm – 7pm at the Bosak Funeral Home & Cremation (203) 325-9300 on 453 Shippan Ave, Stamford, CT 06902. Chapel will observe 50-person Covid-19 safety. His service will also be live streamed. To attend virtually please select “webcast video” on Jay’s obituary at www.bosakfuneralhome.com.

In compliance with state mandates and the safety of all those attending his memorial, it is mandatory to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing.

Zoom will also be used for an interactive memorial experience if technology cooperates. Jay was fond of “popcorn” testimonies so feel free to share experiences about Jay to encourage the family and each other.

ZoomURL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84361783960?pwd=NXhvd3RCMzBTTDhNc0MwcEVwRkUwZz09>

Meeting ID: 843 6178 3960

Passcode: 1020

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Friday, April 16th at 11am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, 1200 Shippan Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, Jay's request is to donate to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF) <https://www.macular.org/> or The 700 Club Operation Blessing, <https://www.ob.org/> which serves humanitarian relief & medical aid, or the Voice of the Martyrs <https://www.vom.org/>.

Some books from Jay's spiritual library will be available as a parting memorial gift. Suggestions of ministries who can bless and grow others in the walk of Christ are encouraged to contact Dennis at drjaybranches@hotmail.com.

To leave a condolence message online please visit the family guestbook to share memories with his family at www.bosakfuneralhome.com or www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Prayer Service (Live Streamed)

APR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bosak Funeral Home
453 Shippan Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902
(203) 325-9300
<https://www.bosakfuneralhome.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady Star Of The Sea
1200 Shippan Ave.
Stamford, CT 06902
(203) 324-4634
<http://ourladystaroftheseastamford.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bosak Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John Joseph Harris*



Bosak Funeral Home - March 10, 2021 at 05:23 PM

CH

We extend our gratitude to the many dear friends, relatives, doctors, caretakers who shared life, love, learning & praying w our dear father. He cherished each of you uniquely and the special times together, whether in person or on the phone 😊. Thank you again for your love, care, prayers, support

Colleen Harris - April 01, 2021 at 07:55 PM

CH

Still are grateful for your caring. He is still missed dearly. Hard to believe it'll be 5 years

Colleen M Harris - December 08, 2025 at 02:28 AM

DH

“ *1 file added to the album Jay Harris memorial slideshow*



d harris - June 24, 2021 at 01:56 PM

RR

“ Jay,
You have been a tireless worker who is always looking for the best to come out in everyone. Whenever we met, you were looking for and finding ways to build others up. You are my faithful friend that has helped me to overcome.

Rest in Jesus and we'll see you again soon. In the meantime we will carry on with the vision that the Lord has given us.

Love,

Rob and Kathy Rasbach

Robert N Rasbach - April 27, 2021 at 01:12 PM

CH

Thank you for appreciating him & being his friend, dear Rob. Sure do miss him. Blessings to you & your family

Colleen Harris - June 11, 2021 at 06:39 PM

JD

“ One Bible study night at St. John's Episcopal Church. which also happened to be the first night of Passover. Dr.Jay did a Passover Seder for our group. To this day I still remember it thank you Dr. Jay.



*Dr.Jay Rest In Peace.
Jackie Dixon*

Jackie Dixon - April 16, 2021 at 10:54 PM

CH

Thank you for sharing this beautiful memory. - from his daughter Colleen

Colleen Harris - June 11, 2021 at 06:38 PM

RR

“ *Dr. Jay, you have been so missed on the Daniel Company Prayer Calls! You always brought so much brilliant information to add with what we were praying about or needed to pray about. We miss your voice and your presence with us. I am certain you are enjoying where you now are with Jesus!! Although we miss you here, we are happy for you in your graduation to your reward for a job well done.*

Rebecca Rogers - April 15, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John Joseph Harris.*



April 14, 2021 at 12:16 PM

AS

“ *It was honor to connect with Dr. Jay through our ministry hosted prayer call. While I will certainly miss Him I look forward to great anticipation to seeing Him soon in heaven.*

Abner Suarez

Abner Suarez - April 09, 2021 at 01:22 PM

RK

“ *Colleen, I know how close you were to your dad; my heart aches for you. You and the whole Harris family are in my prayers, always.*

Love,

Cousin Rose

Rosemary Keville - April 07, 2021 at 09:28 PM

CH

Thank you dear cousin. We were very similar...

Colleen Harris - June 11, 2021 at 06:41 PM

CH

“ *Colleen Harris lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Harris*



Colleen Harris - April 01, 2021 at 07:57 PM

LH

“ *Dr. Jay was a kind-hearted, lover of Jesus. Rest in Peace. Our condolences to his family and friends. Linda Halpert*

Linda Halpert - March 26, 2021 at 10:43 PM

BR

“ To family,

"Dr. Jay" was a great encouragement to anyone who would receive it. I so appreciated this man.

See you in eternity, Brother! Good race!

Bob and Jo-Ann Russell

Sandy Hook, CT

Bob Russell - March 14, 2021 at 08:19 AM

FJ

I met my dear brother in Christ, Jay, in the 80's at St Cyril's Shalom Prayer Group in Houston, TX, where our mutual love for Jesus and The Holy Trinity enabled us to share ever since then the bond of friendship in Christ that exists between Jesus' true disciples. We prayed together for many over the years and shared the blessed messages Holy Spirit would give us to encourage and strengthen our faith and callings. I miss his presence in my life here, but am happy for him to be enjoying His Heavenly Father & Lord Jesus' Presence in Heaven. Jay, I congratulate you for your faithful completion of your faith's race through many trials here, and your participation now in the Cloud of Witnesses with your loved ones there in eternal glory. 🙌🙌

Florence & Karl Jamail

Houston, Texas

Florence Jamail - April 01, 2021 at 01:03 PM

CH

Thank you Flo. You have been a wonderful prayer partner & friend. Hope to meet up in Houston sometime.

Colleen Harris - April 01, 2021 at 07:39 PM

MF

I salute the memory of Dr Jay. I was to know him as soon as I started working in this country, as my agency sent me to his home. He was always willing to teach me a number of things to get me immersed into the American culture with joy. Every meeting would start and end with a prayer. He was father figure constantly urging me to get ahead. He was such a man of character and big heart. I strongly believe that he is in paradise now and his soul will remain in peace forever.

Marie-lyne Fleurantin - April 07, 2021 at 08:49 PM

DH

Thank you Marielynn, dad was fond of other cultures from the time we were little. He really became a changed man in Jesus with a few carryovers, but He was very patient and taught me the 4-Cs: Calm, Cool, Collected in Christ. I know for sure he is walking and leaping and praising God. Let us run our race now too.

Dennis Harris - April 07, 2021 at 08:53 PM

DH

Thank you Flo. He always appreciated you sharing things of the Lord.

Dennis Harris - April 07, 2021 at 08:55 PM

CH

Marie-Lyne, I'm so glad you found this& shared your memory & kind words. We didn't know how to reach people. We sure do miss him. Blessings upon you...

Colleen Harris - June 11, 2021 at 06:46 PM