



## Lawrence H. Harris

October 9, 1920 - July 2, 2010

Lawrence Holiday Harris, Ph. D., born October 9, 1920, Baptist layman, retired American diplomat, university professor, Army officer, recent resident of Roswell for 5 years and previous resident of Savannah, Georgia for 34 years, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family, on July 2, 2010. Lawrence Harris was born in 1920 at Kaifeng, Honan Province, North China to Southern Baptist missionaries Dr. Hendon Mason Harris and Florence Powell Harris of Clinton, Mississippi. He returned to China in 1936 and attended Kuling American School for one year and completed his high school education at Kikungshan American School, affiliated with the Lutheran Missions. The Japanese invasion of China caused the American School to move in 1938 to a hospital on the tiny island of Cheung Chau, British Colony of Hong Kong. Harris received his BA in History from Baylor University, Waco, Texas; MA in European History from the University of California, Berkeley; and Ph. D. in Political Science from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. His teaching career included UC Berkeley; Contra Costa Junior College, Bay Area; Apprentice School, U.S. Navy, Alameda, California; World Campus Afloat; University of Santo Tomas, Manila; retired as Director of International Studies and Professor of History and Political Science for 19 years at Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia. The call to service in World War II with the 68TH Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division, interrupted his studies in Law at Baylor University. His unit landed in Southern France and fought in the Maritime Alps, the Saar Basin, the Ruhr, Hatten and Rittershoffen, and

Nuremberg. In the bitterest German winter in 50 years, his unit was part of General Patton's rescue operation of troops trapped at Bastogne, during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded among other medals, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Star Medal. At the outset of the Korean War in 1950, Harris was recalled to the 1002 Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment and served with a mixed British-American Brigade at Trieste, Italy. After attending military schools at Fort Holabird, Maryland; Fort Riley, Kansas; Army Language School, California; Civil Affairs School, Augusta, Georgia; he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, US Army.

In 1954, Dr. Harris was recruited by the State Department as its Education Officer for the Refugee Relief Program operating in Italy. After three years of service in Genoa and Rome, he was screened into the State Department as a career officer. He performed as Intelligence Research Officer specializing in Italian and Asian Affairs, and later, as American Consul in Hong Kong and in Manila. Dr. Harris was a devoted Christian lay leader, serving various Baptist churches as Sunday School teacher, Deacon, Moderator. He helped found Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Fairfax, Virginia. His epic literary work was a 794-page definitive volume completed on his 80th birthday: *The Origins and Growth of Baptist Faith. Twenty Baptist Trailblazers in World History*. In 2005, he completed the thumbnail history of the Roswell First Baptist Church: "The Stirring Saga of the First Baptist Church of Roswell, Georgia." Always involved in public affairs, Harris, while living in Savannah, Georgia, became an activist for tax reform and was elected as President of the Citizens Tax Commission. In 1997-1998, he was President of the Savannah Chapter of The Retired Officers Association, and in 1999-2000, he was Commander of the Savannah Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars. In 2007, Harris founded the Christian Military Fraternity to foster comradeship amongst military personnel and their surviving spouses and to provide assistance to the youth undertaking ROTC training. Harris is survived by his wife Thelma Harris, children Lawrence II, John, Susan Hayes, David, Judith Johnston, Ronald, Gerald, Larissa Pearce; sons- and daughters-in law, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren. A celebration of Lawrence Harris's life and achievements will be held at the Roswell First Baptist Church, 710 Mimosa Blvd, on Thursday, July 8: 10:00 to 10:45 – greet the family, 11:00 to 12:00 – service, followed by a reception for family members, close friends, and out-of-town attendees. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Christian Military Fraternity Scholarship Fund, c/o Roswell First Baptist Church will be appreciated. Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory, Roswell GA 770-645-1414. [www.northsidechapel.com](http://www.northsidechapel.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Roswell  
710 Mimosa Blvd.  
Roswell, GA

## Service

JUL 8. 11:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Roswell  
710 Mimosa Blvd.  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence H. Harris*

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October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Dear Thelma,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. The boys and I will miss Larry's gentle smile and wave he always exchanged during his morning walks on our way to school. Please let us know if you need anything. We are always here for you.  
Sincerely,  
Candace*

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July 12, 2010 at 02:34 PM



“ *Dear Thelma and family,  
We are very sorry to have lost our wonderful neighbor Larry. Dr. Harris was such an accomplished person, and a sweet man. I will miss seeing him walking in the neighborhood. He is an inspiration to us all. I know your love for each other was so strong. The whole neighborhood will certainly miss him. Tom and I will be here for you as friends and neighbors. I hope to spend more time with you and give you any support that you may need. Marci and Tom Urban*

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July 09, 2010 at 12:01 PM



“ Dearest Thelma  
and Family,

*I feel like we said goodbye to a President today! The eulogies to Larry were the most amazing we've ever heard - there was not a dry eye in the Church this morning! His memory will inspire us all to be better and to do better. Larry was truly unique human being - bigger than life - so learned and wise. For the rest of us the biggest sorrow is that we cannot ask him questions and hear his answers and stories any longer.*

*But for you Thelma, we know that he was your LIFE and you two were so lucky to have had such a happy and long marriage together. Knowing your deep loss, we (my husband Alan and I) vow to be there for you any time you should need us - and on a more personal level, Thelma, I would like to become your "Sister" and share many years to come, together - just like real sisters would!*

*Our deepest Sympathy and Love,*

*Jaana and Alan Garber###imported-begin###Jaana and Alan  
Garber###imported-end###*

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July 08, 2010 at 07:43 PM



“ We are all blessed to have known Larry and his warm smile will remain in our hearts. Thelma, we will always be here for you when you need us. Our prayers are with you and your family at this very difficult time.###imported-begin###Jim, Jennifer & James  
Smith###imported-end###

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July 08, 2010 at 09:38 AM



“ We wish to convey the entire Harris family are sincere condolences. Larry was a great person and a wonderful neighbor. You will be deeply missed. Thelma, although no words can really help to ease the loss, just know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Preet & Inderpreet###imported-begin###Preetinder and Inderpreet Narang###imported-end###

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July 08, 2010 at 07:49 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Let Joe and I know if there is anything we can take care of for you guys at home.

Love,  
Joe & Tasca Russo###imported-begin###Joe and Tasca Russo###imported-end###

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July 07, 2010 at 08:48 AM



“ Thelma- Our hearts are heavy over the passing of Larry. He was a kind and gentle neighbor. Please know that are family is here to help you. Our prayers are wit you and your family.###imported-begin###The Pratcher Family###imported-end###

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July 06, 2010 at 09:32 PM



“ Thelma & Family Members: It is an honor for me to pass a FINAL SALUTE to a great retired officer and one of God's Warriors!###imported-begin###Tyler Tobin###imported-end###

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July 06, 2010 at 05:10 PM



“ *Thelma,*

*We know how much Larry meant to you, your relationship was the kind we all aspire to have. Your love for him was unquestionable and true. Everyone who knew Larry admired and respected him. He never spoke a bad word and seemed to take the higher ground. We will miss seeing him on his morning walk. He was a good man and we will all miss having him around.*

*Our love and wishes are with you and we know Larry is in a good place.*

*Tom & Denise##imported-begin##Tom and Denise  
Tichenor##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2010 at 09:27 AM



“ *Thelma,*

*Deepest sympathy to you and your family.  
Larry was a wonderful person and I know you all will miss him terribly. I am glad to have know him, my life has been enriched by his life, stories and the love of the Lord.*

*Your sister in Christ, Lillian##imported-begin##Lillian  
Buntele##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2010 at 09:00 AM



“ Hello Thelma,

*I was saddened to hear about the lost of your husband, Dr. Harris. Just want to let you know that my prayers are with you and your family during this trying time. Be encouraged because Jesus said in Hebrews 13:5 "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*

*Regina###imported-begin##Regina Evans###imported-end##*

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July 05, 2010 at 07:59 PM



“ Dear Thelma:

*Because of e-mail complications, I just heard of your loss today. What a great(and sccomplished) man Larry was. I will be there Thursday & if there's ANY thing I can do, please don't hesitate to call. Truly,Your Neighbor Two Doors Away###imported-begin##Monica McNeeley###imported-end##*

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July 05, 2010 at 05:12 PM



“ Thelma and family we are thinking of you at this time of loss and grieving. Larry had a wonderful life journey and was blessed to know the Lord through out his time on earth. We know he is with his Lord at peace and rest. How priviledged we were to be counted among his friends.###imported-begin##Dick and Betty Hensha###imported-end##

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July 05, 2010 at 03:53 PM



“ We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Thelma and their entire family in the loss of our friend and fellow Deacon, Larry Harris. We will all miss him greatly. Larry and I grew to know each other well in the early morning Men's Prayer time at the church. We are comforted in the sure knowledge that he is with Jesus and that, one day, we will see him again.  
Harold and Ruth Hall###imported-begin##Harold and Ruth Hall###imported-end##

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July 05, 2010 at 01:34 PM



“ We will miss your walks, our talks, and most of all your cheerful smile. The joy and kindness you showed to others will be greatly remembered by all. You made a difference in our life here in Pine Hurst and we will always cherish those sweet memories.###imported-begin##Glenn, Karen, John and Ava Osborne###imported-end##

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July 05, 2010 at 09:53 AM