



James W. "Jimmy" Harris

December 15, 1944 - October 1, 2021

James W. "Jimmy" Harris 76, of Bonita Springs died Friday, October 1, 2021 at Joanne's House at Hope Hospice. Jimmy was born on December 15, 1944 in Canton, OH a son of the late William H. and Ethel L. (West) Harris, Jr. He had been a resident of Bonita Springs since 1960 coming from Canton, OH.

In 1962, he enlisted in the US Army and served for 3 years and was discharged in 1965. After returning to Bonita Springs, Jimmy worked as a mechanic and his love for cars began. In 1977, he established Harris Auto Center, Inc. an automotive recycling center. Over the years he also owned Automotive Centers around Southwest Florida including Bonita Radiator and Bonita Auto Clinic. He was forced to close Harris Auto Center in 2003 due to health reasons.

He loved antiques, old classic cars, motorcycles, fishing and racing. He raced around the state in Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Bradenton and New Smyrna Speedway. He was well known at these speedways with his orange and white race car #00, also known as the "Bonita Bandit".

He was a member of the Moose Lodge, the Eagles, American Legion Post 303 and the VFW Post 4254.

He is survived by his daughter, Melissa M. Harris, son, Charles B. Harris and

his stepson, Sam Richardson all of Bonita Springs, FL; and 4 grandchildren, Alisha Harris, Vanessa Richardson, Logan Richardson, and Waylon Squires. He also leaves behind his siblings, Chuck Harris of Canton, OH, Robert Critean of South Carolina, Sally Critean of Paris, OH, Merrie Lou DiLuzio and her husband, Dave of Bonita Springs, FL and Sue Ann Tauriello and her husband, Danny of Delray Beach, FL and his favorite cousin, Carol Gump and her husband, Leo of Bonita Springs, FL.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Reggie Ivy who was 39 when he died in 2006 and two sisters, Donna Ward and Sandy Broughton.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 11:00 AM at Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home 28300 So. Tamiami Tr., Bonita Springs, FL 34134. A reception for family and friends will follow.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home and Crematory Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ James W. "Jimmy" Harris

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ 68 files added to the album LifeTributes



Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - October 15, 2021 at 06:08 PM



“ From David and Mary Puopolo purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James W. "Jimmy" Harris.



From David and Mary Puopolo - October 14, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ Rip uncle Jimmy..I always remember family gathering and you always with your red solo cup of what I thought to be always Pepsi.. say hi to mom and Donna

Jessica broughton - October 13, 2021 at 05:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James W. "Jimmy" Harris.*



October 12, 2021 at 09:51 PM



“ *32 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - October 12, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *Spent many long hours and nights working and racing good old "00" with Jimmy. So many memories. He came and helped me reroof my house with no complaints of pain I knew he was in. Worked hard, played hard. Tough bird. We Kept in touch over the years and am so sorry I didn't get to say good bye. Gone but not forgotten. Rest In Peace.*

Larry Reed - October 11, 2021 at 01:33 PM

LR

“ *Larry and Jeannine Reed purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of James W. "Jimmy" Harris.*



Larry and Jeannine Reed - October 11, 2021 at 01:16 PM

CW

“ *Carolyne Walker lit a candle in memory of James W. "Jimmy" Harris*



carolyne walker - October 11, 2021 at 09:50 AM

LU

“ I represented Jimmy in all his real estate transactions for over 50 years. He would always hunt me down for advise. I did contracts for him at the race track and on horseback. I would caution him but he always made money and lots of it. When he needed a real attorney he would call and I would seek a good one.

We were dear friends for that same period. I remember when I ran out of gas, called Jimmy and he came with his racing quick fill and I was on my way. My memories go way back- I remember when he went over the wall at the old Punta Gordy track, landed in a ditch upside down, walked back to the track soaked with weeds hanging from his helmet. I think he was smart to hire Shellnut as a driver🏁

We were friends but fierce race competitors. The Bonita Bandit took a lot of our wins but he would never brag, just saunter thru the office and deposit funds into my trust account.

Jimmy will be missed. I cherish the fact that we remained friends.

Linda Wright Ulmer - October 09, 2021 at 11:24 AM

RS

“ So many memories with Jimmy. Good times at New Smyrna, Punta Gorda, Bristol, Ohio tracks & the time we spent with him in Bonita Springs. He loved when we took him to Amish country here in Ohio. He was the kindest, most generous person we have ever known. He will be missed by his Ohio friends & family. God be with you all as you go through this most difficult time. May He grant you peace in knowing that he is no longer in pain & is now racing with some of the best there ever was. Love you Buddy.

Bob & Rindi Sibila
Massillon, OH

Rindi Sibila - October 09, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ *RIP Jimmy Paul and I had many good times with you.*

Sally Critean - October 09, 2021 at 09:14 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of James W. "Jimmy" Harris.*



October 08, 2021 at 05:18 PM