



## Mr. Russell Harris

July 15, 1959 - April 4, 2015

Russell Harris, 55, of Avondale Estates, GA; formerly of Peoria, IL passed away at 4:36 PM on Saturday, April 4, 2015 at DeKalb Medical Center in Decatur, GA.

Russell was born on July 15, 1959 in Peoria, IL to Johnnie Lee and Maggie Lee (Thomas) Harris

Russell was a 1977 graduate of Peoria Central High School. After high school, Russell served his country in the US Army. He married Janice Vinson in 1992 in Atlanta, GA. She survives.

Russell is also survived by his children, Ki'Ambra Vinson (her fiancé Myran Brown) and Kendrick Vinson (his fiancé Marzene Guider) all of Lithonia, GA; his mother, Maggie Lee Harris of Peoria, IL; Russell's 13 surviving siblings; Remona Harris in Centralia, IL and Johnny Harris in Murphysboro, IL, both from a previous marriage; Regina (Fred) Wright, Angela Stewart, Victoria Stewart, Gail (Robert) Johnson, Michael (Terry) Harris, Elder Tommy L. (Tammy) Harris, Teresa Harris, Eileen (Mark) Gibson, Leanna Harris and Kenneth (Felicia) Harris all of Peoria, IL and Paulette (Robert) Blakes of Springfield, IL; two grandchildren, Marzari Vinson and Kendri Vinson; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Johnnie Lee Harris and brother-in-law, Christopher Stewart. Russell was disabled at the time of his death but he was working on projects through a Foundation he founded called "PAINT UP AMERICA FOUNDATION." Russell's vision through his company, Harris Paints For Less,

was to provide hope for those that think all is lost, by providing education, on-the-job-training, and self-improvement training to every high school in areas of the State of Georgia. He wanted to help young people learn a trade that would give them a sense of pride and self-reliance. He believed that every man, woman, youth, jobless, everyone is qualified to obtain the trade and work to be their best. We pray that Russell's vision will continue in the State of Georgia and spread throughout the Nation.

A funeral service will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at Grace Baptist Church with a visitation one hour prior beginning at 10 AM. Elder Tommy L. Harris will officiate. US Army Military Rites will be rendered. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [simonsmortuary.com](http://simonsmortuary.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church  
405 N. Richard Pryor Place  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Funeral Service

APR 11. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church  
405 N. Richard Pryor Place  
Peoria, IL 61605

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Russell Harris*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Russell Harris*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *It has been three years since you went home...but it seems like yesterday...I still find myself missing you...so so very much..Sylvia*

**sylvia** - June 21, 2018 at 02:36 AM



“ *Russell.... Not a day goes by that our family is sharing our memories of you! Oh how you are missed and loved! RIP Brother-in-law*



**Barbara Vinson** - May 19, 2018 at 12:33 AM



“ *Janice Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



**Janice harris** - April 03, 2018 at 01:52 AM

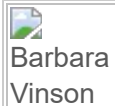


“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - March 29, 2018 at 12:08 AM

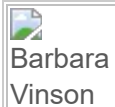


“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - January 24, 2018 at 07:32 AM



“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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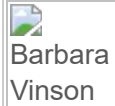
**Barbara Vinson** - December 25, 2017 at 12:58 PM



*Merry Christmas in Heaven Russ... We all miss you so much! Love u!*

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**Barbara Vinson** - December 25, 2017 at 12:59 PM

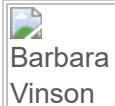


“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - December 05, 2017 at 02:08 AM

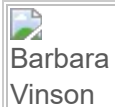


“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - October 19, 2017 at 09:48 PM



“ *It's been 2 years since you have been gone now, and my heart still hurts...Rest in peace brother-in-law.. Love you Brian & Barb..*

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**Barbara Vinson** - April 04, 2017 at 11:12 AM



“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*




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**Barbara Vinson** - April 04, 2017 at 11:10 AM

BV

“ Russ... Today makes 2 years since you have been gone.. Me & Brian miss u dearly and we forever keep your memories in our hearts! Love u brother in law! 😊


Barbara Vinson - April 04, 2017 at 01:01 AM

 Barbara Vinson

“ Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris



Barbara Vinson - March 15, 2017 at 10:14 PM

 Barbara Vinson

“ Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris




Barbara Vinson - January 18, 2017 at 09:16 PM

 Barbara Vinson

“ Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris



Barbara Vinson - December 07, 2016 at 03:25 PM

  
Barbara  
Vinson

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - October 20, 2016 at 03:45 PM

  
Barbara  
Vinson

*I truly miss you brother-in-law....*

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**Barbara Vinson** - October 20, 2016 at 03:46 PM

JH

“ *Janice Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Russell Harris*



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**Janice harris** - July 16, 2016 at 01:11 PM

BV

“ *Happy 57th Birthday to my brother-in-law, and my friend Russell... I  
miss u dearly! Love you!*

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**Barbara Vinson** - July 15, 2016 at 10:21 PM

BV

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - July 15, 2016 at 10:20 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Barbara Vinson** - July 15, 2016 at 10:19 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Barbara Vinson** - April 27, 2016 at 09:22 AM

BV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Barbara Vinson** - April 27, 2016 at 09:21 AM

BV

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Vinson - April 25, 2016 at 10:45 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Barbara Vinson - April 25, 2016 at 10:18 PM

BV

“ Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris



Barbara Vinson - April 25, 2016 at 10:13 PM

BV

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - March 22, 2016 at 02:47 PM

BV

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - February 27, 2016 at 04:25 PM

BV

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - January 25, 2016 at 06:20 AM

JH

“ *Janice Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**janice harris** - January 21, 2016 at 11:48 PM

AS

“ *Missing you on your birthday.*



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**Angie Stewart** - July 15, 2015 at 11:57 AM

BV

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - June 21, 2015 at 11:03 PM

BV

“ *Happy Father's Day Russell... Gone but never, ever forgotten! Visiting Georgia was different this time.. I missed hearing your laugh, and we all staying up just talking and laughing about the good old days...I got a chance to drive your truck.. Rest In Peace my dear brother-in-law, my friend!*

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**Barbara Vinson** - June 21, 2015 at 11:02 PM

BV

“ *1 file added to the album Harris Family*



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**Barbara Vinson** - May 28, 2015 at 10:58 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the album Harris Family



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Barbara Vinson - May 19, 2015 at 11:35 AM

AS

“ Janice, KeKe, and Kendrick, my heart breaks for you as life continues to pass on without Russell. It seems as each day passes on he is missed more . . . especially on Saturdays, since that was the day he was unexpectedly



taken away. I am praying the Lord will give you strength to endure the pain, comfort to ease the loneliness and power to understand His will. I know it's tough and you don't understand it all, but God does and He alone will give you peace during this difficult time. Even though miles may separate us, love has a way of reaching out beyond all boundaries. God will remind you that you are not alone. May the Lord bind you closer together as a family during your time of mourning and renew your hearts with joy during days it seems joy can't be found. Russell was one of a kind. He left us all a gift. He was a model example of what it is to love in spite of the absence of love. He didn't allow the opinion of others to sway him from what he knew was the right thing to do. So treasure those things in your hearts in memory of Russell. Know that I love you and I'm only a phone call away. Take care and God bless.

( Auntie Angie and Sister-in-law ).

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Angie Stewart - May 03, 2015 at 01:36 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

name, but the pain in  
my heart is still the  
same. Although I  
Smile & Seem  
Carefree, There is no  
Who misses you

Barbara Vinson - May 03, 2015 at 10:41 AM

BV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Barbara Vinson - May 03, 2015 at 10:39 AM

BV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Barbara Vinson - May 03, 2015 at 09:51 AM

KP

“ I love and miss u so much daddy!!! R.I.P.



keke peach - April 30, 2015 at 10:12 AM

BV

“ 1 file added to the album *Vinson Family*



Barbara Vinson - April 26, 2015 at 09:10 AM



“ Kendrick Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris



Kendrick Vinson - April 25, 2015 at 10:19 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the album *Vinson Family*



Barbara Vinson - April 24, 2015 at 02:58 AM

BV

*We miss u soo much!*

Barbara Vinson - April 26, 2015 at 08:40 AM

AS

“ In the christian faith our number one concern when a person dies is did they accept Christ as savior. I hope what I have to share will ease your mind regarding Russell. Thinking back on Russell’s life I kept visualizing flashes of some type of dialogue we had about his salvation. I don’t recall praying the prayer of salvation with him but I was certain something happened, especially since I’m always talking about how good God is. I just couldn’t remember exactly what took place. While preparing for his funeral I started feeling a certain kind of way about it. Since I wasn’t sure, I kept it to myself. I knew it would come back to me eventually. Well last night it happened. I stumbled upon two letters Russell wrote 15 years ago. One was to the Lord regarding his salvation and the other was to Oprah regarding our family. I didn’t remember having those letters until last night. Due to the length here’s a snippet. “Jesus I know I am not perfect and I know I’ve sinned but now I ask for your forgiveness and I truly need you to come into my heart and lead me to a life of pure salvation. I know I’m not going to be perfect at first. This way of life no longer works for me”. For more details of the letters you are welcome to contact me. If you don’t have my contact info ask someone who may have it.

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**Angie Stewart** - April 19, 2015 at 03:27 PM

AS

“ 1 file added to the album Harris Family



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**Angie Stewart** - April 16, 2015 at 06:41 PM

JH

“ *Janice Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Janice Harris** - April 15, 2015 at 10:25 AM

JH

“ *Russell it was a pleasure being with you for over 30 years. I will always cherish all your teachings that you gave to me and your children. Especially the one where you said take in your appearance. May you Rest In Peace. Love you.. Janice Harris*

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**Janice Harris** - April 15, 2015 at 10:24 AM

BV

“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris*



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**Barbara Vinson** - April 15, 2015 at 10:18 AM

BV

“ Russell...I remember back in 1978 when my sister Janice brought u home after meeting you.. You have been apart of my life since then. You have been a brother, a brother- in- law, and most of all a father figure to me... We have shared so many good memories together, and I will forever cherish them..It's not gonna be the same going to Georgia to visit now..Everyday is still a struggle to deal with this..but I thank God for the time we shared.. I will never forget your laugh, and your cool dance moves.. lol Rest in Heaven my friend til we meet again.. Love ya!

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**Barbara Vinson** - April 15, 2015 at 09:41 AM



“ Thank you for being there for my mom/your aunt and my family and me in October 2014 when my dad passed away. Love You cousin Russell. R.I.P.

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**Evangelist Angelita Reed-Stringer** - April 12, 2015 at 01:04 PM

AS

“ FAREWELL TO MY BROTHER

*The day I got the phone call that you were no longer here,  
I wasn't sure of the words I heard because it just didn't feel real.*

*My heart skipped a beat and it began to shatter,  
My thoughts went back to the many times I would ask you what's  
the matter.*

*Those five seconds of hearing the news may play over and over in  
my mind for a long time,  
But it will not replace the fifty-five years of your life for the memories  
we shared will remain in my heart and mind.*

*We shared a lot of words with each other so I don't have to say  
them now,  
As I miss your visits and phone calls I will trust the Lord to get me  
through somehow.*

*I will always remember the love and pain we shared with one  
another,  
But I never thought I would live to say . . . FAREWELL TO MY  
BROTHER.*

*Your sister, Angie Stewart*

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**Angie Stewart** - April 12, 2015 at 01:02 PM

LH

“ Remembering when your Uncle performed marriage ceremony for you. We are sending our Love to the family; and sending words of comfort that the Lord will keep you strong and uplifted through this time and time to come. We are praying for your strength.

As always with Love  
Your Aunt Loret and Uncle Jimmy in Memphis

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**Loretta and Jimmy Harris** - April 10, 2015 at 08:34 PM

AF

“ Arvella Thomas Hall and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Russell Harris.



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**Arvella Thomas Hall and Family** - April 10, 2015 at 02:21 PM

MH

“ To the Harris Family's you are in my prayers. Margaret Harris

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**Margaret. Harris** - April 09, 2015 at 10:11 PM

FH

“ I was blessed to talk to Russell about Jesus. He listened and told me I was just like Grandma, (My Mama) because she always talked about Jesus. He didn't mind me talking about the Lord with him and didn't hesitated to say, "Pray for Me." Russell had faith in God and believed. The last time I was blessed to talk to him he said, "Aunt Pud, keep praying for me." Russell blessed me in so many ways and I thank God he was my nephew.

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**Frankie Mae Harris** - April 09, 2015 at 07:09 PM

RS

“ Our deepest condolences and sympathies to Elder Tommy Harris & family on the loss of your loved one from Ray & Mary Smith.

Raymond Smith - April 09, 2015 at 05:44 PM

FH

“ Frankie Mae Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Russell Harris



Frankie Mae Harris - April 09, 2015 at 04:11 PM

AS

“ 2 files added to the album Harris Family



Angie Stewart - April 09, 2015 at 09:21 AM

RM

From our " Harris Family " To: your "Harris Family " we send encouragement Comfort condolences & Sympathy to each & everyone of you ; Russell Harris ! Will truly be missed .... Much love ; License Minister Roslyn (Harris ) Moore / Vickie Harris / Jeff ( Bodean) Harris ; all his class mates !

Roslyn Moore - April 09, 2015 at 06:20 PM

YM

although it's been years I still love you and you will be missed

youlanda montgomery - April 10, 2015 at 03:12 PM

MM

“ To the family of my dear friend Russell he was a very special close friend and we stayed in contact all these years. My family prayers are with yours. From Mary June Shird- Malone

Mary Malone - April 09, 2015 at 08:18 AM

WS

“ My Prayers r with the Family ! Love You

Walter Spencer - April 09, 2015 at 07:47 AM

GM

I sorry to here about your loss we loved russle to

Greg mcgee - April 09, 2015 at 11:42 AM

AS

“ "Russell" is a brother I believe everyone deserve to have. I will miss all the phone calls, text messages, and visits. I will especially miss the talks we had during my time of grief in losing my husband the "Rev. Christopher A. Stewart". Russell had a way of calming me down during my most difficult moments. Even though he was in Atlanta the words from the phone calls were always able to reach my heart to bring about a calm that I needed. When I got the phone call he had passed away I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Life will never be the same without Russell in it. I love you "Russell". I'm going to miss those hugs you gave me when you came to see about me. "FAREWELL MY BROTHER". Your sister "Angie Stewart".

Angie Stewart - April 08, 2015 at 10:57 PM

BV

Beautiful Angie

Barbara Vinson - April 15, 2015 at 10:38 AM

LS

“ Gonna miss you, Cuzz! Until we meet again!  
R. I. H.

*Much love,  
Alan Thomas, Sr.*



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**Lawrence Alan Thomas, Sr.** - April 08, 2015 at 10:20 PM

DW

“ Remembering the team work that Russell and I performed by working together by remodeling my son, Jeff house, and the love and concern that he showed to others. I remember how he would just come to Florida any time with his signature smile that stood out no matter what he was going through, he would laugh as though all was well. He will truly be missed.



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**Dorothy Williams** - April 08, 2015 at 09:45 PM