



## Kenneth Albert Harris, II

November 2, 1946 - May 4, 2016

Kenneth Albert Harris II died unexpectedly on May 4th, 2016 in Visalia, California, at the age of 69. He was born on November 2nd, 1946 in Bedford, Indiana. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth Albert and Evelyn Harris, his sisters Glenda and Rheadawn Harris, his brother Robert Harris, and his beloved son Kenneth Albert Harris III. The oldest of nine children in a military family, Ken grew up in several states as well as overseas in Japan. Ken loved his six children, Trishell, Kenny, Lisa, Debbie, Daniel and Crystal with all of his heart. He raised them to love fishing, hiking, camping and nature in all its' beauty. He always treated his step-daughter Jessica as his own.

Ken placed a high value on education. He received his teaching credential from Fresno State University in 1985 and went on to obtain his Master's degree in Technology from Fresno Pacific University in 2002. Ken became a teacher through the belief and mentorship of another. After being injured in a motorcycle accident in 1978, he entered a vocational program. A trusted teacher suggested that Ken would make an excellent educator. Like his mentor, Ken inspired many of his students, including his daughter Crystal, to become teachers.

Ken gave 30 years of his precious life to the art of teaching, spending his entire career at Mt. View Elementary school with sixth grade. He loved that age; "They were innocent but they knew how the world worked." Ken knew how to have fun with his students. He held an annual Rock' n Roll show for

the entire student body which was the best part of his year. Many of his former students who are now adults remember it fondly. Ken brown-bagged his lunch every day and stayed in his classroom to eat with his students. Fridays were ice cream day for the kids and Ken's favorite dessert. Ken was a true Raider's fan and would give a homework pass to his students if the Raiders won that week. His students soon became fans as well. He believed the saying, "Win, lose or tie, Raider's till I die." Since 2002 he's been saying, "Next year." He was looking forward to the upcoming season.

Ken had countless friends. However, there was a special bond with three in particular referred to as "The Bob Boys" (aka Band of Brothers). Over the past twenty years, they would meet faithfully, three times a week at Lifestyles, working out, sharing life events, and encouraging each other. They inspired one another in life, inside and outside of the gym. But it was Ken who was the "go-to guy" in the foursome, as mentor, adviser and the ultimate friend.

Ken married his true love, Michelle, in 2001. At the time of his passing they had just celebrated 15 years of marriage. They loved to travel. Frequent trips to the central coast and the Sequoia's were their favorite places to relax. They loved Maui and Kauai. Ken was born in the sign of water and loved to be near oceans, lakes and streams. He always said, "Let's get out of town!" A highlight of his life was a trip to Texas to meet his many grand and great-grandchildren. Ken retired in 2014 and never looked back. He started a wood working hobby and even sold his creations at his first craft show with Michelle. He loved playing with his dogs and caring for his home, 'Harris Haven.'

Ken is survived by his wife Michelle, daughter Trishell Ferrell, late son Kenneth Albert Harris III, daughter Lisa Simmons, daughter Debbie Harris, son Daniel Harris and his wife Dixie, daughter Crystal Houston and her husband Blake, step-daughter Jessica Patty, sister Barbara Mason, sister Deborah Harris-LaBeef, brother Daniel Harris, brother Randall Harris and his wife Jan, sister Brenda Brown and her husband Don, his in-laws Bill and Anne Patty, and many beloved nieces and nephews and adored grand and great-grandchildren.

Services for Ken will be held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 at 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Visalia, California. A reception will immediately follow. Online tributes can be made at [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com). Please consider a donation to the Ken Harris Student Scholarship fund at Mt. View Elementary School in Visalia, California.

A memorial tribute may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial

MAY 10. 3:00 PM (PT)

United Methodist Church Visalia  
5200 W. Caldwell  
Visalia, CA 93277

# Tribute Wall



“ My five children have had many great teachers, but Ken Harris was special even in that group of the best. I had the privilege of being his room mother for 3 years in a row and participating in preparations for the Rock and Roll Show, going on field trips to San Francisco, releasing trout, working with the students to raise funds for Scicon, and many other activities. I observed him teaching and interacting with the young people in his class and saw the learning take place before my eyes. Ken didn't just teach academics, though he was great at that, he taught about life. His students learned about hard work, cooperation, self discipline and gained self confidence and had fun doing it. Ken really cared about his students and that caring didn't stop after they moved on from his classroom. If you ran into Ken and Michelle around town they remembered you and would stop and chat. Ken made a difference in the lives of so many, inside and outside his teaching career. He will be deeply missed, but there is a special place in our hearts for him forever. I look forward to seeing him again someday in heaven. Laura Pace

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**Laura Pace** - May 11, 2016 at 12:01 PM

SS

“ Mr. Harris was one of my favorite teachers. He made 6th grade so memorable... With the rock n' roll show, our Egyptian project, growing mold project, our field trips to scicon and San Francisco and our classroom yearbook. He was one of the few teachers that made me want to be a teacher. The last couple years, I have thought of him often because I am now a 6th grade teacher. I hope that I can inspire the love of learning and making the most of 6th grade just like he did! He will be greatly missed!

Shannon Shuklian,  
before marriage Shannon Kavadas

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**Shannon Shuklian** - May 11, 2016 at 08:40 AM

 Angela Edwards

“ *i'm sad to hear of "Mr. Harris" passing, he was my favorite teacher at mt. view, almost 30 years ago! i hope the family is able to find peace during such a hard time!*

*Angela (Kasdorf) Edwards*

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**Angela Edwards** - May 11, 2016 at 03:19 AM

 Dave Rick

“ *I will always be grateful for Mr. Harris. As a kid, I always thought of myself as kind of a dud in school. I wasn't athletic, didn't believe I was very smart, was never particularly popular--but Mr. Harris was able to draw me out of my shell. He made me believe in my own abilities. I am now a teacher, too, and I can say with absolute certainty that he was one of the first, most impactful figures in my life at the time who helped to set me on that path. My heart goes out to his family, even as I am reminded what a positive impact he made on the world around him. I can only hope to one day look back and feel that I have managed to do the same. So, yes--I will always be grateful, so very grateful, for Mr. Harris.*



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**Dave Rick** - May 11, 2016 at 01:56 AM

PF

“ Dear Michelle and family,  
Claude and I were saddened to hear of Ken's passing. Reading the obituary this morning brought back many fond memories of Ken and the "olden days" at Mountain View. I remember that for my third graders Ken's rock and roll show was the highlight of the end of school. I really believe that every incoming sixth grader in the school wanted to be a part of it and wanted to have him as a teacher. I always thought that he gave himself away for his students!

We're sorry that we're unable to attend his memorial service this afternoon. We'll have all of you in our prayers. Our children Cindy and Greg and grandson Matt also wanted to be remembered to you with their memories of going to school with you (Greg and Cindy) and Jessica (Matt).

Fondly,  
Claude and Patty Feaver (Mountain View 3rd grade for many years)

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**Patty Feaver** - May 10, 2016 at 02:41 PM

MP

“ It is difficult to hear that Mr. Harris has passed. He was one of the most influential teachers in my entire life. I have so many memories and things I learned all from his 6th grade class! He was one of the greats! His wonderful way with teaching will always live in the hearts of the children he taught! Miss you! - Meagan Pace

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**Meagan Pace** - May 10, 2016 at 11:52 AM

LD

“ *Mr. Harris was an amazing teacher. He was loved by all his students, especially my kids, Joshua, Briana and Koby Bonwell. They all have great memories of their participation in the Rock n Roll show and field trips they went on with him! He had such a positive influence on them, as well as, being a great role model. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family! He will be greatly missed!*  
*Linda Dominguez*

Linda Dominguez - May 10, 2016 at 09:17 AM

KC

“ *Katrina and Pat Cribbs purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth Albert Harris, II.*




Katrina and Pat Cribbs - May 09, 2016 at 09:54 PM

BY

“ *Prayers and thoughts to the family of Ken. I have wonderful memories of working with Ken at Mt View School. He was so good with the kids.*

Barbara Y - May 09, 2016 at 07:01 PM

  
Sabrina Miguel

“ *It hurts my heart to know Mr. Harris has passed away. He was my favorite elementary teacher. He was the best at Mtn. View. I have nothing but amazing memories of my 6th grade class Blue track! He loved all his students and we loved him. Thank you Mr. Harris for always dedicating your life to us kids and now he is up above with the Lord* 💖💖💖💖

Sabrina Miguel - May 07, 2016 at 12:11 PM

AG

“ Ken was a great man. I have enjoyed working with him for many years. Michelle, our prayers are with you and the family. Alvin Griffis

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**Alvin Griffis** - May 07, 2016 at 12:07 PM

JB

“ Mr Harris was an amazing man and one of my favorite teachers he was my teacher as well as my brother and sisters and 20 years later still remembered my name unfortunately he retired two years before my daughter would have had him as a teacher I'm greatfull tho that she too had the chance to get to know him during her years at mtn view as well he will be ever so greatly missed rip mr harris you are truly one of the angels now as u were here on earth

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**jackie bates** - May 06, 2016 at 01:28 PM