



## Beverly Harris

August 22, 1927 - August 29, 2017

BEVERLY (BEV) H. HARRIS

August 22, 1927 – August 29, 2017

Bev Harris, age 90, of Bolivar, Missouri, passed away on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at Cox South Hospital in Springfield, Missouri. Born in Lee's Summit, Missouri, he was the son of Howard and Mattie (Beggs) Harris.

His family moved to Bolivar in 1943 for the purpose of sending Bev and his sisters to Southwest Baptist College (SWBC). After graduating from Bolivar High School in 1945, he enrolled at SWBC. His freshman year was interrupted when he was drafted into the Army, where he served stateside as Regimental Control Sergeant in the Transportation Corps. After serving one year in the Army, he returned to SWBC and graduated in 1947. He went on to earn mathematics degrees from Southwest Missouri State University and University of Missouri at Columbia. Later, he completed his doctorate in Mathematics Education at MU and post-doctorate studies at the University of Wisconsin.

Bev was a mathematics professor for 40 years, and for 37 of those years, he taught mathematics at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar. While at SBU, he was the chairman of the Mathematics Department and had a passion for preparing students to become math educators. He retired from SBU in 1989. Over the years, he had many interests. He served as the official scorekeeper for the men's varsity SBU basketball team for 35 years. Tennis was also his

passion. He enjoyed playing tennis and was ranked in the Missouri Valley Tennis Association. He was an active member of the Bolivar Tennis Association and enjoyed cheering for the SBU tennis teams. In his retirement years, he also became interested in researching his family's genealogy. Bev was also involved in the church and community. He was instrumental in starting the State Training Center for Severely Handicapped Children in 1964 and the Bolivar Sheltered Workshop in 1978. After retiring from teaching, he became involved with the Polk County Christian Social Ministries and was the director of the "Share Your Christmas" program for many years.

Bev married Zorene (Zodee) Pruitt Harris on May 21, 1950, and she preceded him in death on May 1, 2008. He is survived by his children, Susan Spurgeon and her husband Tim of Columbia, Missouri; Steven Harris of Columbia, Missouri; Joy Crow and her husband Jerry of Independence, Missouri; and two grandchildren, Becca Crow and Matt Crow. Bev was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Mary Jo Harris and Lois Matheny, twin-sister Beula Neuhart, and infant daughter, Rebecca Ann Harris.

Services will be 2:00 PM Saturday, September 2, 2017 at First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Missouri, with the Rev. Billy Russell officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at the Church. Burial will follow services in the Greenwood Cemetery, Bolivar, Missouri. Memorial contributions can be made to the Dr. Bev Harris Mathematics Education Scholarship Fund at SBU or the Billy Graham Association.

Services under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bev and I sure enjoyed corresponding about our common family connections. We were both descendants of Ruben Harris. Ruben is a maternal link for me. Both of Ruben's wives connect to my paternal line.*

*Will never forget the help Bev provided and will always remember his letters and thoughts.*

*Truly miss you old friend,  
Jim Gray*

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**Jim Gray** - July 24, 2024 at 08:10 PM



“ *Beverly Harris*

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October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Beverly Harris*

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January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM

TB

“ *To the Children and Grandchildren of Bev Harris:*

*So sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad and Grandfather. I played tennis with Bev and really enjoyed the time we spent together. I truly thought of him as a great person and friend. So sorry we missed the service as we were out of town.*



*Sincerely,  
Thomas & Judi Ball*

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**Thomas Ball** - September 03, 2017 at 09:34 PM

MB

“ *I remember Dr. Beverly Harris very well! In 1966, I was a junior at Bolivar High School and became very interested in playing tennis. BHS did not have a tennis team at that time but I met Bev Harris on the Southwest Baptist University Tennis Courts and he taught me a great deal about playing the game of tennis. In later years, Bev Harris and I continued playing tennis and I was always amazed how "this old guy" could play tennis. I was lucky enough to beat him a few times but Bev generally always won when we played. Now I am the age he was then, and I'm still playing tennis. When I'm on the court I think of Dr. Bev Harris and how kind he was to teach me the game of tennis. He was a wonderful, kind, and brilliant man and will be greatly missed.*

*Michael Douglas Brewer  
LTC, USA, Ret.*

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**Michael Brewer** - September 03, 2017 at 06:00 PM

JA

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Bev. I enjoyed the many years that we worked together at SBU and will be forever grateful for the many lessons that he taught me. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Jerald Andrews*

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**Jerald Andrews** - September 01, 2017 at 05:07 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Beverly Harris.



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September 01, 2017 at 12:46 PM

SJ

“ As a Freshman at Southwest Baptist, Dr. Harris was my algebra instructor, and as an older student who had been out of school for five years, I struggled in the class. Dr. Harris was very willing to help me (and many other students) to be successful and told me to call him anytime of the day or evening for help with homework. I spent many hours on the phone and managed to pass the class, thanks to his caring attitude. He has always been involved in the Bolivar community, responding to the needs of others. Rest in peace...you have finished the course and kept the faith.

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**Sandy McDonald Jones** - August 31, 2017 at 05:30 PM

RS

“ I remember Bev from when he came into Wades supper market shop. He would come in and talk to my Mother and Father. Susie and Mac the butchers. God bless your family

Royce (McReynolds) Slagle - August 31, 2017 at 03:56 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Beverly Harris.



August 31, 2017 at 03:22 PM



“ Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Beverly Harris.



August 31, 2017 at 08:32 AM