



## Pastor Robert James Harris

November 11, 1939 - April 25, 2015

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day” II Timothy 4:6-8.

Robert James Harris transitioned from this earthly life to be in the presence of God on Saturday

April 25, 2015 in Saginaw, MI. His entrance into this world was on November 11, 1939 in Union Springs, AL to the late Milton and Elizabeth Harris.

He resided in various places within the United States, before finally settling down in Saginaw, MI in 1965 to accept employment in the General Motors Malleable Iron Central Foundry manufacturing plant. He was a member of the UAW Local 455 and retired in June of 1991 after 27 years of service.

He became a dedicated and faithful member of the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in 1979 under the leadership of the later Pastor Willie D. Hankins. During his tenure, he served in various capacities with the church body: Gospel Choir Member, Bus Driver, Custodian, Sunday School Teacher, Bible Study Teacher, Prayer Meeting Facilitator, Deacon, Assistant Pastor, and finally Pastor. In 1982, he accepted his calling into ministry and was ordained August 1984. American Baptist Theological Seminary, Saginaw Campus was the place where he received his education in Baptist Ministry,

graduating Magna Cum Laude. He was devoted to the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Convention and Congress, The Wolverine State Baptist Convention and Congress, and the National Baptist Convention and Congress. In 2007, he became the Pastor of the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church and continued to serve faithfully until his death.

On April 3, 1982 he was joined in marriage to Mary McDole, who remained with him until death. In this union he was the father of 1 daughter and 5 sons to whom he was a provider, friend and counselor: Elissa McDole, Danny (Tineen) McDole, Taurus (Venus) McDole all of Saginaw, MI. Timmy McDole of Davenport, IA. John (Lisa Cook) McDole of Mt. Morris, MI and Samuel Snead of FL. He was the loving grandfather of 15 grandchildren, to whom he gave affectionate nicknames: Shaun, Devan, Jordan, Trenton, Natasha, Kira, Aneisha, LaCretisha, Danneisha, Sedrick, Sela, Dequavion, Damus and Tyrus. Proudly he was blessed to receive 3 Goddaughters and 11 Godsons: Monyette Hatter, Shayla Austin, and Tanya Jeffries, Kendrick King, Marius Presley, Billy Reed, Kerel Revis, Curtis Coleman, Ronnie Parrish Jr., De'Erick Smith, D.V. Laster, Warren Holman, Gregory Nickelberry Jr., and Felix Demarco Williams.

His childhood and upbringing with his siblings provided several stories of laughter and smiles. Even until his death, he continued to have a loving relationship with them: George (Glendora) Harris, Verae (John) Wyatt, Arthur (Victoria) Harris, all of Saginaw, MI. Milton (Ruby) Harris and Patsy(Abe) Marion both of Rochester, NY.

With his marital union he was blessed to acquire an additional sister and brothers whom he loved and treated as his own biological siblings: Oscar (Annie) McDole, Arlonia (Chester) Surles, and Lloyd (Donna) McDole, all of Saginaw, MI. Johnnie (Daisy) McDole and Clifford (Eula) McDole of Shreveport, LA. Joseph (Estella) McDole of Lower Peachtree, AL. He also

counted it a blessing to have an abundance of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The pleasures in his life can be counted when he was cleaning the church, watching old TV shows like Matlock, In the Heat of the Night, Walker Texas Ranger, Cops and Jeopardy. He enjoyed professional baseball and always cheered on the National League in the World Series. Amongst his children, he was known as the "Checkers King of 23rd St" and would easily answer when kids in the neighborhood referred to him as, "Mr. McDole." His love for his grandkids was often displayed when he would happily bake sweet potato pies and red velvet cakes for them when they came home from college on break.

Robert was preceded in transition by parents, Milton Harris and Elizabeth Marlow Harris and his older brother Eddie Harris.

The family would like to convey their gratitude for the expressions of love, acts of kindness, and most of all prayers for strength during this time.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the Wolverine State Baptist Headquarters, 615 South Jefferson Avenue. Pastor Robert B. Corley will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 1210 North 8th Street on Friday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. where the family will be present from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church  
1210 N. 8th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601

## Funeral Service

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wolverine State Baptist Headquarters  
615 South Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ *i miss you dad its hard to carry on but with god I will make it your son Taurus McDole*

Taurus McDole - December 28, 2016 at 10:18 PM

JH

“ *Jamie Sanders Hicks lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



Jamie Sanders Hicks - May 03, 2015 at 10:35 PM

IZ

“ *I'll miss seeing you on 23rd. You were always the nicest joyful person I've known. You'll truly b missed on 23rd. Love Shea n the Gardner family*

izasha - May 02, 2015 at 09:13 PM

RH

“ *To The Harris and Mcdole Family  
you have our deepest condolences and  
sympathy  
I lift up my eyes to the hills  
From where will my help come?  
My help comes from the lord who made the  
heaven and the earth.  
Psalms 121:1-2  
Rev.Jimmie And Roberta Harrison*



Roberta Harrison - May 01, 2015 at 11:40 PM

SL

“ Sue Lee lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



Sue Lee - May 01, 2015 at 08:26 PM

TR

“ Pastor Terry Randolph and the Gethsemane MBC of Flint, MI would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Mt. Sinai MBC and the Harris family. May God keep you and comfort you during this period of transition.



Terry Randolph - May 01, 2015 at 03:18 PM

LK

“ Loretta King lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



Loretta king - May 01, 2015 at 01:17 PM

LK

So sorry for your loss my sincere condolences to the family

Loretta king - May 01, 2015 at 01:18 PM

SG

“ *Sylvia George lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Sylvia George** - May 01, 2015 at 12:52 PM

JL

“ *Jimmie Logan lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Jimmie logan** - May 01, 2015 at 12:45 PM

TP

“ *Theresa Plowden lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Theresa Plowden** - May 01, 2015 at 12:04 PM

JS

“ *Janie Surles-cork lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**janie surles-cork** - May 01, 2015 at 10:15 AM

ES

“ SO SORRY FOR LOSS. MAY GOD GIVE PEACE AND JOY INT TJE TIME OF NEED..GOD BLESS....EDDIE SIMS AND FAMILY.



Eddie sims - May 01, 2015 at 08:48 AM

MW

“ Mr & Mrs Charles Woods lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



Mr & Mrs Charles Woods - April 30, 2015 at 10:01 PM

CH

“ To the Harris and McDole Family, Rev Harris will truly be missed especially his kind heart and warm smile! You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Charlotte Woods Humes



Charlotte Humes - April 30, 2015 at 07:16 PM

VJ

“ Vanessa Johnson lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



Vanessa Johnson - April 30, 2015 at 06:29 PM

KW

“ To 1st Lady Mary Harris and family,  
Your Church Women United Sisters send our condolences &  
sincere prayers to you and your family. We remember when Pastor  
Harris blessed us when he spoke at our "Mary Karls Lunch with a  
lift" on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, Theme: Lost & Found, St. Luke  
15:4-10. What an awesome message he gave! May God bless and  
strengthen you and all of your family during this time.

Sincerely,  
Karen M. Williams, President of Church Women United of Saginaw  
County  
Also your Church Women United Sisters

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**Karen M. Williams** - April 30, 2015 at 02:52 PM

KW

“ Karen M. Williams lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Karen M. Williams** - April 30, 2015 at 02:41 PM

LT

“ Lionell And Dorothy Terrell lit a candle in  
memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**lionell and dorothy terrell** - April 30, 2015 at 11:43 AM

MF

“ Miss Mary, Elissa, All Family & Friends, please accept our sincerest condolences. Mr. Harris was a Wonderful Man who Lovingly accepted my Daughter and Grand-Daughter (Adrienne and Ashleigh) as his own--The Whole Family! We Love You All So Much. To God Be The Glory! With Much Love, Sympathy & Prayers, Brenda, Adrienne, Ashleigh, Tayah and Steven B. (The Bryant and Reynolds Families) Miss Mildred Louise Reynolds & Family--Texas



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**Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family** - April 30, 2015 at 10:37 AM

SS

“ Sue Surles-McDole lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris

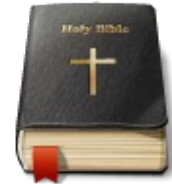


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**Sue Surles-McDole** - April 30, 2015 at 10:04 AM

MF

“ Mosella Reed And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Mosella Reed and Family** - April 30, 2015 at 06:17 AM

PH

“ Pam Harris lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



Pam Harris - April 29, 2015 at 08:10 PM

A"

“ It was just a little over a week ago that we were laughing with children of Mt. Sinai about saying The Church Covenant...I could hear Rev. Harris' voice plain and clear. Rev. Harris had so many roles ...He was my Sunday School Teacher, Bus Driver, Minister and Friend. I thank God for having him in my life. May God keep you family and Church Family.

Ariese "Riese" - April 29, 2015 at 04:34 PM

CB

“ My heart goes out to the family .....Pastor Harris and Saginaw Valley District treasurer will be remember forever for his smile, kindness and commitment. Sis Ceylon Bettis SVD



Ceylon Bettis - April 29, 2015 at 04:27 PM

AB

“ Alvin Bhone's lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



Alvin Bhone's - April 29, 2015 at 03:42 PM

VJ

“ Vera Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Vera Jones** - April 29, 2015 at 12:45 PM

KI

“ Kimberly purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Pastor Robert James Harris.



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**Kimberly** - April 29, 2015 at 10:36 AM

NW

“ "I see you Sister Nina". These words will always ring when I encounter Rev Harris. So glad I made my way to church on First/Easter Sunday 2015 too one more time here my pastor and partake communion and fellowship. My payers are with all of Rev Harris's family...May you all be strong.



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**Nina Ward** - April 29, 2015 at 09:19 AM

Y3

“ My heart goes out to everyone... Rev. Harris was a part of my & my children's lives growing up. He christened my youngest Tyrel. But what we remember most were the short, to the point sermons & how he told jokes with a straight face & you had to know him to know the difference! Rest well Rev Harris, you are more than a memory to us! Love, TJ, Tyrel, Tyresia & Yolanda!



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**Yolanda & 3TY** - April 29, 2015 at 08:35 AM

NB

“ Nicole Beasley-Goffney lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Nicole Beasley-Goffney** - April 28, 2015 at 10:36 PM

RA

“ Rosie Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Rosie Anderson** - April 28, 2015 at 10:03 PM

RA

“ Rosie Anderson lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



Rosie Anderson - April 28, 2015 at 10:02 PM

PR

“ Pastor Ernest L. Reed lit a candle in memory  
of Pastor Robert James Harris



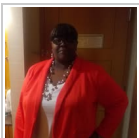
Pastor Ernest L. Reed - April 28, 2015 at 05:13 PM

WS

“ William Sanders lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



William Sanders - April 28, 2015 at 05:08 PM



“ Stacey Marshall lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



Stacey Marshall - April 28, 2015 at 04:35 PM

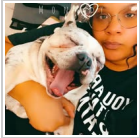
DW

“ *Deborah Williams lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Deborah Williams** - April 28, 2015 at 04:18 PM



“ *You will truly be missed. You had a huge impact on my life.*

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**Samantha Williams** - April 28, 2015 at 03:39 PM

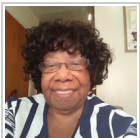
JL

“ *Rest In Paradise Rev Harris, You have impact many lives including mine.*



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**Jazlyn Lacey** - April 28, 2015 at 03:31 PM



“ *To the Family of First Lady Mary Harris and the Mt Sinai Church Family you have to say goodbye to Great Man of God who will be missed but who leaves us with precious memories to last until you meet again. Lean on God during your sad moments but celebrate his home going and know my prayers are with you. Love you*

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**Loudean Moultrie** - April 28, 2015 at 11:52 AM

RM

“ *Ruthie And Tania Moore lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Ruthie and Tania Moore** - April 28, 2015 at 11:32 AM

KC

“ *Karen Cork lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Karen Cork** - April 28, 2015 at 11:29 AM

KC

“ *Kathy Chapman lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Kathy Chapman** - April 28, 2015 at 11:28 AM

TG

“ *The Guster's lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**The Guster's** - April 28, 2015 at 10:19 AM

ES

“ To the Harris family may you find strength in the Lord during your time of breavement.

*Ethel Smith*  
*Houston, Texas*

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**Ethel Smith** - April 28, 2015 at 09:55 AM

MR

“ *Malcolm & Velma Roach lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Malcolm & Velma Roach** - April 28, 2015 at 09:42 AM

SF

“ *Shaw & Smith Family lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Shaw & Smith Family** - April 27, 2015 at 09:41 PM

BM

“ *Bessie McDole lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Bessie McDole** - April 27, 2015 at 07:47 PM

DS

“ *DENISE SYKES sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**DENISE SYKES** - April 27, 2015 at 07:27 PM

DS

“ *DENISE SYKES lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**DENISE SYKES** - April 27, 2015 at 07:22 PM

RM

“ *Rita M. Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Rita M. Williams** - April 27, 2015 at 06:27 PM

SG

“ To the Harris and McDole and Mt. Sinai Church Family:



*On behalf of the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Deacon Wives, Widows and Deaconess we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to our Chairperson, Sis. Tineen McDole, Deacon Danny McDole and First Lady, Sis. Mary Harris, as you endure the days ahead.*

*We want you to know that we are praying with you and for your strength. Pastor Harris was truly of God's great preachers. His humor will be missed, his wisdom will be remembered and his love for God will carry on.*

*May God bless and keep you all.*

*Humbly Submitted  
SVD Deacon Wives, Widows and Deaconess  
Sis. Denise Sykes, Co-Chair  
Sis. Sylvia George, Corresponding Secretary*

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**Sylvia George** - April 27, 2015 at 05:48 PM

MS

“ Michelle Stewart sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Michelle Stewart** - April 27, 2015 at 05:30 PM

JJ

“ Pastor Harris will truly be missed. Heaven's gain is our loss.

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**James and Doris Jones** - April 27, 2015 at 01:28 PM

MJ

“ *Min. James And Doris Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Min. James and Doris Jones** - April 27, 2015 at 01:25 PM

MJ

“ *Min. James And Doris Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Min. James and Doris Jones** - April 27, 2015 at 01:24 PM

CR

“ *Carolyn Riley lit a candle in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**carolyn riley** - April 27, 2015 at 12:41 PM

HS

“ *Helen Speed sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris*



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**Helen Speed** - April 27, 2015 at 11:36 AM

SF

“ Swann Feagin lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



Swann Feagin - April 27, 2015 at 10:43 AM

IH

“ Ida Helton lit a candle in memory of Pastor  
Robert James Harris



Ida Helton - April 27, 2015 at 09:30 AM

SH

“ Our condolence is extended to the  
Harris/McDole Family in the loss of Rev. Robert  
Harris. He was a faithful man of God. Our faith  
teaches us that to be absent from the body is to  
be present with the Lord. Until we meet again  
R.I.P.



Shelaine Hankins-Parrish - April 27, 2015 at 09:29 AM

DA

“ Dona Austin-Bigby lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



Dona Austin-Bigby - April 27, 2015 at 09:12 AM

YC

“ Yvonne Corley sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Yvonne Corley** - April 27, 2015 at 07:24 AM

LJ

“ Leon Jackson lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Leon Jackson** - April 27, 2015 at 04:01 AM

TJ

“ Tameka & Elaine Jones lit a candle in  
memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**tameka & elaine jones** - April 26, 2015 at 08:21 PM

HJ

“ Houston And Elaine Jackson, Jr. sent a virtual  
gift in memory of Pastor Robert James Harris



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**Houston and Elaine Jackson, Jr.** - April 26, 2015 at 04:25 PM