



Richard William Harris III

December 12, 2013

Richard William Harris III, age 67, of Dacula, GA passed away Thursday, December 12, 2013. He was born November 7, 1946, in Palatka, FL and graduated from Clay High School in Green Cove Springs, FL in 1964. He also graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1977, with a degree in Professional Aeronautics.

Richard Harris retired from the US Army in 1987, as a Major after twenty-one years of distinguished service, including two tours in Viet Nam as a helicopter pilot with the Stinger 91 Unit and also the Wildcat Unit. At the time of retirement, he was serving in the Unified Command at MacDill AFB, under the command of General Schwarzkopf. Upon retirement from the military, he pursued a second career with Ricoh Electronics, Lawrenceville, GA.

He was an avid golfer and a member of the Senior Golf Association of Atlanta. Fishing was another passion, providing him many hours of enjoyment with family and friends. He was also a member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association and an ardent supporter of Wounded Warrior Project.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard William Harris II and Dorothy Emily Harris. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Juan Saye Harris, Dacula, GA; children, Richard Spencer Harris and Trevor William Harris, Atlanta, GA; sister and brother-in-law, Jane Ann and William Dorward,

Allentown, PA; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, John Calvin and Debbie Christmas, Warner Robins, GA; Jimmy and Ann Williams, Cleveland, MS, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family will receive friends at Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford, GA on Monday, December 16, 2013, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A military service will be held at a later date at the National Cemetery in Jacksonville, FL.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarrior.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard William Harris III*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *Alan Horton, March 24, 2014*

Dear Harris Family:

Sorry to hear about the passing of Richard. He was a wonderful pilot and friend. I recall a time in Vietnam when Richard saved the whole crews lives. We had just left Chu Chi after refueling and the short shaft came out of the aircraft causing us to lose all power to fly. We were over the jungle when this happened. As we were going down, Richard pulled the cyclic stick all the way back causing the aircraft to stall and drop into the jungle tailboom first. The tailboom absorbed the impact keeping us from hitting the ground so hard. His quick thinking and action saved our lives. Otherwise, we would of hit nose first probably killing us all. I have throught about Richard many times over the years, but did not know how to contact him. It hurts to know that he is gone from us. I share your grief. He was a great man!

*Alan Horton
Vietnam 1967-68*

Alan Horton - March 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I did not know Richard, but we served in the same unit (116th Assault Helicopter Company, 67-68. I was a crew chief on a slick. I wish I could have known him, Reading some of the comments in the guestbook, he sure seemed to be a great person. If there is anything I can do for you or any of your family please let me know.

David Kersey - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear Harris Family*
I just want you to know that the unit (116thahc) that Richard served with was one of the best in Viet Nam.
I was also a Stinger (door gunner) and anyone who flew with the Hornets and Stingers was a hero on MOST days. You have a lot to be proud of about Richard.

Just wanted you to know that this Brotherhood is still around and lots of us are still connected today. Just remember that Richard did many things that most people couldn't do.

R.I.P.

Joe Skarda

Stinger

Joe Skarda - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ As a young door gunner in Vietnam in 1967-68 I had the great honor and pleasure of flying with the greatest young pilots and men of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. One of those pilots was Richard Harris better know to his fellow flyers as "Lurch." Now I'm not sure who tagged him with that nick name and it makes no difference for once you're named it's yours forever. Gunship crews were and still are Brothers Forever. Last time I saw him was 1986 in Las Vegas at the 1st 116th Hornet Reunion. It was greatest collection of "family" that I have ever been involved in. The Hornet Family has experienced a great loss in the death of Richard Harris. I send my love and condolences to his family as your loss is our loss. God Speed Stinger 91.
"You Done Good Lurch"

George Cathey
116th Assault Helicopter Company
Cu Chi, Republic of South Vietnam

George Cathey - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ It is with great sorrow that I read the passing of Richard Harris Stinger 91. I was the Platoon Sgt of the Stinger during Mr. Harris's (as I called him) first tour. He was "Lurch" to everyone else. I wasn't being stuffy on my part, just respect for a great guy!! It was Mr. Harris who helped me solve one of a Platoon Sgt's greatest problems; how to get pizza for the Stinger Crew Chiefs and Gunners if the only pizza oven was in a 25 th Division Officers Club. Become an officer he said with a "wink", so I did! Well Mr. Harris's uniform shirts didn't fit, but WO John Fields shirts did. Stinger Enlisted had lots of pizza thanks to Mr. Harris, YOU DONE GOOD !!!!

Tom Callahan - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ Dear family,

So sorry for your loss. It's never easy to lose someone in death. What gives me hope for those I've lost in death is reading Revelation 21:3,4. It says that God will wipe out every tear from our eyes, and death will be no more neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore the former things have passed away.

So think of your loved one with fond memories knowing that God has made a way for you to see them healthy and happy again.

Dylan - December 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *My condolences on the loss of one of my old friends. Richard (I knew him as Dickey)and i were in the same class in high school and I see he was one or two classes behind me in flight school. we both served in the 1st Cav withut knowing each other was near by. We both secured direct commissions during our service time. The life of a helicopter pilot builds strong relationships or can destroy them completely. I am pleasee to see his family still near him and strong. Faith has kept me sane in times of crisis and my prayers are with you today.*

*Roger DeWitt
Lakeland, Fl*

Roger DeWitt - December 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Juan Saye - I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I'm keeping you and your family in my prayers. God bless. Love, Kari Manning (from Creekland MS)*

Kari Manning - December 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Aunt says, spencer and Trevor. Our hearts are with you and our regrets for not being able to be with you in your time of need. Uncle Richard was loved very much by all of us. We are hear if there's anything at all we can do.

Love

Kali, Brad, Cameron, Ansley, and Katie

Kali Cochran - December 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Juan Saye & Boys,

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you today. We wish we could be there with you and Jane Ann to help comfort you. We will cherish the memories we shared with the family in Ohio and the summer we spent at Myrtle Beach with you and Richard and Roy and Jen and families. I hope you find comfort knowing that we care. Joyce & Bill & families

Joyce Blind - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Although I only knew Dickie a short time while living in Green Cove Springs,FL, Dickie was a man of quality as is shown in the life he lived. Distinguished himself in his military career, I salute you my fellow vet and will be praying for your family. Jane Ann, I'm sorry to hear of your loss and pray God's blessings on your entire family.

John Spearman - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *Juan Saye and family-
We are so sorry for your loss. Richard was a great person and will be missed. Just know that Julie and I are praying for you and your family during your time of sorrow.*
M. Krolak

Mike Krolak - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

David & April Barron - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *Juan Saye, Trevor, & Spencer you are in our thoughts & prayers. Richard is in heaven watching over you. You will be taken care of from above with the support & love of family & friends.*
All our love,
Kathy, Bob, Dustin, & Kevin

Kathy, Bob, Dustin, & Kevin Corn - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Juan Saye, Larry & I were deeply saddened to hear of Dickie's passing. I have been lifting your family up in prayer since I first heard. We will be greatly honored to donate to the wounded warrior project in his name.*

Patti & Larry Barnes - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Dear Juan Saye, Spencer and Trevor, Barry and I were stunned and saddened to hear this shocking news of Richard's death. I do recall his ready smile and the love and pride he had for you and your sons as was evidenced by how he spoke of you. He was so very friendly and happy. Please know our prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

Much love and God Bless you . Karen

Karen & Barry Beard - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Juan Saye, Spencer and Trevor. Richard and I go back to the first Green Cove Springs Little League team, we have been friends since then, Reinhold Jr High, Clay High and St Johns. He was a friend to all knew him. We were honored to have him come fish with us and share so many memories that seemed just like yesterday. He even let me catch a fish or two.

Richard was a Great American and Great Veteran. I thank him for his service to Our Country. It was a honor and privilege to have flown with him. Thank you for being such an important part of Richards life and sharing him with so many. He spoke so lovingly of all three of you.

He has been taken from us, but our memories will always live with us. May God hold him and keep him until we meet again.

George & Pam Bush - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Dear Juan Saye and sweet Richard.

Our lives are the sum of our experiences and the people with whom we share time with along the way and Juan Saye and Richard's friendship is an important benchmark that enriched my life.

I will always treasure Richard's friendship that began in 1967 when we met as 19-20 year old army student pilots in Texas and lasted a lifetime. My biggest regret is that we didn't make more occasions to be together as we lived our lives and the years moved along.

I will always remember him as a great person, a wonderful husband and father and a best friend. May God bless Juanie and the boys.

Jim Jester - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *Juan Saye, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. I was so sorry to hear of Richard's passing.*

EJ Howard - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time, we are so sorry for your loss.*

Allen and pat hickman

Allen and Pat Hickman - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *Our prayers are with you at this difficult time. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know.*

We will see you Monday night.

Ed and Pat Curtis - December 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *My thoughts have been with you since I received the news of Richard's passing. It was an honor for me to have served with him in combat as part of the Stinger gun platoon. Although we weren't always in contact I cherished his friendship for 46 years. I will miss him dearly. If I can do anything please do not hesitate to ask.*

Pete Hull - December 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM