



Richard L. Harris

April 30, 1930 - August 23, 2015

Richard L. Harris, age 85, of Grove, OK passed away Sunday, August 23, 2015 at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, MO after a short illness.

Richard was born on April 30, 1930 to Earl and Olive (Derr) Harris, one of 9 children, in Ft. Dodge, Iowa, where he grew up and attended school. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Military service proved to be Richard's life work and he dedicated 20 years to his country, serving in the Korean War and in Vietnam. While stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, Richard met and married the love of his life, Helga von der Helm on December 3, 1965 and the couple made their home in Frankfurt. After retiring from the U.S. Army, he attended John Tyler Community College in VA earning an Associates Degree and accepted a position at Phillip Morris Co. in Richmond, VA.

In 1989, the couple moved to Grove from Petersburg, VA to be near their daughter, Gabi Ryan. Gabi and her husband, Terry, owned and operated the Rheingarten Restaurant in Grove, where Richard was a regular fixture. He happily provided maintenance service and even did a little bartending at the restaurant. Tinkering was his passion and he was always "fixing" something. Richard loved life and people and his enthusiasm was contagious. He often shared his story of "cheating" death after a massive heart attack dubbed "the widow maker" and living 10 more years, making the most of every single day with his best friend/wife by his side.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, 7 siblings and son-of-the-heart, Dieter Buchstein.

Richard will be dearly missed by his family: wife of 49 years, Helga Harris, daughter, Gabi Ryan and husband, Terry, all of Grove; grandson Kevin Ryan of Broken Arrow, OK., granddaughter Kelly Stockton of Ft Gibson, OK., sister, Bonnie Walton of Sun City, CA., 9 great grandchildren and 1 great, great grandchild.

A Memorial Celebration will be held at 4pm Thursday, August 27, 2015 at Nichols Funeral Chapel in Grove.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard L. Harris*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Scot Baker & Family, Christy & Larry Divine & Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Richard L. Harris.*



Scot Baker & Family, Christy & Larry Divine & Family -
August 27, 2015 at 01:27 PM



“ *So sorry to hear this loved him had price large of working with him at restaurant..a truly wonderful man. Will be missed by all*❤️

Debbie Dover - August 27, 2015 at 02:29 AM



“ *Opa was a man like no other! He was so proud and yet so humble. He never met a stranger and would give the shirt off his back to help another! He fought so proudly for this country for over 20 years but didn't think that made him special! He was a pillar of patience and love! There will never be another like him and I miss and love him sooo much! His heart was filled with so much love it couldn't hold it anymore!*

kelly - August 26, 2015 at 11:54 AM

TS

“ *Teresa Serbousek purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard L. Harris.*



Teresa Serbousek - August 26, 2015 at 10:51 AM