



Joe Louis Harris

September 19, 1953 - May 12, 2026

Joe Louis Harris of Cape Girardeau, Missouri passed away on Tuesday May 12th, 2026 at St. Francis Hospital with family by his side.

Joe was born September 19th, 1953 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The son of Ollie and Martha Purl-Harris.

Joe was a loving family man, respected businessman, and proud United States Navy veteran. He was well known throughout the community for owning several local businesses and for the kindness he showed to everyone he met. Joe had a heart of gold and was truly a father figure to many people throughout his life. He never met a stranger and always made sure to keep in touch with family and friends near and far. His loving spirit, warm smile, and gentle soul will forever be remembered by all who knew him.

Joe dedicated many years of service to Procter & Gamble before retiring. In his free time, he enjoyed spending time with family, sharing stories, and supporting those around him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, wisdom, and generosity that will continue through the many lives he touched. Survivors include his loving spouse, Chris Pender; his children, one son Joey; two daughters Ullanda (Terrance "Bo") and Mylia of Cape Girardeau; three sisters, Carol Harris, Terrie and Denise (Diane) Purl all of Cape Girardeau; 13 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; along with a host of extended family members and friends who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ollie and Martha Purl-Harris, one

brother Darcus Purl, along with loved ones who welcomed him home in Heaven.

Visitation will be 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Ford & Sons Sprigg St. Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow at 12:00 pm Saturday at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, with full military honors.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairmount Cemetery

835 Caruthers
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Sprigg St. Chapel
118 S. Sprigg St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Sprigg St. Chapel
118 S. Sprigg St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Tribute Wall

PO

“ I will never forget how welcoming and loving Papa Joe was. How Chance would call him on Facebook so his Papa Joe could listen to him play because, he wouldn't talk to him much. Pie could never see him just hear him, and all I would hear is Pie laughing and saying , "Chance, tell your mama to fix the camera so I can see you!" As Chance keeps playing and the camera is pointed at the ceiling. I can still hear Pie's voice and see his smile. We will continue to hold onto the memories we had. Rest easy Papa Joe.

Pooh - May 16 at 08:55 AM

WY

“ We are praying for yall. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Joe Louis Harris.



We are praying for yall. - May 15 at 11:42 PM

RS

“ REBECCA SULLIVAN lit a candle in memory of Joe Louis Harris



REBECCA SULLIVAN - May 14 at 10:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Louis Harris.*



May 14 at 09:35 PM



“ *I would like to send my deepest condolences to the Harris/Purl family I was a member of their family for several years Ollie and Honey treated me like one of their own Joe always held a special place in my heart and was a dear friend of mine for many years his presence will be missed along with his wisdom and kind heartedness he was an incredible person to know him was to love him rest easy my friend*

Winters Jennifer - May 14 at 03:58 AM



My condolences to the family I will miss Joe we had good times playing softball

Willie Jones - May 14 at 11:15 AM