



Jesse Young Harris Sr.

March 21, 1936 - January 3, 2020

Jesse resided in Eatontown, NJ. He was predeceased by his parents William and Lauretha Harris, sisters Lagretta “Billy” Fisher, and Janet Harris; brothers William Harris Sr., Harvey Harris Sr., and Rufus Harris. He was born March 21, 1936 at home in Lawnside, New Jersey the second of nine children.

Jesse is survived by his devoted wife of over 60 years, Marcelline Riley Harris, formerly of Fair Haven, NJ, and their five children: Christopher Harris of Lowell, MA, Jesse Harris Jr. of Burlington, NJ, Stacy Harris and wife Magda of Eatontown, NJ, Jacqueline Severinsen and husband Kenneth of Eatontown, NJ and Jason Harris and wife Jennifer of Sparta, TN. He also is survived by ten grandchildren whom he adored: Jordan Harris, Keonya Reed, Ariana Ryan, Jesse Harris III, Tyrone Harris, Kenny Severinsen, Kimarley Harris, Jesse Harris, Hazel Harris, and Janelle Harris.

In addition, Jesse is survived by his brother John Harris of Lawnside, NJ, sisters Marion Carpenter of Clementon, NJ, Sadie Durham and husband David of Medford, NJ, Alice Wood of Sarasota, FL. He also has a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends and family whom he loved to spend his time with.

Jesse attended Magnolia Public Elementary schools and then graduated from Haddon Heights High School in Haddon Heights, NJ in 1954. He then obtained his Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences from Rutgers University in 1958 where he received the distinction of "Outstanding Student of the Year" his freshman and junior years. He continued his education by obtaining two Masters degrees from Rutgers. The first in 1960 in Animal Nutrition on a research assistantship and the second in Radiological Science in 1963 on full support by the United States Public Health Service. During this time he completed all of his coursework for his PhD and performed research for the USPHS. He topped off his education with a PhD, also from Rutgers, in Nutrition with a minor in Radiological Sciences in 1968. He completed his research, on the job, at the US Public Health Service Research Lab in Rockville, Maryland and worked for them from 1960 to 1970 as a Senior Scientist.

After graduation, he decided to utilize his scientific knowledge in the education field. He received a professorship at the now, University of Massachusetts-Lowell in Lowell, MA in the Physics department from 1970 to 1994. Six of these years he spent as the Program Coordinator and the last four years as the Department Chairman. He retired in 1994 as Professor Emeritus of Radiological Sciences/Physics.

After retiring from UMASS, he and Marcelline moved to Fair Haven, New Jersey where he continued teaching for Berkley College from 1998 to 2004. He also worked as an education consultant for the Borough of Fair Haven, NJ and a substitute teacher for Rumson-Fair Haven High School in Rumson, NJ.

Jesse had more than a dozen scientific articles and papers published related to the biological effects of ionizing radiation. He had his first textbook

published in 1994 entitled "Environmental Radiation and Health" with Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. He continued to use his knowledge of this topic to assist and educate others. Over the years Jesse even served as an expert during the evaluation process of various projects including oil refineries, cellular towers, and more.

Jesse was highly involved in community activities as well. He enjoyed participating in programs that focused on education, the environment, health, and youth athletics. This involvement extended from local to national venues. He served on boards for anti-poverty agencies, community action associations, and academic achievement programs. He was also involved with the community of Fair Haven with their recreation department.

He was not just about school and academic achievement he also was a six-letter varsity athlete while at Rutgers (three in track and field and three in football). Anyone that knew Jesse was aware of his continued love for track & field. He coached Track and Cross Country from Massachusetts to New Jersey for over 50 years from the college level down to youth level. He also served as the Region 1 Athletics Director (Maine to NJ) for the AAU. He always managed youth track programs wherever he resided, encouraging children from all walks of life to be a part of a sport than anyone could excel at and enjoy. He had programs in Chelmsford, MA, Fair Haven, NJ and also served as an assistant coach at Rumson-Fair Haven High School in Rumson, NJ.

In addition to athletics, Jesse was very devoted to Fisk Chapel AME Church in Fair Haven, NJ. He held the position of Superintendent of Church School, adult church school teacher and was a member of the Men's choir. He was also a trustee of the church where he and Marcelline, a Missionary, have been members for many years. Fisk Chapel is the family church of his wife Marcelline since its beginning more than 150 years ago.

Jesse and Marcelline continuously aided Fisk Chapel in service to God and the community through fellowship, fundraising, and more. Jesse was a truly dedicated servant of God, his family, friends, and his community.

Jesse's viewing will be held 10 AM to 12 PM with his service at 12 PM on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at the Fisk Chapel AME Church, 38 Fisk Street, Fair Haven, NJ 07704.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made in Jesse's memory to:

Fisk Chapel AME Church

38 Fisk Street

Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fisk Chapel AME Church
38 Fisk Street
Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Service

JAN 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fisk Chapel AME Church
38 Fisk Street
Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Tribute Wall

MP

“ *Mr. Harris was my track coach with the Greater Lowell Roadrunners. I played football with his son Jason for many years. In 1990 we traveled to the University of Miami football camp together, and we also participated in a national track competition in Miami. Mr. Harris was a role model to me, and I always remember his enthusiasm for athletics and scholarship. I'm grateful to have known him and his family. My love to you all. - Mike Piergrossi, NYC*

Mike Piergrossi - February 25, 2021 at 12:31 PM

JF

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Jesse Harris. He was my instructor in radiation biology while at Lowell. His influence spans generations and geography through his teaching, example, and life. Find what solace you can during these trying times and be well*

Jerry Falo - January 15, 2020 at 08:53 PM

CR

“ *Dr Harris was one of my first and favorite teachers at ULowell graduate school in 1983 for radiation biology, I am very sorry for your loss, I hope you have peace in knowing that he influenced a lot of people very positively in his tenure.*
Cathleen Roughan, IAEA

Cathleen Roughan - January 15, 2020 at 02:54 PM

DS

“ I sat for Dr. Harris’ Radiation Biology course and remember three things: his left-handed writing on the blackboard, the shoulder of the dose/effect curve, and cell phase sensitivities to ionizing radiation. He was a good sport and well-liked. My sympathy to his family and friends at their loss. - Dave Smith

Dave Smith - January 14, 2020 at 08:50 PM

CJ

“ My heart felt condolences to you and your family from the Jackman’s and the Cambridge Jets Youth T.C. Mr. Harris has always been a great friend an advisor, he will be surely missed.



Curtis Jackman - January 09, 2020 at 07:45 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Jesse Young Harris Sr.



Bongarzone Funeral Home - January 08, 2020 at 10:32 PM

CF

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Clay French - January 07, 2020 at 06:43 PM

CF

I was one of Jesse's students at Lowell Tech (now UMass Lowell) and later became a fellow professor in the Radiological Sciences Program. Jesse was the director of this world class program and was loved by his students (including Jason of course) and his faculty. He will be missed by so many! Here are a couple photos of Jesse at Lowell - one from the early years.

Clay French - January 07, 2020 at 06:56 PM



thank you so much for your kind works, my Dad had fond memories of working with you and Mr. Scrable.

Jackie Harris Severinsen - January 08, 2020 at 05:11 PM

CE

Dr. Harris was the one who got me to go into the BS/MS HP program at UMASS. I am very sorry for his loss to the world. My very deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

Charles Ellars - January 14, 2020 at 06:42 PM

MS

“*Mr. Harris was always doting over his grandchildren and attending sporting events for them. At family gatherings he loved to tell me stories about his adult children and was always funny and kind. He was a very proud man, father, and grandfather. I had no idea until I read his obituary that he has multiple master degrees & his PhD. His wisdom was well documented and he will be missed by those who loved him. He left behind a wonderful legacy and I'm honored to have met him. Mr. Harris continue to watch over your family in Heaven as your spirit lives on in the hearts of many.*”

Melissa Silverberg - January 06, 2020 at 12:53 PM

JS

“ I will miss my Dad more than words can say. I am so glad my kids were able to know him and will always remember what a caring person he was. Rest well Dad.



Jackie Severinsen - January 05, 2020 at 07:04 PM



I am so sad to hear about your dad. What an intellect! I loved my talks with him. He knew so much of the history of Fair Haven. A decent and kind gentleman. ❤️

Patricia Dumas - January 07, 2020 at 01:23 PM



I remember your father as being very devoted to his grandchildren and the FH track team, where he coached my boys. A very, very nice man! Sincere condolences to your family!

Suzanne Green Biga - January 07, 2020 at 06:39 PM

AR

My condolences to Dr. Harris's family. I was one of His students who at UMass Lowell Rad Sci dept. I guess what I remember most was how pleasant Dr. Harris was to talk with. He always seemed happy. I can't help but think sometimes he was teasing us with a little imitation of Bill Cosby but there wasn't enough for me to ever call him on it.

Alan Raymond - January 15, 2020 at 08:35 PM

KH

My heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Harris. Dr. Harris was my advisor and professor while I was a student at the University of Lowell. He was kind, caring and compassionate with a peace about him, and a very intelligent gentleman.

Kimberly Schindler Hobbs - January 16, 2020 at 07:02 AM