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In Memory of Charles Harris

JANUARY 25TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Charles Lee Harris, the son of the late C.P. and Louise Harris, was born on March 19, 1936 in Illmo, MO. He graduated from Illmo-Scott City High School and earned degrees from Southeast MO State University and Murray State University. Charles also served in the military in the Army Security Agency at Ayer, MA, as well as serving in Japan. Mr. Harris was a teacher and involved in education for 30 years. He enjoyed refereeing football, basketball, and baseball, working in his yard, and was a Mizzou football and Cardinal baseball fan.

Mr. Harris refereed football, basketball, and baseball for over 30 years. He also enjoyed mentoring young men who were interested in becoming sports officials. After finally hanging up his whistle and ball/strike counter, he loved keeping in touch with everyone he met in the sports arena and watching his grandsons play football and basketball.

Charles was a longtime member of First Baptist Church, where he served as deacon, was chairman of deacons, served on committees, and involved in numerous other service positions.

On December 21, 1958, Charles married Carolyn Burch of Fulton, MS. She survives of the home. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Other survivors include two children, Suzanne Harris Collier and husband Russ Collier of Dexter, and Chris Harris and wife Alisa Cook Harris of Ft. Worth, TX; one sister, Elizabeth Harris Shawan of Poplar Bluff; 2 grandchildren, Garrison Collier and Ryan Collier. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Mary Lou Hartsoe, and two brothers, Bill Harris and Bob Harris.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at First Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff. The Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m. at the church with Dr. William Vail and Pastor Brandon Spain officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow at the Poplar Bluff City Cemetery.

Donations can be made to: First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff “ Now and Forever” Fund, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, or a charity of your choice.

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