



Genevieve Harris

January 8, 1927 - February 12, 2024

Genevieve Newsom Harris, age 97, passed away peacefully on February 12, 2024, at her farm home in Hazlehurst, MS. Mrs. Harris was born on January 8, 1927, near New Hebron, MS, at the farm home of her parents, John B and Myrtle Newsom. She was named “Jennivee;” however, one month later the spelling was legally changed to “Genevieve”. To her family, she was known as “Sis” or “Baby Sister.” She graduated as valedictorian from New Hebron High School. During her four years there as the 4-H Club president, she was so impressed by the 4-H leader that she decided to become a “Home Demonstration Agent.” She then earned a degree from Mississippi College for Women in Extension Work and Home Economics. Always ready to learn about innovations in her field, she attended numerous training seminars during her 33-year career as a Copiah County Home Economist. Genevieve became a trailblazer for other Home Economists in Mississippi in getting support to be allowed to return to work after marriage, then again after her first child was born. This was during a time when that was not the norm.

Her first job after college was teaching high school Home Economics in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. There she reconnected with Julian Harris, whom she had met during a summer study program at Mississippi State College (now MSU). Genevieve tried not to miss an opportunity to gather with her extended family, which included 63 first cousins. Julian, an only child, quickly learned to love those occasions also. When their family time included water activities,

Genevieve enjoyed teaching her children, grandchildren, and other relatives how to swim, dive, and water ski.

Genevieve loved to travel. She visited all fifty states, many visited while attending the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Annual Conferences. Her last trip to this NEAFCS Conference was at age 92 for the purpose of her induction into the newly formed Hall of Fame. She rarely turned down an opportunity to plan and organize, accepting various offices within this professional association, including one year as National President. She also enjoyed international travel with friends and family, especially after retiring.

Genevieve was an active member of the Hazlehurst Methodist Church. She served as a sixth grade Sunday School teacher, where she also shared her piano skills, was a long-time member of the choir, was a member of the United Methodist Women, and served on a variety of committees. Through her career and personal life, she was a member of a variety of organizations, often serving in an office of leadership. Of note are the following: Gallatin Extension Homemaker Club (40+ years), Mississippi Forestry Association, and Baptist Senior Adult Choir. Interested in family history, she joined the following historical societies: Colonial Dames XVIIC (50+ years), DAR Cherokee Rose Chapter, First Mississippi Company, The Order of the First Families of Mississippi, The Jamestowne Society, and Copiah County Historical Society.

Genevieve was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Julian Harris; her parents John B Newsom and Myrtle A. Newsom; her siblings and their spouses, John B Newsom II (Mildred), James A. Newsom (Joyce), Peggy J. Rube (Bunks), Frank D. Newsom (Shirley), and Fred G. Newsom; her great-grandson, Joshua R. Harris.

Genevieve is survived by her children, Robert Hal Harris of Hazlehurst, Kirk

Newsom Harris (Debbie) of Houston, Texas, Julia Ruth Keywood (Bubba) of Douglasville, Georgia; her grandchildren Genny Keywood of Douglasville, Georgia, Joseph Keywood (Leslie-Ana) of Harvest, Alabama, Matthew Harris (Lisa) of Chula Vista, California, Michael Harris, of Crosby, Texas; great-grandchildren Alexander Harris and Savannah Harris of Chula Vista, California; sister-in-law Sylvia Newsom of New Hebron; 14 nieces and nephews; a host of cousins and friends; and her loving, caring, and protective “little dog,” Rosalie (Rosie).

Special thanks to Dr. Randy Hankins for his medical care and friendship and to the dedicated caregivers during this season of Genevieve’s life, especially to Carolyn Newsome and to Valerie Stringer.

All glory and praise to our Lord for blessing Genevieve with such a long and productive life helping others and serving Him.

Memorials may be sent to: Hazlehurst Methodist Church, PO Box 725, Hazlehurst, MS 39083 or Dale Shows Ministry, c/o Scotty Shows, 1900 Pleasant Run, Tupelo, MS 38801 (ministering in Jordan) Online giving <https://donorbox.org/the-shows-family>

Visitation will be 12:30pm-3pm Saturday at Hazlehurst Methodist Church. The service will be 3pm Saturday at Hazlehurst Methodist Church with burial at Hazlehurst Cemetery. Stringer Family Funeral Home in Hazlehurst is handling arrangements.

The funeral service will be livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/HazlehurstMethodist>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Hazlehurst Methodist Church
127 Caldwell Dr
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1709

Funeral Service

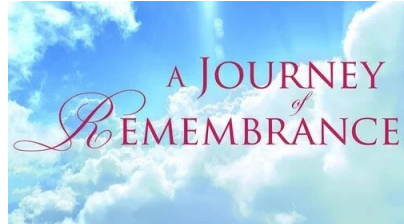
FEB 17. 3:00 PM (CT)

Hazlehurst Methodist Church
127 Caldwell Dr
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1709

Tribute Wall



“ *Stringer Family Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Genevieve Harris*



Stringer Family Funeral Service - February 16, 2024 at 11:40 AM

CH



Christi - February 17, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *219 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Stringer Family Funeral Service - February 16, 2024 at 10:30 AM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stringer Family Funeral Service - February 15, 2024 at 04:05 PM



“ *Your Sunday School Class purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Genevieve Harris.*



Your Sunday School Class - February 15, 2024 at 03:59 PM



“ *We were next door neighbors for almost 20 years
She was always pleasant and nice to me as was her husband. I will miss her
Ann (Bass) Wert*

Ann lewis wert - February 15, 2024 at 12:42 PM



“ *Connie & Christina purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Genevieve Harris.*



Connie & Christina - February 15, 2024 at 11:35 AM

CC

“ Connie & Christina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Genevieve Harris.

Connie & Christina - February 15, 2024 at 11:35 AM

AF

“ Alvarez Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Genevieve Harris.



Alvarez Family - February 15, 2024 at 09:04 AM

AF

“ Alvarez Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Genevieve Harris.

Alvarez Family - February 15, 2024 at 09:04 AM

BM

“ *To the Harris Family
I was saddened to learn of the passing of Genevieve. I knew her through our mutual membership of the National Association of Extension Home Economists, later renamed National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.*



She had been an inspirational President and encouraged me to also seek that office, which I did, with her support. She was always interested in what the Home Economists were doing in Alaska (where I worked at the time) and would always ask when we met at national conferences.

I will remember Genevieve as a kind woman, professional in every way, and so supportive of our younger members, as well as carrying such a strong belief in the work of Extension Home Economists for what they could do to improve family life, particularly in rural areas.

I extend my condolences to you all for the loss of a lovely lady. May she rest in peace.

*Barbara Miller Maidment
Cowaramup, Western Australia*

Barbara Maidment - February 15, 2024 at 05:33 AM

WT

“ *Wayne and Roxanne Tiner purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Genevieve Harris.*



Wayne and Roxanne Tiner - February 14, 2024 at 03:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Genevieve Harris.*



February 14, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ *Lynn Kersh and Frank & Shannon Newsom planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Genevieve Harris.*

Lynn Kersh and Frank & Shannon Newsom - February 14, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ *Joan Powell & Juli Muchnick purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Genevieve Harris.*



Joan Powell & Juli Muchnick - February 13, 2024 at 09:07 PM



“ *Always enjoyed seeing Genevieve at the National Extension meeting. I think the last time I saw her may have been in Hershey, PA.*

Martha Ray Sartor - February 13, 2024 at 05:49 PM



“ *Cindy Monk lit a candle in memory of Genevieve Harris*



Cindy Monk - February 12, 2024 at 09:43 PM



“ *John 14.....Love and Prayers*

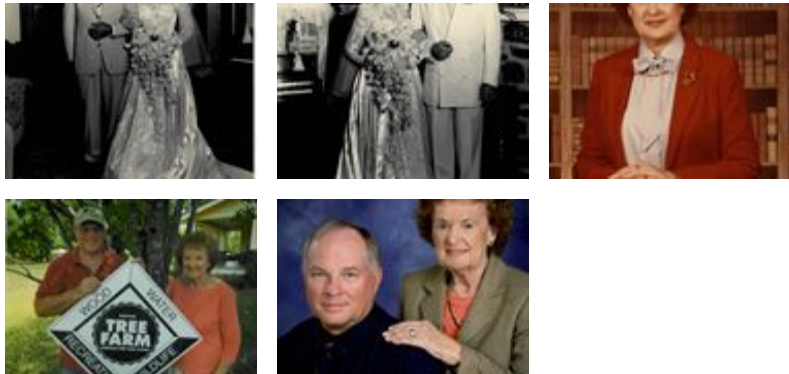
*Sandra Cliburn
Freddie Cliburn*



Sandra Cliburn - February 12, 2024 at 06:05 PM



“ *10 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Stringer Family Funeral Service - February 12, 2024 at 04:52 PM