



Mr. Bernard Harris

November 15, 1923 - July 23, 2013

Bernard Harris died July 23, just three months shy of his ninetieth birthday. He spent his career as a psychologist and the Western Regional Director of TEACCH, a program helping people with autism and their families. In 1983, he retired from TEACCH to devote himself full-time to private practice. He became a highly regarded therapist in both Western North Carolina and the state as a whole, receiving both the William Bruce Award and the North Carolina Psychological Association's Mary Clarke Award.

Bernie was the first of his family to complete college, ultimately receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He was a passionate liberal and fierce defender of the rights of Jews, women, blacks, homosexuals, and the transgendered. In 1945, as a student at Northern Illinois State Teachers College, he circulated a successful petition demanding that a bar owner integrate his bar, an accomplishment he achieved a full decade before the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s. Until his very last days, he decried the attempts of politicians to cut the social services to which he had devoted his life and career.

Among his three surviving children's earliest memories was his spirited piano playing, a pastime he pursued until only days before his death. He is also remembered for his talent for gentle self-mockery as well as for his devotion to his wife, a former nun, whose photograph in full habit he kept in his wallet and

delighted in showing to strangers when they inquired about his family.

Bernie led a full and happy life. He is preceded in death by his parents Abraham Ely Harris and Sarah Flaxman, as well as his brother Phillip and sister Edith. He is survived by his much-adored wife, Anne Burns Harris, his three children, Lee, Lynn, and Daniel, his nephew Art Eisenberg, his loving in-laws, and their children, to say nothing of countless, unfailingly loyal friends, acquaintances, and clients.

A memorial service will be held, 11:00 AM, Monday August 5, 2013 at Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Bernard Harris*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. The Bible provides comfort during these difficult times. Revelation 21:3,4 states "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away". Very soon now, we will never experience losing our loved ones in death. Hope these words give you a new hope.*

Ana - August 18, 2013 at 03:36 PM



“ *Lee,
We are saddened to learn of Bernie's passing. Our deepest sympathies to you and other members of your family.
Carol and Jeff Kimball*

Carol & Jeff Kimball - July 27, 2013 at 06:50 PM



*Ann,
I am saddened at your loss of Bernie. What a gift he was to you and the world around him! My prayers are with you that God's shalom will be strong with you. Sorry I could not make it to the service. I'm sure it was beautiful.
Grace and peace,
Robert Randolph*

Robert Randolph - August 06, 2013 at 09:53 AM