



James Witmer Harris

November 7, 1944 - October 21, 2025

Mineral Point - James Witmer Harris, age 80, of Mineral Point, WI, passed away unexpectedly, surrounded by his family, on October 21, 2025.

Jim, born on November 7, 1944, was the son of Parmley and Jean Harris and a proud, 4th generation Mineral Pointer. He grew up on the family farm, helping with the Guernsey Dairy, Berkshire swine, Shropshire sheep, Aberdeen Angus cattle and beloved Morgan Horses. He became an athlete in early childhood, when his older sisters, Bonnie and Pamela, secured green grass under his cap and had him run in front of their ponies so they could race them across the pasture.

Following graduation from Mineral Point High School in 1962, he enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. That fall he enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant, advancing through the ranks to Captain. His duty was a SAC Titan II ICBM Weapon System Missile Combat Crew Commander in the 571st Strategic Missile Squadron at Tucson, Arizona during the Vietnam War. After serving his country he continued with six years in the Active Reserve as a liaison officer for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Tucson is where he met his sweetheart and wife of 55 years, Beverly Marks, a coed at the University of Arizona, and the daughter of an Arizona ranching

family. While completing his Air Force career, Jim obtained a Master's Degree of Public Administration through the University of Oklahoma. He returned to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a Juris Doctor of Law degree.

Jim and Bev moved back to Mineral Point in 1974, where he opened a private practice, later joining Bob Jackson in Dodgeville. In his twenty plus years of private practice in Iowa County there was hardly a local institution or family that he did not serve. Jim was involved with the construction of the Mineral Point Medical Center, the Dodgeville Memorial Hospital, served as City Attorney, and helped families and individuals through many difficult situations. Jim was also an Iowa County Court Commissioner and married dozens of couples in the area, his favorite being the Wal-Mart wedding which was covered on local news. In 1986, Bev and Jim purchased The Wilson House Inn Bed & Breakfast, which they ran for a decade, in addition to their careers as a teacher and lawyer. Prior to retirement, Jim served as a prosecutor for the State of Wisconsin in the Department of Licensing and Regulations, then at the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

Jim and Bev are the proud parents of Heather (Greg Wilson), Will (Iza Ferreira), and Katie (Michael Kirby). They have welcomed six grandchildren, Lilly, Viola, Henry, Evelyn, James, and Georgia Elaine. Jim loved to tease and joke with the littles.

Jim was an active community member, participating in Shake Rag Players, the Lions Club, the American Legion Post 170, The Cornish Society, Hope Lutheran Church Counsel, The Mineral Point Historical Society, the Mineral Point Railroad Depot restoration and Arts Mineral Point. He was a Member of the Morgan Horse Club, the Wisconsin Horse Council and a Past President of the Wisconsin Horse Foundation.

His early love of music led him to be a member of the UW Marching Band,

where he marched in the Rose Bowl Parade, as well as The Air Force Band. Locally, he participated in the Mineral Point City Band, Scenic Sounds, Mount Horeb Chorale and the Mineral Point Christmas Madrigal. He organized and led the Chough Singers, an a cappella choir dedicated to singing the songs of Cornwall, England, and recently led singing at Hope Lutheran Church services.

Jim in his generosity toward others signified his willingness to be an organ donor. Two individual matches were found for ones in need and their families. Jim will always be remembered for his kind and giving heart, dry wit, playfulness, dedication to service, calm demeanor, sound advice, faith, and loyalty to family and friends.

A Celebration of Life for Jim will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 12:30 PM at the HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Mineral Point. Pastor Kate Kieckhafer will officiate. Military Graveside Services will be held at Graceland Cemetery at 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 1, 2025. A Visitation will be held on Saturday from 10:00 AM until 12:10 PM followed by the Funeral Service at 12:30 PM at the church.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

800 Fair Street
Mineral Point, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 10:00 AM - 12:10 PM (CT)

Hope Lutheran Church
555 Commerce St
Mineral Point, WI 53565-1067
(608) 987-3500

Celebration of Life

NOV 1. 12:30 PM (CT)

Hope Lutheran Church
555 Commerce St
Mineral Point, WI 53565-1067
(608) 987-3500

Tribute Wall

MO

“ Mauricio O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

Mauricio O. - October 31, 2025 at 02:42 PM

SP

“ Sherry, Micky, Tee, Nadia, Mary & Pam purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Sherry, Micky, Tee, Nadia, Mary & Pam - October 31, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of James Witmer Harris.



October 30, 2025 at 07:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Witmer Harris.



October 29, 2025 at 10:10 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of James Witmer Harris.*



October 28, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sharing your sorrow in your loss of Jim. He will be missed by many in our community as well. Hold your good memories of him to help you heal. Rosalie May*

Rosalie May - October 28, 2025 at 08:28 AM



“ *Williams & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.*

Williams & Family - October 27, 2025 at 06:06 PM



“ *Williams & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Witmer Harris.*



Williams & Family - October 27, 2025 at 06:06 PM

IA

“ Iowa County Bar Association purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Iowa County Bar Association - October 27, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Witmer Harris.



October 27, 2025 at 11:57 AM

TT

“ The WCCN Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Witmer Harris.



The WCCN Team - October 27, 2025 at 11:25 AM

FA

“ Frank A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

Frank A. - October 27, 2025 at 11:14 AM

EA

“ Ervin A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

Ervin A. - October 27, 2025 at 06:46 AM

GR

“ I have never met a kinder man than Jim who was a major part of all I have done for more than 40 years. I can only speak selfishly about the role the entire Harris family has played in my life which has helped me learn that the highest expression of love is friendship. We mourn our loss but accept our responsibility to live the life we have been shown how to live by Jim, our friend.

Glen Ridnour - October 26, 2025 at 10:56 AM

AA

“ Meus sinceros sentimentos caros amigos queridos. Que Deus conforte seus corações?

Alexandre Braga Aoun - October 26, 2025 at 05:27 AM

MF

“ Margaret F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

Margaret F. - October 25, 2025 at 02:43 PM

DT

“ My sympathy to the Harris family. May he Rest in Peace.



Donna Toay - October 25, 2025 at 08:56 AM

LX

“ Love from Pius and Clare and family xxxx planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

Love from Pius and Clare and family xxxx - October 25, 2025 at 05:23 AM

LX

“ Love from Pius and Clare and family xxxx purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Love from Pius and Clare and family xxxx - October 25, 2025 at 05:23 AM

RF

“ Robert Feind Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

Robert Feind Family - October 25, 2025 at 12:41 AM

RF

“ Robert Feind Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Robert Feind Family - October 25, 2025 at 12:41 AM

DH

“ David and Claudette Haynes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

David and Claudette Haynes - October 24, 2025 at 10:44 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Witmer Harris.



October 24, 2025 at 10:44 PM

VF

“ Vicki Callicotte & Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Vicki Callicotte & Family - October 24, 2025 at 08:26 PM

R(

“ Ray and Ashley Calderon (McHugh) purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Ray and Ashley Calderon (McHugh) - October 24, 2025 at 08:07 PM

TB

“ The Callicottes and Belmons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Witmer Harris.

The Callicottes and Belmons - October 24, 2025 at 07:36 PM

TB

“ The Callicottes and Belmons purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Witmer Harris.



The Callicottes and Belmons - October 24, 2025 at 07:36 PM

DV

“ Debra V. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Witmer Harris.



Debra V. - October 24, 2025 at 07:25 PM

RO

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Harris family.

Rob & Vicky Orth

Rob & Vicky Orth - October 24, 2025 at 05:02 PM

EC

I knew Jim only through his love of Morgan horses, but the way he handled his hobby said volumes about him. We would rendezvous in April each year at the annual Midwest Horse Fair, helping put up and staff the Morgan Horse Club's booth. From that "duty" I saw his skill at handling decisions, people, and logistics - all with wisdom, kindness, intelligence, and humor. Every year, it was a joy to cross paths with him in Madison on those (often) chilly days in a concrete exhibition Hall teeming with people, horses, equipment, loudspeakers, and chaos. He was unflappable, cheerful, hard working, with a knack for bringing people together AND getting a job done. Wisconsin has lost a treasure.

Eleanor W. Chiquoine - October 31, 2025 at 11:32 AM

BH

Rest in peace, Jimmy

Bill Heins - November 02, 2025 at 04:44 PM