

*Celebrating the Life of*



*John Roy Harris*

Sunrise  
December 16, 1941

Sunset  
June 24, 2022

Tuesday, July 5th, 2022 - 11am

**St. Matthew AME Church**

336 Oakwood Avenue • New Jersey, NJ 07050

# Obituary

On Friday, June 24, 2022, John R. Harris, Sr. of Orange, New Jersey, passed away. He was 80 years old.

John was born in Nansemond County, Virginia, on December 16, 1941, to the late Luke J. Harris, Sr., and Harriet Bagley Harris. He moved to Newark, New Jersey as a teenager and graduated from Central High School in 1960. After graduating from high school, John continued his education at Lincoln Technical Institute, receiving certificates in Auto Mechanics and Automatic Transmission. John was drafted into the United States Army in 1964, during the Vietnam conflict. He spent his military time in an artillery unit stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky. John spent two years in the United States Army and continued to serve in the United States Army Reserves until 1970, when he was honorably discharged.

John married Richardean Bryant in 1968, and three children were born from this union.

John began a career with New Jersey Transit as a bus driver, but he always wanted to be a fulltime auto mechanic. After working for New Jersey Transit for 13 years, he stepped out on faith and started his own business, "John's Auto Service." John worked for many years doing what he loved, repairing cars. Following the closure of his business, he worked for his brother Luke in Dover, Delaware, before officially retiring in 2004. Following his retirement from auto mechanics, John moved back to Orange, New Jersey, and joined St. Matthew AME Church. He participated in many ministries, but his favorite was the Saturday Men's Bible Study. Also, through St. Matthew, John volunteered most of his time as a mentor to the students at Oakwood Avenue School, where his daughter served as the school principal. He enjoyed sharing with young people his life story and how their decisions will impact their future.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his wife Richardean Harris, his sister Clara Boone and his brothers Luke Jr and Randy Harris.

John was a husband, a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. He leaves to cherish his memory his children, sons John Harris, Jr. (Ashley) Thoron Harris and daughter Kalisha "Tina" (Gregory) Morgan; sisters Mary Best and Dorothy Harris; and brother Wesley Harris; five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one aunt and host of nieces, nephews, cousins and the former staff and students at Oakwood Avenue School.

# Order of Service

COVID-19 seating and distancing protocols are in place. Masks are required. The Service can be viewed on the church's website, [www.stmatthewame.org](http://www.stmatthewame.org), and the church's Facebook page, @stmatthewamechurch.

**The Public Viewing** ..... 10:00 am - 10:59 am

**The Call to Worship** ..... Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

**The Song of Comfort**..... The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

**The Prayer of Comfort** ..... Rev. Natasha Rouse

**The Reading of the Holy Scripture**.....Old Testament (Psalm 23)  
New Testament (John 14:1-6)

**The Selection**..... Minister Steve Hill

## **The Church Resolution**

**Family Remarks** ..... Sis Kalisha Morgan

**The Obituary** ..... Read Silently

**The Selection**..... Minister Steve Hill

**The Eulogy** ..... Rev. Diana Ortiz Bracy, Pastor  
Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church , Washington, NJ

## **The Recessional**

<p><b>Internment</b> Glendale Cemetery 28 Hoover Avenue Bloomfield, New Jersey</p>
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# *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for  
me.

I took his hand when I heard his call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of  
the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My Life's been full, I savoured much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's  
touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of  
kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.  
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

