



## Charles William "Bill" Harrison, Sr.

October 2, 1930 - May 5, 2016

Charles William (Bill) Harrison Sr was born October 2, 1930 and woke up with a big smile to see many of his family in heaven on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

Bill lived most of his life in the Lindsay area. He attended Lindsay School, Kemper Military Academy, University of Oklahoma and received a BS in Agronomy from Oklahoma A&M in 1955. While at Oklahoma A&M Bill was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and sports reporter for the Daily O'Collegian newspaper.

After college, Bill served in the US Air Force as a 1st Lieutenant serving at Carswell Air Force Base and in Japan during the Korean War.

Following his military service, Bill was a businessman, rancher and engaged in gypsum mining operations. In 1962, he assumed ownership of Harrison Gypsum Company and served on the board of Allied Custom Gypsum, a sister company. In addition, Bill has owned Harrison ranch since 1962 and was CEO of Harrison Investments since 1991.

Bill was a member and trustee of the Lindsay United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Bill overcame adversity on many levels: at an early age he overcame a severe bone disease; suffered from ruptured spleen when a horse fell on him; had a disfiguring automobile accident; overcame severe

economic loss in the early 80's; severed knee tendons that should have crippled him.

51% success in life may have been his goal, but 100% participation was his mantra. When Bill was in, he was fully committed. He had three primary loves: his family, his community and OSU. He and his beloved Betty Ann were blessed with four sons. He rarely missed an event where a child or grandchild participated. Even though he hated music, he loved every dance and music recital they were in. He attended countless cheer competitions, livestock shows and sports events. As the number of his grandchildren grew to nineteen, he was busy day and night. After Betty Ann's death, he married his beautiful Claudean and added two more children (boys, of course) and a grandson. Their activities and graduations and events were folded into Bill's life easily and happily.

Bill's love for his community was evident in the many, many roles he played. He was a life member of the Lindsay Historical Society and Lindsay Civic Arts council. He was a twenty-one year member of the Lindsay Board of Education and trustee of the Lindsay school Foundation. Bill was also a former president of the Lindsay Rotary Club, a member of the Lindsay City Council and Chairman of its United Way. If it was an event for the schools or the community, you could count on Bill for his full support.

Bill loved God and his denomination was Methodist but his religion was Oklahoma State football. His presence was always noted at OSU fall football games and attended basketball games every chance he got. Bill was a member of the OSU Foundation Board of Governors,

a Lifetime member and Leadership Council Executive Committee of the OSU Alumni Association. His proudest moment was when he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni by the OSU Alumni Association in 2010.

Bill married Betty Ann Frey on June 2, 1951. They were blessed with four sons: Russ, Robert, David and John. She passed away March 12, 1990.

Children: Russ Harrison and wife Natalie Shirley: Zi, Charlotte, Chase, Ross, Kendall and Katie.

Robert Harrison and wife Pam: Tyler and wife Amelia/great grandson Liam; Anna Marie

David Harrison and wife Jan: Hannah and husband Chris Keepers; Emily, Autumn, Tabitha. Also Mark and Lacey.

John and wife Stephanie: Josiah, Elijah, Sarah and Mariah.

Married Claudean Johnson Hurley in 1992 and added two more men to the family:

John Hurley and Thomas Hurley and wife April: son Eric and wife Julie Aultz/great grandson Hudson.

Bill's parents, J. J. Harrison and Rose Bell Cantrell Harrison, his sister, Marguerite Thompson, and brother, James and wife, Mary Harrison preceded him in death.

Funeral services for Mr. Harrison are set for two o'clock p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the United Methodist Church, located at 114 W. Chickasaw St. in Lindsay, Oklahoma with Rev. Jacki Banks and Rev. Ron King officiating. Mr. Harrison was laid to rest in a private family service in Green Hill Cemetery in Lindsay, Oklahoma. Services are under the direction of B. G. Boydston Funeral Home of Lindsay, Oklahoma. Condolences may be made online at w

[www.boydstonfuneralhome.com](http://www.boydstonfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

TT

“ *Bill is one of the last of the last the leaders of our community. He will be missed*

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**Terry and Ann Thomas** - May 08, 2016 at 05:09 PM

LM

“ *Prayers of comfort going out to all the Harrison Family from the McCoy Family. RIP Bill*  
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**Leota McCoy** - May 06, 2016 at 06:49 PM

JW

“ *Harrison Family, I send condolences to my special friends and neighbors.*

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**Jo Ann Wilson** - May 06, 2016 at 11:04 AM

NM

“ *I always liked Bill. He would pick me up when I babysat for him and Betty Ann. I wasn't sure what he did work wise at that time but I knew he was so supportive of the Lindsay Schools and the United Methodist Church. We enjoyed a good visit every time I saw him in Lindsay. My condolences to all f the family!*

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**Neosha Watterman Mackey** - May 05, 2016 at 06:38 PM