



## Kay Frances Harris

June 27, 1942 - January 28, 2026

Kay F. Harris was born on June 27, 1942, in Berwind, West Virginia to Ocie and Sarah Bradford. She was the sixth child of eight children. Her early education took place in Berwind at Kerr Grade School. She went on to attend Excelsior High School, graduating in 1960. The Bradford family attended Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Berwind, where Kay was baptized at an early age.

While in high school, Kay was offered a scholarship to college but instead chose to strike out on her own, relocating to Chicago. After several years, her mother and three of her siblings joined her in Chicago.

It was in Chicago that she met her future husband, John G. Harris. They married on August 14, 1966, and remained devoted to each other until her death. In her own words, she described John as a blessing that God sent her. John and Kay raised two children together, Vincent and Chelsea. She was proud of every milestone and accomplishment these two made. A smile always graced her face when talking about her children.

Kay spent the majority of her career employed at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She worked there for over 30 years. She successfully completed the hospital's Core Management Program which led to her eventual promotion to a manager in the Pathology department.

Ever the learner, Kay took a variety of classes throughout her life, all with the goal of advancing her career. She received a certificate of achievement from Jones Commercial Evening School. She took classes at Cook County Hospital, with a focus on laboratory technology. She also took lunchtime classes offered by Northwestern University and classes at Kennedy King college in a variety of subjects.

Kay was a dedicated and faithful member at Parkway Garden Church. She served at Parkway Garden Church in a variety of positions. She worked as both an Usher and Secretary. After completing a Certificate of Completion in Deacon Training, she faithfully served as a Deacon until failing health caused her to no longer be able to attend services.

Kay faced each health challenge with steadfast resolve and dignity. On January 28, 2026, Kay peacefully transitioned from labor to reward when God called her home.

Kay is preceded in death by her parents, Ocie and Sarah Bradford, her beloved son, Vincent Brown and six of her siblings – Cleophus, Earnestine, Ocie Mae, Willis, Rocile and Jerry Lee.

Kay leaves to cherish her memory, her devoted husband, John Harris; her daughter Chelsea (Shawn) and daughter-in-law Kathy; her grandchildren Cherise (Ed) Easley, Kayla Brown, Jonathan Dervin and Cameron Dervin; great-grandchildren, Stephawn, Brooklyn and Lennix; sister Katherine Bradford; sister-in-laws: Emma Harris, Gracie Collins (Lozie), Mary Markham (Otho) and Carolyn Bowen; brother-in-laws Willis (Kathy) and Lawrence Harris, Jr. (Inez); lifelong friends Earlene Sharkey and John Burnett; best friend Sharon Tate; and neighbors turned friends Yvonne Jackson, Bessola Johnson and Ruth Watson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will forever hold her in their heart.

Kay's kindness, her generous spirit, and the wisdom she shared so freely touched every life she encountered. Her presence left a lasting imprint on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

# Cemetery Details

## Burr Oak Cemetery

4400 W 127th St  
Alsip, IL 60803

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

FEB 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home Landmark Chapel  
7030 S. Halsted  
Chicago, IL 60621

## Visitation

FEB 14. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center  
7046 S. Halsted  
Chicago, IL 60621

## Funeral Service

FEB 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center  
7046 S. Halsted  
Chicago, IL 60621

## Burial/Interment

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FEB **14**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Burr Oak Cemetery  
4400 W 127th St  
Alsip, IL 60803

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ *John.  
Our deepest condolences on the passing of your beautiful wife Kay to you and your family members.  
May she Rest In Peace on Angels Wings  
Cliff and Maureen Baerlin*

Clifford Baerlin - February 14 at 04:40 PM

RF

“ *Richard (Shirley) McCain and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kay Frances Harris.*



Richard (Shirley) McCain and Family - February 11 at 02:47 PM

RM

“ *John and Family, may God bless and keep you! Shirley and I always enjoyed the time that we spent together although it was certainly not often enough. I am sorry that I cannot be with you. Kay was a blessing to many and I know that God will comfort and sustain you. Love Richard (Shirley) McCain and Family*

RICHARD MCCAIN - February 11 at 02:38 PM

DE

“ *kay harris was a members of parkway gardens christian church a deacan was a good members the family of kay harris we will be in praying for your in time of need your in christ Damian Ellis &family*

Damian N Ellis - February 07 at 12:27 AM

LF

“ *Love, Cousin Erma Jean Boykin & family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kay Frances Harris.*



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**Love, Cousin Erma Jean Boykin & family** - February 05 at  
01:28 PM