



## Jay Arthur Harris

April 22, 1941 - November 29, 2024

Jay Arthur Harris

Born on April 22, 1941, The Shepard called Jay on November 29, 2024.

Jay will be seen again by his wife Susan, daughter Jennifer, her husband Jeff, and their daughter Julia, Jay's granddaughter. Jay will also be missed by his only brother Daun, wife Joan as well as his cousins from across the pond, Tony and Roger Langford.

Jay was born and raised in Chester, a small town near Sioux Falls, SD where he attended school and earned his high school diploma.

Jay confirmed his faith in Jesus Christ in his early 20s by a truly beloved religious leader and life coach, David L. Gillespie.

After graduating from high school, he attended the state college in Madison, SD which failed to suit his preferences, one of his college professors assisted in his transfer to Stout University, a place that Jay both enjoyed and respected. It was there that he first met his soulmate. Interestingly, years later after traveling to Michigan, Sue rejected Jay's early attempts at a relationship. Jay relocated to Michigan and continued to write to Susan. After determining that Chrysler Corporation was not for him, Jay began his career working for a gentleman named Dr. Ray Hine. Dr. Hine's business specialized in building churches and before long Jay helped to fix some of the problems in that business.

In was near that time, after being courted over three years that Susan stopped

thwarting Jay's proposals and gave him her hand in marriage.

Not long afterward Jay put his carpenter, wood working and fixing (of all things) skills to task when he formed his own corporation. He was intent on giving it a go within his own business. Jay actively purchased refurbished and rented literally dozens of homes to those that were in need. Some of his earnings were off the back of Robert Doutre, one of his former students that he mentored throughout his life. Additional earnings were off the back of his daughter, Jennifer, who at a tender age was truly a skilled laborer. Jay glowed in the knowledge of her abilities and bragged that he had broken every child-labor law that ever was codified.

They ultimately moved to Wayne, MI and spent many happy years with that community before making Plymouth, MI their home.

Jay provided quality influence in many other young lives through his decade-long volunteering for People-to-People Student Ambassadors. While doing so he guided children as they gained firsthand knowledge of different cultures from Russia to Australia.

Throughout Jay's life he stayed close to the Lord and led others to the Lord. He did this by financial and other support of a least a half dozen missionaries over fifty-six years. He taught boys Sunday school, was an elder, and a member of the choir. More recently he was an active member in many bible studies. Finally, Jay provides financial support to Christian media and sees that people in Israel know that others support them in their struggles.

Jay gained many close friends through volunteering at the Model T Garage at The Henry Ford Museum, where he imparted knowledge and gained just as much back from these friends.

Wow Dad you did a lot! Finally, he was also an active member of the John Harris Society in Southern England. He did have the great honor of being a past president of that society.

Jay: husband, father, father-in-law, Papa, brother, cousin and friend you will be missed.

Friends and family will gather for the Memorial Visitation on Thursday, December 19th starting at 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth.

In lieu of flowers please donate to [bsfinternational.org](http://bsfinternational.org) select give now or by check at the memorial service. Of course you can also give to a charity of your choice. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bible Study Fellowship, PO Box 675241, Dallas, TX 75267-5241.

To share a message with the family, please use the Share a Memory tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

DEC 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

## Memorial Service

DEC 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jay Arthur Harris*



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**Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home** - December 04, 2024 at 03:01 PM

RD

*Jay and I started as a teacher student relation, that soon turned into a friendship that has lasted 54 years. We had many good times together; our families are more like family than friends. Debbie and I were able to spend many Christmas and New Years days together with you and Susan, lots of dinners out and many trips to Greenfield Village and many, many other outings he was always there for anything that our Children had going on. Also hunting with Jay was always a great time. I won't forget those times. Jay was always just a phone call away. I will miss that. I'll miss you buddy, Rob*

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**Robert Doutre** - December 05, 2024 at 03:51 PM

AP

“ *So sorry for your loss Susan. Jay was a great man had great humour and we will miss him dearly God bless. Andy and Val*

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**Andy Parker** - April 30, 2025 at 04:11 PM

ES

“ I met Jay and Sue through my friend, Fran Nicol, who was from Michigan and was a missionary in Mexico. Jay (along with Sue) was a faithful friend and supported me throughout the many years that I have been on the staff of a Bible college on the Mexican border, Rio Grande Bible Ministries. He loved to talk about spiritual things and called every once in a while to chat, ask how things were going here at the Bible college, and then to share something he was studying in God's Word. I will miss him and am praying for Sue and their daughter. I know they miss him. He was "one of a kind!"

Enid Sanford - December 19, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Jay Arthur Harris.



December 19, 2024 at 09:46 AM

GM

“ I knew Jay through the Antique Vehicle Garage at Greenfield Village where he volunteered for many years. He was always cheerful, ready and willing to pitch in on anything, and to share his knowledge. It was a pleasure to hear him speak about his experiences and share his insights. He was, and will remain, one of the greatest people I have ever known. Rest in eternal peace, my friend.

Gordon Michael - December 15, 2024 at 07:50 AM

CR

“ *That is sad news.*

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**Charlie Roebuck** - December 12, 2024 at 10:57 AM

RD

“ *Jay and I started as a teacher student relation, that soon turned into a friendship that has lasted 54 years. We had many good times together; our families are more like family than friends. Debbie and I were able to spend many Christmas and New Years days together with you and Susan, lots of dinners out and many trips to Greenfield Village and many, many other outings he was always there for anything that our Children had going on. Also hunting with Jay was always a great time. I won't forget those times. Jay was always just a phone call away. I will miss that. I'll miss you buddy, Rob*

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**Robert Doutre** - December 10, 2024 at 09:46 AM

BM

“ *I first met Jay when I was invited to attend a Wednesday Bible study at the Harris house. Jay had very strong opinions and an equally strong faith. He and Susan embraced me and were very warm and welcoming. One of the things I remember most is his stories. He spoke of his travels and work experiences; he especially loved to talk about his time as a Bible teacher to teenage boys. He always got a twinkle in his eyes when recounting the time he changed the curriculum to make it more challenging, and how his students responded. He delighted to bring students to Christ during his time as a teacher. He was always reading Christian theology and was quite learned. He always talked about Christ's returning soon. He's now with the Lord he loved so much in life. Those of us who remain will miss him dearly. Bette Matsen*

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**Bette Matsen** - December 07, 2024 at 11:08 PM

AC

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my cousin, Jay. We are distant cousins, and did not even know of each other. However upon meeting him later in life, I learned we had great connections! I am saddened to think I have not been able to spend enough time with this man. He and his wife were lovely to my husband, Rick and I, when we came and visited them in their home. I was so impressed with his passion for life... and about a hundred other things! I remember I came home and talked about him to all of my friends. I had just met the most remarkable human being, and a family member, at that! Dear Jay, I will miss you, I hope to sit at a great table in heaven next to you and finish all of the conversations we were meant to have. All my best to you Susan and Jennifer. Ann Harris Covert

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**Ann Covert** - December 07, 2024 at 12:00 PM

PG

“ My memories of Jay will always be the best, he always had the good word from the Lord and shared it with pleasure. Looking forward to seeing you on the other side. The angels in heaven are celebrating your life and we will be too! ~ Paul from McDonalds

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**paul garon** - December 04, 2024 at 11:14 PM

GB

“ 4 files added to the album Jay Harris



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**Gregory Barber** - December 04, 2024 at 06:55 PM

GB

“ *Our whole family benefited in many, many ways from the kindness and generosity of Jay. The stories are countless, beginning with education for myself and our boys and always, always drawing us closer to God, as He is the true source of light in the world. God bless you in your new home Jay!!  
Love Always the Barber Family*

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**GREGORY BARBER** - December 04, 2024 at 06:40 PM