



## Robert Leonard Harris

February 21, 1938 - January 15, 2022

Robert Leonard Harris was born in Miami, Florida, February 21, 1938, to the late Robert and Ruth Gensler Harris. During World War-2 he and the family traveled to Denver, Colorado and Pyote, Texas to be with the elder Robert who was in the Army Air Corps. Upon returning to Miami, he attended local schools graduating with the mighty class of 1955 from Miami Edison High School. While in high school he began to work at The Miami Herald as a printer under the then DCT program. After graduation he remained with the Herald working in two years of college. In the late 1960s he saw that hot type printing was a dying trade and went to work as a City Letter Carrier for the U.S. Post office. Riding trains in the 1940s had turned him into a fan of railroads. In this time frame he traveled over the southeastern US to find operating steam locomotives and short line railroads. As a member of the Gold Coast Railroad Museum, then in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida he qualified as a steam locomotive engineer and ran the locomotive in a museum setting on the weekends. In 1979 all this came to an end. On January 19, 1979, he married Eileen Fitzgerald Labarga, she brought her twins, Teresa and Stephen into the household. In 1980 the union produced Robert Leonard Harris. Jr and seventeen months later Amy Louise Harris. Robert continued with the USPS until 1998 when he retired with a disability. He and Eileen moved from Miami to Crawfordville in early 2017 to be near a family member because of health issues.

Robert was attracted to the Roman Catholic Church and was active in Our

Lady of Lourdes in Miami and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Crawfordville. He was also a life member in the National Model Railroad Association, holding several offices in the Sunshine Region. He was a proud member of the National Association of Letter Carriers for 50 years. He was a member of many railroad related organizations, the most important to him being The Friends of The East Broad Top, a Pennsylvania narrow gauge railroad. Robert is survived by his wife, Eileen Fitzgerald Harris, stepchildren, Teresa Labarga-Borg, of Queens, New York City and Stephen J. Labarga of Eustis Florida, son, Robert Leonard Harris, Jr. Of Gwinnett County, Georgia and daughter, Amy Louise Harris of Crawfordville. There are eleven beloved grandchildren.

# Cemetery Details

## St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery

3609 Coastal Highway  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JAN 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
3609 Coastal Highway  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

# Tribute Wall

WH

“ first of all im so sorry for your loss Eileen, the Harris clan is that much less without him. i am going to miss our banter over the president and similar discussions...



william n harris - January 24, 2022 at 06:42 PM

DS

“ Eileen, Amy, & family I was so very blessed to meet Friday, 1/21/22. my heartfelt sympathy....i'm so sorry. A gorgeous and loving family. i remember when Robert and Eileen started coming to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Talked to Robert a few times at the Rummage Sales at church....he was looking at pics of trains...i shared i grew up in Miami 3 blocks from Amtrak train, & my husbands extreme knowledge of trains & having many since collecting when he was a boy. It was so great our conversation. I saw how much Robert Loved being in our Lords house,....and Eileen's singing, special ....great and wonderful family. We had a few things in common mostly being born in Miami....excaping that craziness by His Graces..... Thinking of everyone. God watch and protect everyone and now Robert is closer than ever.  
Bevis Funeral Home, David, Kim, Dana....i'm sorry i didnt get to meet everyone....  
Ya'll are so sweet and caring...and your compassion for this precious family, professionalism and overall love for every detail.... ya'll are so very gracious. you could see the smile on Roberts face...thankful for all your tender loving care to his family.  
God Bless.  
Diana Sellers

diana ann sellers - January 23, 2022 at 09:50 AM

JS

“ I met Robert at an EBT Winter Spectacular years ago. Lots of snow on the ground, and -5 at Colgate Grove. Two broad gauge bottoms "squozen" into a narrow gauge coach seat in #8. We laughed and laughed. and were friends ever since, tho' I seldom got to see him. God bless such a nice man and EBT fan!! My deepest sympathies to his family.

---

**john snyder** - January 20, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Leonard Harris.



---

January 20, 2022 at 12:50 PM

CB

“ Receive my condolences. He was noble and kind man dedicated to the Lord.. God have him in his glory, rest in peace. Amen.  
Sincerely,  
Carmen Banda

---

**Carmen Banda** - January 20, 2022 at 12:29 PM

NJ

“ *Our deepest condolences.  
Such a gentleman, a sweet smile, a humble server of God with a  
strong voice to proclaim His Word.  
He loved Eileen and his kids.  
I bet they laughed a lot!*

*Naidy and Jose  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Miami.*

---

**Naidy and Jose** - January 20, 2022 at 11:49 AM

TF

“ *The Deichler, Elliott & Gardner Families  
purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of  
Robert Leonard Harris.*



---

**The Deichler, Elliott & Gardner Families** - January 20, 2022 at  
11:21 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the  
family of Robert Leonard Harris.*



---

January 20, 2022 at 10:16 AM

EF

“ Our condolences to Fitzie (Eileen to everyone else) and the Harris family. We are sad for Bob's passing, and salute such a wonderful man, husband, father and grandfather. May you be at peace! We heard many stories from Fitzie about Bob and know that he was an incredible person. We got to meet once, but his reputation preceded him! So glad that our friend had such a wonderful partner in life!

Estelle Ford-Williamson - January 19, 2022 at 09:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Leonard Harris.



January 19, 2022 at 04:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Leonard Harris.



January 19, 2022 at 02:19 PM

WK

“ I really enjoyed rail fanning with Bob. We worked together on the model railroad of the SFSME. He will be missed!  
Bill Koster

Wilfred Koster - January 19, 2022 at 08:36 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Leonard Harris.* ”



---

January 19, 2022 at 08:31 AM