



Shelley Odett Evans Harris

July 10, 1957 - April 21, 2026

Shelley Odett Evans Harris

Shelley Evans Harris, age 68, was born on July 10, 1957, in Wilmington, Delaware, to the late John S. Evans and Delores E. Birthwright. She was raised and nurtured by her uncle, Charles H. Evans and aunt, Dorothy C. Evans. Shelley transitioned from this life on April 21, 2026.

Shelley received her early education in the Wilmington Public School System and graduated from Howard High School in 1975 as the class valedictorian. In high school, Shelley served as the class secretary, ran track, played the clarinet, and was a member of the band. She was also a math, music, and social studies honor student. Upon graduating from high school, she attended Delaware State College (now Delaware State University), where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, class of 1979. During college, Shelley was a member of the Gospel Choir and marching band. She attended Delaware Technical and Community College Wilmington (now George Campus), where she received a certificate in clerical studies.

Shelley was united in holy matrimony to the love of her life, Harvey G. Harris, on September 27, 1986. Together, they developed an exceptionally strong bond of love and care, which was evident to everyone they knew. Shelley was overjoyed with the birth of her pride and joy, their daughter, Sierrah A. Harris.

Shelley proudly shared the accomplishments of her daughter with anyone who would listen. She enjoyed planning extravagant events to celebrate her daughter's accomplishments, including her dance recital receptions, walk-a-thon competitions, and high school graduation party.

Shelley was employed by the Department of Veteran Affairs for over 30 years, Christiana Care Health System, and the Wilmington Public Library security department.

Shelley attended Mother U.A.M.E Church and St. Paul U.A.M.E Church in Wilmington, Delaware. She has always been supportive of her family church, Union A.M.E Zion Church in New Castle, Delaware. Throughout the years, she attended and supported Union Wesley U.M. Church in Frankford, Delaware (Clarksville). She and her family regularly attended the annual Union Wesley Camp Meeting.

Shelley loved to sing. She was given the nicknames "songbird" and "Shirley Caesar". She formed several choirs, including The Richardson Gospel Singers and A Portion of Unity Family Gospel Choir. Later, Shelley would go on to become a member of The Delaware Glory Boyz, where she continued to use her God-given gift of singing and developed a spiritual family with the members of the group.

Shelley enjoyed family gatherings and good cooking, especially Aunt Dot's baked beans, potato salad, fried chicken, and other specialty dishes that were brought to family gatherings. She enjoyed reminiscing about cherished memories growing up on 14th Street. She was known for gifting a fruit basket for any celebratory or sentimental occasion. She enjoyed the fun and fellowship of attending Delaware State University's homecoming with her cousins and friends. Shelley was known for her infectious voice and laughter. She was instrumental in organizing religious and social bus trips. Shelley was

always willing to lend a helping hand to others. She willingly and unselfishly gave of her talents, treasures, and time to any and all who were in need. Spending time with her nieces and nephews was another one of her great joys.

Shelley was preceded in death by two brothers, Stephen A. Evans and Jerome S. Evans, and one sister Valarie A. Evans.

She leaves to cherish her memory, a devoted husband, Harvey G. Harris; daughter, Sierrah A. Harris; one brother, Thomas V. Evans; one sister, Rev. Jacqueline Evans-Wilson; one aunt, Phyllis J. Evans; one nephew, Ebon Morris; three nieces, Tamdea D. Smith, Alita R. Lee, Cassandra L. Smith-Cabrera (Linda); great-nephews and nieces Jahkeem Lockhart, Daysha Jackson, Adrianna Bolling, Alasia Slade, Astraya Hoskins, and Jaheem Gadsden; great-great nephews and nieces, Nori-Ava Lockhart, Zykeem Hoskins, Zamiyah Jackson, Jade Coverdale, Kendall Hawkins, Mason Gasby, and Matteo Rivera; a devoted friend, Carolyn Martin (Lewis); and a host of family, cousins and friends.

Though she will be deeply missed, her family finds solace in God's promise of eternal comfort and everlasting life. As it is written:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

- Psalm 23

“On the wing of a dove, I’ll take my flight way beyond the clouds until I shall meet my Savior face to face and receive my golden crown and slippers. Thank you, God, for strength when mine was gone, and Your peace and love to make it to my eternal home. Do not grieve for me, for I am in God’s loving care.”

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Cynthia Haile Hamlin lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris



Cynthia Haile Hamlin - May 26 at 12:07 AM

MS

“ Ms. Shelley was a beautiful woman of God. Her love and respect will always hold a special place in my heart. Rest in Peace, my Sister in Christ.



Mary Stanley - May 16 at 12:15 PM

LF

“ Love the Smith Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Shelley Odett Evans Harris.



Love the Smith Family - May 10 at 12:57 PM

CD

“ Cheryl Davis lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris



Cheryl Davis - May 09 at 09:01 PM

PD

“ Patricia L Diggs lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris



Patricia L Diggs - May 09 at 01:28 PM

ZF

“ Zoe A Fields lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris



Zoe A Fields - May 08 at 06:19 PM

JH

“ I was so saddened to hear of the passing of my friend. We were childhood friends from 11th street bridge. My Condolences to the family a special hug to her sister Jackie 🙏❤️



Jean M Howie - May 07 at 11:26 PM

PL

“ I worked at the Wilmington VA hospital with Shelley she was always nice and she always smiled.
My sincere condolences to the Evans family

Pat Lewis - May 05 at 12:15 PM

AG

“ *Annet Grier lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris*



Annet Grier - May 01 at 01:23 PM

PS

“ *Patsy Scott lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris*



Patsy Scott - May 01 at 01:14 AM

AG

Shelly had a kind heart with a sweet personality! She could sing anywhere and put a smile on your face..Thank you for being such a special part of my sister's life for so many years..from 1st grade to present! Friends for a lifetime comes few and far between...Sending Heartfelt Condolences especially to Sierras and Harvey and to the whole family may warm memories lighten your sorrows!! Annet Grier ..Carolyn Martin sister....

Annet Grier - May 01 at 01:38 PM

AG

Sending Heartfelt Condolences to the Family and may warm memories lighten your sorrows...From Annet Grier

Annet Grier - May 02 at 08:39 AM

MB

“ Very Very sad for the passing of my friend thru the beginning of high school and college together she was my heart no disrespect to her husband Harvey cause he is a dear friend of mine also, but the Evans family was always close to me the Tim I was there was a great inspiration to me as I learned how togetherness and lovable families show be, I'll miss her greatly knowing she's with God who never makes a mistake 🙏

Marlon L. Barnes - April 30 at 09:38 AM

BS

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear the passing of my classmate in the class of '75". She was a beautiful, Christian and giving person. My heart is heavy from her passing. But our God makes no mistakes. Sending my deepest condolences, prayers and love to Harvey , their daughter and the rest of the family. 🙏❤️❤️😊😊



Barbara J Spencer - April 29 at 07:46 AM

SE

I am offering my deepest sympathy to the family of Shelly Harris. My prayers are that you can find strength to heal from this loss. She was such a loving person.
Shirl Ellison

Shirl Ellison - April 30 at 09:15 PM

RH

“ Condolences to the families, she was a sweetheart, RIP Shelley

Robin Henderson - April 28 at 11:18 PM

DH

“ *Deborah Williams Harris
My Love, and Condolences go out to Harvey and Sierrah. In the
time of knowing Shelly she was a kind and loving person, who was
rooted and grounded in THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
Deborah Williams Harris
Tyrone W C Harris's Wife*

Deborah Williams Harris - April 28 at 05:13 PM

DH

“ *My Love and Condolences go out to Harvey, and Sierrah. In my
time in of knowing Shelly she was a kind, and loving person, who
was rooted and grounded in THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
Deborah Williams Harris
Tyrone W C Harris's Wife*

Deborah Williams Harris - April 28 at 04:57 PM

CJ

*I love my sister-in-law she was a good person very nice and I'm going
really really miss her but God has her now so she's in good hands*

Christine Jones - April 29 at 10:38 AM

KJ

“ *Kayatonya John lit a candle in memory of
Shelley Odett Evans Harris*



Kayatonya John - April 28 at 12:21 PM

FJ

“ With heartfelt sympathy, we extend to the entire Evans Family our condolences, and prayers. When I received the news that Shelley took her wings, this really hit hard. I grew up with Shelley, we live across the street and we were cousins indeed. She will sorely be missed but the fond memories will forever live in my HEART!!~ To the family Love, Peace, Comfort, and STRENGTH!!~ From: The Johnson's Rudolph, Fern, Sondeania, Theresa, Rudina, RJ, Molisa, and Kupri.

Fern Johnson - April 28 at 11:23 AM

KJ

“ To the family. My sincere condolences. I will miss my friend. Never will forget your generosity towards me. Love you. Evangelist Kathleen Johnson

Kathleen Johnson - April 27 at 07:06 PM

DC

“ Harvey and Family, My Deepest Condolences to you all. Shelly was such a sweet kind and caring person. She will truly be missed.
Love You All,
Darcel Harris Carter



Darcel M Harris Carter - April 27 at 04:46 PM

PH

“ Patricia Howard lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris



Patricia Howard - April 27 at 03:35 PM

JH

“ *Jane A Hoy lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris*



Jane A Hoy - April 27 at 03:28 PM

MP

“ *Malinda J Perkins lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris*



Malinda J Perkins - April 27 at 01:02 PM

TF

“ *The Sutton Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Shelley Odett Evans Harris.*



The Sutton Family - April 27 at 10:11 AM

VD

“ *My condolences to the Evan's Family. Shelly was a beautiful person. Rest in peace.*



Valerie E Davis - April 27 at 08:02 AM

MJ

“ *Mary H Johnson lit a candle in memory of Shelley Odett Evans Harris*



Mary H Johnson - April 26 at 10:22 PM

PW

*I was surely Surprised and astonished
Shelley was truly a remarkable person And a hard worker.
Praying with and for you Family.
Paulyne A Webster
Peace , Love & Blessings !*

Paulyne Webster - April 27 at 01:27 PM

TM

I was saddened when I heard of the death of Shelly.. I met Shelly a few years ago at mother UAME Church she was such a sweet person, always kind with a beautiful smile..she was a remarkable person....Condolences to you husband and daughter..

Toni Malone - April 30 at 01:26 PM

MW

To the family: you have my Deepest Condolences I was deeply saddened to have heard of the lost of a very dear friend we go way back to school days. she was always mild spoken and had a gentle soul she will be greatly missed, God makes no mistakes, he received a good one.. Rest in peace my dear one.. Mozelle Jackson-Williams

Mozelle Jackson- Williams - May 05 at 08:23 AM