

In Loving MEMORY OF



Suzanne Louise Harris

MAY 13, 1922 - JANUARY 23, 2023

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

VISITATION: 10:00 A.M. ♦ SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.

Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension
4520 LUCAS AND HUNT ROAD ♦ SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

REV. RENEE FENNER ~ OFFICIANT

THE LIFE REFLECTIONS OF *Suzanne Louise Harris*

Suzanne Louise Harris, a life-long Saint Louisan, died on January 23, 2023, at one hundred years old. Born in Saint Louis, Missouri, on May 13, 1922 to Marie Belle, née Brownlow and Charles S. Wallace as the eldest of three children. She was also a proud graduate of the Summer High School Class of 1941.

As a young lady during WWII, she passed the stringent prescreening criteria to become a volunteer USO hostess. The most important qualifications were to be considered sexually respectable and to have charm and beauty- she was indeed a beautiful woman. As a hostess, along with other hostesses, Suzanne attended chaperoned USO dances to entertain and boost the morale of BLACK servicemen at Fort Leonard Wood in the Missouri Ozarks. On weekends, these young ladies would travel together by bus, driven by a minister, to dine and dance with the servicemen stationed away from home. After dinner, cots were set up in private quarters for the young ladies to sleep overnight. The following morning, after breakfast with the servicemen, the hostesses returned by bus to Saint Louis. There were very strict rules for behavior during these morale boosting excursions and the young ladies were warned away from romance with words like, “The boys have a lot of things on their minds and you are probably not one of them!”

Despite that, like many others, Suzanne met her husband, Frederick John Hamilton, Jr., while volunteering as a USO hostess. Fred and Suzanne married on May 19, 1943, in Saint Louis, before moving together to live in Orlando, Florida, near the segregated military base where he served. Her close encounters with racial segregation and hatred in Florida; prompted her return to Saint Louis. She had two sons, John and Sanford and volunteered as their Cub Scout Den Mother.

In 1962, she married her second husband, Robert Franklin Harris.

Suzanne, known by family and friends as “Louise”, worked as a registrar in medical records at the former Union Sarah Health Clinic, as a Salesperson for Goodwill and for numerous other service organizations. She began regularly attending All Saints Episcopal Church, as a young adult with her young sons and continued after its merger, to become The Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension, until her mobility began to fail.

Louise loved living in the city and was well-known by the people in her Fountain Park Neighborhood, originally known as the Aubert Place Subdivision. It was very bittersweet, when the time came for her to move from her beloved old neighborhood, to be closer to her family in North Saint Louis County. She continued living independently until age ninety-seven, moving to assisted living just a few months before the Covid-19 shutdown. When she turned one hundred last year, her family gathered, some from afar and a few on Zoom, to celebrate with her.

For many years, Suzanne enjoyed her pet parakeets. Also, she was an avid reader, especially of romance novels, and was an indoor gardener who enjoyed collecting unusual “odd” houseplants—the more unusual, the better.

Suzanne was preceded to glory by her beloved younger siblings, Elizabeth Wallace Jackson and Henry B. Wallace; three of her beloved grandchildren, Cory A. Hamilton, Viola L. Hamilton and John F. Hamilton, Jr.; and a beloved nephew, Tyler O. Meeks.

To cherish her memory, she is survived by: her dearly loved sons ~ John F. Hamilton, Sr. and Sanford L. Hamilton; their wives ~ Vicki R. Hamilton and Nancy P. Hamilton; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many others who loved her and considered her family.

Order of Service

INSTRUMENTAL MUSICAL PRELUDE	SHAMAR JORDAN
OPENING ANTHEMS	
SALUTATION AND COLLECT	
FIRST LESSON <i>ISAIAH 61:1-3</i>	ISAIAH HAMILTON
PSALM	LEAD BY SHAMAR JORDAN, SUNG BY ALL
"Shepherd Me, O God" (a musical interpretation of Psalm 23)	
SECOND LESSON <i>REVELATION 21:2-7</i>	RYAN HAMILTON
MUSICAL SELECTION	SOLO BY SHAMAR JORDAN
<i>"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE"</i>	
GOSPEL <i>JOHN 14:2-6</i>	
LIFE REFLECTIONS	SANFORD HAMILTON
APOSTLES' CREED	CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	
THE PEACE AND OFFERTORY SENTENCE	
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER	
TRIBUTES	RYAN HAMILTON
FINAL BLESSING	
CLOSING MUSICAL SELECTION	SHAMAR JORDAN
<i>"SOON AND VERY SOON"</i>	
THE DISMISSAL	

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDER:	THE REV. RENEE FENNER
WORSHIP LEADER:	STANLEY JOHNSON
ACOLYTE:	STANLEY JOHNSON
READERS:	ISAIAH HAMILTON; RYAN HAMILTON
USHERS:	MACHELLE WEST; MARGARETT WILLIAMS
MUSICIAN/SOLOIST:	SHAMAR JORDAN

Interment

ST. PETER'S CEMETERY

2101 LUCAS AND HUNT ROAD ♦ SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121
(1:00 P.M.)

Repast

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

33 N. CLAY AVE ♦ FERGUSON, MISSOURI 63135
(2:00 P.M.)



Suzanne's Favorite Sayings

"You've got to eat a pound of dirt before you die"

"...more than the law allows"

Pallbearers

Isaiah Hamilton John Hamilton, Sr. Ryan Hamilton
Cody Meeks Nicole Hamilton-Mattison Mallory Meeks

Honorary Pallbearers

Stanley Johnson Gary Milliner Earl Thames

With Special Thanks From

THE HAMILTON FAMILY

The family of Suzanne L. Harris wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during their time of loss. A very special thank you is extended to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, especially Rev. Michael Dunnington, Charlie Caspari and Carol Fette, for their generosity, support and gracious hospitality.

They will be forever grateful.

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Austin A. Layne Mortuary, Inc.

7239 West Florissant Avenue ~ St. Louis, Missouri 63136
(314) 381-6900

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