



## Irene M Harris

October 31, 1948 - December 20, 2016

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Irene M. Harris, age 68. She passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at MUSC Hospital in Charleston, S.C. after an eight year, courageous and heroic battle with Multiple Myeloma. Irene was born on October 31, 1948 in Montreal, Canada, the daughter of Albert and Gloria (Nykenan) Henson.

Irene married her high school sweetheart, Bill, at the age of 19. After working at Johnson & Johnson briefly, she decided to turn her love of family into a full time career raising 4 children in Chateaugay, Quebec. As the children grew and Bill's career progressed, she traveled the world and lived in London, England for three years where she thoroughly embraced her new surroundings and found happiness in volunteering at White Lodge Centre for the disabled. Another work transfer for Bill took them to the city of Los Angeles, CA where she continued her charitable spirit of volunteering at Los Robles Hospital. They next moved to San Francisco, CA before finally deciding to retire in Pawleys Island, S.C. in 2000 to live out their retirement together. Irene loved spending time at the beach, reading, and taking long drives with her loving husband but nothing brought her greater joy than time spent with family. Irene left an imprint on everyone she met with her positive spirit and selfless, kind heart which touched so many lives. She treated everyone with dignity, respect and took genuine interest in everyone she

encountered.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, William H. Harris; four children, Sherri (Bruce) Lux, Trent (Andrea) Harris, Amy (Chris) Harris, and Ryan (Eva) Harris; ten grandchildren: Sarah, Kayla and Justin Lux, Ethan and Cameron Harris, Jesse and Sam Labar, and Tundi, Timea, and Tristan Harris; her mother Gloria Henson; sisters Carol (Ron) Masse, Brenda Estergaard, and Susan Burford; brother Robert (Darlene) Henson; sister-in-law Karen (Scott) Park.

She was preceded in death by her father, Albert Henson, sister Jean (Jim) Henson, mother-in-law Beatrice Harris, father-in-law Charles (Bud) Harris, and brother-in-laws Norm Burford and Doug Estergaard.

A private family memorial service and celebration of her life will be held in her honor. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or The Hollings Cancer Center at MUSC Hospital in Charleston, S.C.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Irene M Harris*



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**Goldfinch Funeral Home** - December 27, 2016 at 11:17 AM

BW

*Beautiful Video*

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**Barry Walker** - January 17, 2017 at 12:13 PM

BZ

“ *My thoughts are with you after hearing this sad news about Irene. We went to Verdun High at the same time, sharing the experience of being prefects, wearing TIES and blazers. My condolences to you Bill and your children and also to your extended family.*  
*Barbara Zouikin*

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**Barbara Zouikin** - January 13, 2017 at 10:44 PM

JE

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Irene. We went to VHS and her sister Carol was in my class. I worked with Bill at Dun and Bradstreet and he was my boss. My condolences to Bill and all the family.*

*Judy Love Eccles*

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**Judy Eccles** - January 13, 2017 at 08:07 PM

LS

“ Dear Bill & Family of Irene - I knew Irene those many years ago back at VHS. Irene was a Treasure to all of us those many years ago. To this day I will always remember her amazing smile as she urged us through her example to follow our dreams no matter how humble it was in the eyes of the world . Honesty was her virtue and true to her heart she followed her which was Family .  
I honour Irene for this as when all is said and done - it is the only thing that matters .  
Just another insight to her brilliance.  
My Blessings to you all and I do share your loss .



*Liz Storey*

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**Liz Storey** - January 13, 2017 at 07:55 PM

EL

“ I went to high school with Irene and have very fond memories of her. My deepest sympathy to her family.

*Liz Vezina-Vasilescu*  
(Verdun High School, class of 1965)

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**Elizabeth** - January 13, 2017 at 03:51 PM

RG

“ Irene was one of the most admirable, friendly and courageous lady that I have ever met. She was always upbeat, regardless of what condition her plight was and would never let on what tremendous pain she was fighting. I have known Irene since I began working for Bill at Gillette in September 1979. The first time I met Irene, we hit it off and seems that we instantly became friends.

*Irene will be missed terribly by her family, but also her friends and anyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. One great lady who is making heaven an even brighter place. Rest in peace Irene, we will never forget you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ruth Gaudreau*

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**Ruth Gaudreau** - January 02, 2017 at 12:12 PM

KG

“ I am sorry for the loss of Mrs. Harris so soon. It leaves such a void in her family and everyone who came to know and love her. May you find comfort in your memories and each other in this difficult period. I know she was tremendously revered as a super special grandmother to her grandchildren. Thinking of all of you during this time.



*Karen G*

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**Karen G.** - December 27, 2016 at 03:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Irene M Harris.*



December 26, 2016 at 01:54 PM



“ *Love Mom purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Irene M Harris.*



**Love Mom** - December 25, 2016 at 03:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Irene M Harris.*



December 24, 2016 at 10:27 PM



“ *I only met Irene at a few Gillette functions such as the annual Xmas party when Bill and I would be accompanied by our wives. Irene was a warm, genuine person with a wonderful demeanor and a million dollar smile. Our sincere condolences to Bill and the family for their loss.*

**John Elliott** - December 23, 2016 at 07:55 PM



“ Irene was a special lady and she will be missed by many. She and Bill raised a beautiful family and we feel lucky to know them. Thinking of you at this time, The Lemays

Renee Bernstein - December 23, 2016 at 07:33 PM

MA

“ Maureen lit a candle in memory of Irene M Harris

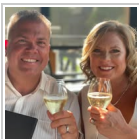


Maureen - December 23, 2016 at 02:26 PM

TM

“ I loved your Mom so much! I looked forward to her Christmas letter every year. Knowing what she endured the last 8 years, her highlights were always on her Children and Grandchildren. Always downplaying what she was going through. Her love of family- all of you and her heart of gold is her legacy. In my adult years, she once said to me, "Trina I wish you would just call me "Irene!" But to me she was always "Mrs. Harris" I will honor her wish and say, " Rest In Peace lovely Irene." Look at you soar!

trina massel - December 23, 2016 at 10:07 AM



“ This world will sure miss you Mom. You made everyone's lives richer, happier, and genuinely cared for everyone you ever came in contact with. I love you with all my heart. There are so many amazing stories to share and tell about the incredible life you lived and the laughter and joy you brought to this world. You will be forever in our hearts.

Trent Harris - December 23, 2016 at 09:52 AM

TM

*I loved your Mom so much! I looked forward to her Christmas letter every year. Knowing what she endured the last 8 years, her highlights were always on her Children and Grandchildren! Her love of family- all of you and her heart of gold is her legacy. In my adult years, she once said to me, "Trina I wish you would just call me "Irene!" But to me she was always "Mrs. Harris" I will honor her wish and say, " Rest In Peace lovely Irene." Look at you soar!*

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**trina massel** - December 23, 2016 at 10:03 AM

BH

*My dear sister had an indomitable spirit that will shine its' light for us for generations to come. Among the many gifts she left us, I will always be inspired by her joyfulness in the face of enormous challenges. She was able to live in the present, laugh heartily and often, with dignity, grace and gratitude in her heart. She faced life and her fate like a brave and noble warrior. My heart goes out to Bill and their children and grandchildren, for I know how valiantly and courageously he and the kids supported Irene through this journey, and how dearly they will miss her. She was a rock. Thank you Irene for the great fortune of having you for a sister. Love always, Brenda*

*"You are not forgotten, loved one  
Nor will you ever be.  
As long as life and memory last  
We will remember thee" - (unknown author)*

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**Brenda Henson** - December 23, 2016 at 03:38 PM

JA

*Just over 25 years ago, Irene, Bill and children welcomed Irene's sister Jean and her new boyfriend into their home for a family celebration. Ever since, I have been welcomed into their homes in Thousand Oaks, San Francisco and Pawley's Island and each time with a heartfelt welcome and authenticity.*

*Brenda described Irene so accurately, both as the person she was and the warrior she chose to be. I can only re-iterate that Irene's spirit, determination and love for life and family powered her on.*

*More recently, I have good memories of our telephone conversations about our lives, their challenges and about different times. After getting off the phone, I always reflected on Irene's "living in the moment" and being soooooo detailed about her journey. It has been an honour to have had you as my sister-in-law.*

*Love*

*Jim Allaway*

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**Jim Allaway** - December 23, 2016 at 06:18 PM

LH

*So very sorry to hear this, I never met Irene but her cousin Stephen & Aunt Ruth always spoke highly of her*

*Sincerely*

*Louise & Stephen Henson*

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**Louise/Stephen Henson** - December 23, 2016 at 09:35 PM

SB

*My deepest sympathies to Bill and my wonderful nieces and nephews. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for taking such good care of I my sister. Her family meant the world to her. When I was young, she held my hand. As I grew up she always had a sympathetic ear and a warm hug. As we grew older we had a lot of laughter. Irene had a special gift of making everyone feel very loved. I will miss her every day and will cherish all of the memories we made along the way. Forever in my heart Irene, I love you.*

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**Susan Burford** - December 26, 2016 at 07:50 PM