



## Robert "Rob" Allen Harris

October 11, 1968 - March 24, 2016

Robert Allen Harris October 11, 1968 to March 24, 2016

Rob was born on October 11, 1968 in Aurora, Colorado. As an "Army Brat", he lived in several states across the U.S. as well as Frankfurt, Germany and Augsburg, Germany, finally landing in Virginia where he attended Middle School, High School, and College. Rob graduated from Radford University. A 3-Sport Letterman in high school (football, baseball, and basketball), he earned a baseball scholarship at Radford University. After graduating from college, Rob worked as a Ranger with the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. where he provided information and tours of the National Monuments. He then moved to Colorado where he again worked as a Ranger, this time with the Park Service at Carter Lake. Later Rob attended the Denver Police Academy and went on to work as a Denver Deputy Sheriff. Preferring a more rural environment, Rob moved to the Ft Collins area, attended yet another Police Academy and then spent the next 16 years as a Larimer County Deputy Sheriff. After a couple of years as a street officer, Rob was lucky enough to be chosen to patrol the very rural mountain area of Larimer County. He loved that job and it fit his personality. Routinely visiting the various businesses and making it a point to meet and get to know the residents of the mountain communities, Rob thrived. His smile and easy going personality were perfect for this environment and allowed him to pursue his passion for hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, and travel. After retiring from the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, Rob purchased a franchise and operated a successful business.

Rob loved his family unconditionally. The single most important person in his life, however, was his son Connor. Every decision he made had Connor's happiness and wellbeing at the core. They hunted, fished, and traveled the country together and were basically inseparable! Connor was involved in many sports with Rob there to support him in every way possible. If he wasn't cheering him on from the sideline, he was coaching him as an assistant on several of his teams.

Diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer in October 2015, Rob immediately set out to defeat

his disease. He elected to forgo traditional chemotherapy and radiation, instead choosing to attack the cancer with an alternative, more holistic treatment approach. Saying he preferred to survive cancer rather than simply extend his life for a few months while suffering the ravages of chemotherapy and radiation, he spent 3 weeks in Mexico at an alternative treatment facility. He continued many of those treatments upon return to Larimer County. Rob experienced extreme pain and was administered heavy doses of pain medication, the side effects of which eventually resulted in a major surgery. While the cancer certainly contributed, it was the aftermath of the surgery which finally caused his death. Until the end, Rob stood steadfast behind his decision to forego the traditional treatments. He dreamed of helping others beat this horrible disease.

Rob is survived by his son Connor, his mother Diana Cantor of Venice, Florida, his father Robert Harris of Dumfries, Virginia, his brother Travis, sister-in-law Corey, nieces Kristina, Kayla, Katie, and his nephew T.J. Harris all of Stafford, Virginia.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00PM on Wednesday March 30, 2016 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7755 Greenstone Trail Ft Collins, CO 80525.

Rob lived life to the fullest and brought joy to so very many people! As one who always thought of family first, his family will miss him dearly.

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. Abraham Lincoln

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Connor Harris Scholarship Fund. For tax deductible donations, your contribution can be made through The Redeemer Lutheran Church while at the Memorial Service. Alternatively, checks can be made payable to Robert D. Harris (Rob's dad) and mailed to 16187 Sheffield Drive Dumfries, VA 22025. Thank you in advance.

# Events

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**MAR**   **Visitation**                      07:00PM - 09:00PM

**29**

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Goes Funeral Care & Crematory

3665 Canal Drive, Suite E, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80524

**MAR**   **Memorial Service**                      02:00PM - 03:00PM

**30**

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Redeemer Lutheran Church

7755 Greenstone Trail, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80525

# Comments

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“ Two boys were lost and thankfully were found safe. I turned them over to Rob to take back to my frantic neighbors and watched to see how he handled the situation with the kiddos. I personally wanted to just throttle those kids because my fear had been so high, but he was just effusive with smiles and "glad you're alrights." When he came back to me I asked him why he didn't at least give them a lecture! He told me that it was a win and how wonderful it was that everything worked out so well and that he felt the boys would remember the love and happiness more than anger and punishment. YES. Rob, you gave me a lesson there that day that has always stuck with me. Thank you. We always have an impact of people we meet and I wanted you to know that you made a difference in my way of thinking and that you mattered. You were always friendly at pancake breakfasts, helpful to my husband on tow calls, and dependable on those EMS/FIRE calls. I'm glad our paths crossed. ~Janine Butzine

Janine Butzine - May 16, 2016 at 12:06 PM

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“ My favorite story of Rob is when he dove into a water trough to rescue a drowning calf of im sure many rescues he was dispatched on. The Lady wanted to give Rob a reward for that act of heroism. Of Course he couldnt take it. But the Grateful woman was able to sneak him a pair of boot.

Grego:Friend and Hewlett Gulch Neighbor

Grego - April 19, 2016 at 11:22 AM

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“ I will not forget Rob. Funny thing is, he and I were very different in so many ways, most of all politically. Complete opposites actually, it seemed. But as I have always said, never care more about a person's political views than you care about the person from whom they come. People are more important. And when you do so, you find out you have more in common than you ever knew. Though I have known him since high school, he and I had grown very close within the past 6 months or so. I prayed for him regularly in a meditation group that I attended, at church, and in my regular everyday prayers. My heart is broken for Conner, I keep him in my thoughts and prayers, as well as for Travis and their mother and father. I know what it is like to lose a father and a brother. I can only imagine what it feels like to lose a son. Earnest and sincere prayers for everyone concerned. I promise that I will continue to pray. Life can be tough, but Rob had a zest for life that was contagious, a grab the bull by the horns philosophy, which he would want us to have as well. I feel quite confident that he will be watching over us.

Rob Harris, love ya. Say Hi to Jesus, Mary, God and my brother and father for me. In fact, have a laugh with them. They will appreciate your humor and spunk, as did I.



“ Rob I remember it didn't matter what sport at the end of practice u always had to be first in wind sprints. I can remember coach Hays saying if Rob finishes first we keep running. He finished first and we kept on running. He always gave it his all.

Tyrone Qualls - April 11, 2016 at 05:27 PM

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“ Connor,

As I sat and tried to think about what I would say about your dad, so many things came to my mind. There are funny stories, laughs shared, hunting and fishing together that are all great anecdotes, but the three themes that continually come to the forefront were Grace, Passion, and Love.

Grace has been explained to me as getting what we don't deserve, but it is also giving someone something that they don't deserve. To me, this defines the relationship that I had with your dad, because I sure did nothing to deserve the loyalty that he showed me or my family. But your dad gave grace freely.

Your dad had several passions. His careers, his friends, his time outdoors, and again, in his friendships. His passion to serve led him to wear a badge and stand a line. It also led him to still stand that line when he wasn't wearing that badge. Once, I was checking on a friend that had been involved in a shooting in Area 7. He told me that when he was training in the area, your dad had told him to be wary of a particular individual because of his previous interactions with law enforcement. This deputy said that because of that warning from your dad, they approached the individual's house differently when they got called to a disturbance and in doing so he said your dad helped save their lives.

Love.... This is the overriding theme of the three. Your dad loved many things: The outdoors, the compound, his work, and his friends. He loved to have his friends invade the compound and share food, drink and a campfire. He lived for the trips to Montana and Florida to spend time with his family. He loved to laugh, joke, and tell stories.

Connor, you are the personification of these three things in your dad. Your dad knew the meaning of Grace because he knew that there was nothing in this world that he could have done to deserve you and I know he thanked God daily for the privilege of being your dad. He passed on his passion for sports and the outdoors to you so that you could enjoy things that meant a great deal to him. The pride he had in you on the sports fields, in the classroom, and in the field with a rifle or a fishing pole was amazing. Your dad had a couple jobs in the time I knew him, but the one that he loved the most was being your dad.

In the days, months, and years to come, the question of “WHY” will be overwhelmingly in your mind. I wish I could tell you the answer. I wish we weren’t here in the first place. All I do know, is that it is not for me to answer or to know the answer to. God will show us somehow and somewhere. He knows the why, and although we are hurt and angry, we still have to have faith in Him that the “WHY” is there. We may not see it for a while, but it serves a purpose that hopefully one day we can see and understand.

So for now, listen to the stories that people tell you about your dad. The one about him racking the shotgun and firing off not one, but two rounds while searching for an escapee is one of my favorites. Or, how an FCPD officer did not know that his mosquito control specialist was a retired deputy who did not like rattlesnakes so he didn’t know how to react when he saw your dad stop spraying for skeeters, pull out his Glock and shoot a snake in his yard. Or, how the first time I met your mom was when he brought her out on a death investigation as his idea of a “date”.

Connor as you look around today, look at the people gathered here and know that they are here because your dad touched their lives in some way, shape, or form. They are HERE, because your dad was THERE for them, and so, they are here for you.

Maury, Renee, Bailey, Keldyn, Zach, and Eva

Maury Miller - April 04, 2016 at 04:46 PM

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“ There are so many memories of the Germany years as all the Augsburg Gang's kids played and got up to shenanigans together. As did their parents. After we moved to Colorado Springs the Harris family visited the Stanley family. It was the mid eighties and David and Jonathan with Robbie and Travis, convinced Buster the four boys should take the big-engine vintage Corvair convertible out for a spin with the only driver, Robbie, at the wheel. They weren't gone long and came back in agreement it was a cool car, and Robbie was the best and safest driver EVER. As often happens when adult kids start telling parents the stories we never knew, we got the rest of the Corvair story. Seems the three preteens and the driver were very curious how fast it could go. Turns out it could easily go well over 100 MPH. Skills which are quite useful to a future Law Enforcement Officer.  
R.I.P. Dear Robbie

Marian and Buster Stanley - March 31, 2016 at 03:30 PM

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“ About time some Mountain Deputy commented on his partner. I first met Vinnie as a rookie patrol deputy, long before I worked the mountains. Vinnie/Rob was paged out to assist this flatland rookie, with a crazy family problem. Vinnie, I mean Rob, or whatever, came out and helped this sorry excuse for a deputy complete his call. No

complaints to the new guy, even asked great questions at 0500 in the morning.

When this new guy got some years (and pounds ha ha ha) under his belt, Vinnie, I mean Rob, right, showed him what it took to work the mountains. On my first day in MD7, Rob said, "If you get shot in this area, drive to this area and call for medical." That advise is still true to this day.

I worked evenings for a first few years in the Red Feather area and would do bar checks at the Pot Belly. I would park my patrol truck at the far end of the parking lot and walk up to the door. I was usually greeted at the door by one of the young ladies that worked there. Always with a smile, which immediately went to confusion, then disappointment. Followed by, "You're not Rob."

For the longest time I only thought Rob either wore his uniform or his off duty uniform ( black t-shirt no sleeves and shorts). Honestly, for the longest time I thought he wore the shorts to upset Fawcett. Anyway, I stop at his hacienda one day to ask about a neighbor, who I had civil papers for. Rob was wearing his off duty uniform, enjoying off time with Conner and the horses. Rob asked me, "Are you going there alone?" I told him, I was and headed off. I headed to the address and started to look for the person who I had papers for. I found him, but before I gave the paper to him, we heard an ATV roll into the driveway and screech to a halt. When the cloud of dust clears, there is my partner. Rob threw a vest over his black sleeveless shirt and stuffed his handgun in the pocket of his shorts. As comical as it was (Sorry, I didn't take a picture), Rob had my back.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Thank you Rob. You had my back.

**James Westerfield** - March 30, 2016 at 01:27 PM

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“ When Rob "Vinnie" worked at the Sheriff's Office, I used to love answering calls in the mountains, because it meant that I'd get to work with Rob. With his smile and sense of humor, he was an incredible person to spend time with. Due to his professionalism and skills, I always knew I was in good hands in dangerous situations.

He treated citizens with decency and respect. Those that knew him appeared glad to have him arrive at their time of need. I hated to see him retire, although I was happy for him in his new career. You're truly missed.

Jack Newton

**Jack Newton** - March 30, 2016 at 11:21 AM

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“ Lori Perry lit a candle in memory of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris



Lori Perry - March 30, 2016 at 10:13 AM

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“ Our deepest sympathies, prayers and love to you and your family. Larry and Gloria Patrick Greenhagen.

Gloria Greenhagen - March 30, 2016 at 09:28 AM

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“ Our deepest sympathies, prayers and love to you and your family. Ralph and Kathy (Shaw) Watts

Ralph Watts - March 30, 2016 at 09:10 AM

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“ We got to spend three weeks with Rob at the Hope4Cancer Institute in Tijuana. His infectious joy and enthusiasm for life brought a refreshingly positive atmosphere to the whole place. He was always making people feel better, encouraging them, making others smile, putting others first and making every day there better for everyone. It was also so refreshing watching Rob and his mother Diana together and seeing the deep love and respect they had for each other. We will miss getting to see him again on earth, but look forward to being reunited in heaven, thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With love, Steve and Nancy McDaniel, College Starion, Texas.

Steve McDaniel - March 30, 2016 at 01:58 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris.





“ Our deepest sympathies, prayers and love. Kay Wolking & Richstd Bratton

**Kay Wolking Bratton** - March 30, 2016 at 12:13 AM

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“ Rob our neighbor lived on Hewlett Gulch Road. He loved his horses, his Bo and Connors Shasta. They loved to ride together. He had another horse too named Cheyenne. We were new in the area and our 2 grandchildren Aspen and Aidan loved the horses. We purchased Cheyenne from Rob for Christmas for the family and of course for the kids. Rob wanted to surprise the little ones so 1 day he and Connor rode over on Bo and had Cheyenne behind. He put a red bow on Cheyenne and presented her to the kids in the corral. Oh all the smiles and happiness and guess what , that big smile from Rob seeing the kids so happy and surprised. Thanks Rob. I know one other very proud day was when Connor got his 1st buck on the side of our hill. sure Connor remembers that, your dad was so proud that you were able to get "that buck"

**Fischer** - March 29, 2016 at 05:05 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathies, the Cleveland Gentiles

**mary gentile** - March 29, 2016 at 04:36 PM

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“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris



**Chrissy** - March 29, 2016 at 03:18 PM

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“ Our family will always remember Rob as a teen, who was always happy, and with a twinkle in his eye; he made us all smile. We are saddened by his death and send out sympathies to all who knew him.



“ A one of a kind guy...here's one reason why. During the fire of 2012 when we were evacuated from our home here on Hewlett Gulch, Rob had opted not to evacuate and stick it out at his home down the road from us. We were gone for about two weeks and I worried so about my flower beds and planters as they are my favorite part of summer, I was sure I would come home to dry dead flowers knowing that they would never survive the heat of such an intense fire. When were allowed to come home I found my flowers as beautiful as ever, how could that be! Rob my dear friend and neighbor had come to our house on a daily visit with water in hand and took care of all my precious flowers! Really who else would do that? Only a true friend .....miss you dear one.

Mary and Andy Torrez

Mary Torrez - March 28, 2016 at 08:30 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris.



March 28, 2016 at 05:33 PM

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“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris.



March 28, 2016 at 04:51 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris.



March 28, 2016 at 04:39 PM

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“ We love you Rob, always have , always will. Rest in peace dear nephew, you were one in a million. You'll be forever in our heart. Love Aunt Cheryl and Uncle Bob

**Aunt Cheryl and Uncle Bob** - March 28, 2016 at 04:10 PM



“ Gary and I just learned of Rob's passing. We were both so surprised. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers he will be missed! Such an awesome guy!

**Shirley** - April 14, 2016 at 01:00 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris.



March 28, 2016 at 03:34 PM

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“ marty purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert "Rob" Allen Harris.



**marty** - March 28, 2016 at 03:18 PM