



David Edwin Harrell, Sr

November 15, 1942 - December 21, 2025

David Edwin Harrell, Ph.D., a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, civic leader, and servant of faith, passed away on December 21, 2025, at the age of 83 in Newnan, GA. Born on November 15, 1942, in Jacksonville, Florida, David lived a life defined by service, intellectual curiosity, and a deep commitment to improving the lives of others. David was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Emery Harrell and Ethel Ruth Harrell. Brothers Robert Harrell, Hugh Harrell, Cecil Harrell and sister Ruth Kreiss.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Dale Harrell and his sister, Barbara Baldree. He leaves behind a loving family who will carry forward his legacy: son, David Harrell (Theresa); daughters, Lori Hershey (Scott), Deborah Davidson (Philip), and Meredith Liniado (Scott); grandchildren, Adam Harrell (Hope), Ben Harrell (Dakota), Blaine Harrell, Abby Harrell, Andrew Hershey, Joshua Hershey, Victoria Hershey, Hope Hershey, Caleb Davidson, Jacob Davidson, and Elena Martinez; and four great-grandchildren.

Upon graduation from Paxon High School, Class of 1960, David served in the U.S. Army. He earned a Ph.D. in Healthcare administration. An accomplished entrepreneur, David Harrell founded and operated his own insurance business. He earned respect as an innovator and leader, particularly in shaping and developing early Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). He served as Vice President of Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, FL. David was

instrumental in facilitating the walkover connecting Nemours Hospital and Baptist Hospital. He later led as CEO of Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta, GA. His expertise in healthcare systems led to international work, advising governments in Russia and Mongolia on healthcare development and reform.

David was elected to the Jacksonville City Council in 1970 representing District 11 on the Westside and serving as an At-Large Member Group 2 from 1975-1983. He was the first council member to serve two consecutive terms as Council President. Leading during a formative period in the city's early days of consolidation, David was widely recognized for his visionary leadership and diligent work to strengthen Jacksonville's future.

During retirement he shared his knowledge as an adjunct professor teaching at Emory University and Georgia State University. Beyond his professional accomplishments, David was an inspirational Bible study teacher. His faith was central to his life. David Harrell was, above all, a servant leader. He possessed an ability to improve every organization he worked with and to inspire others to rise to their highest potential. His legacy lives on in the institutions he shaped, the congregations he served, and the family he loved so deeply. He will be remembered for his wisdom, humility, faith, and unwavering commitment to serve others. His life was a testament to leadership grounded in service and love.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 9, 2026 from 5 - 7 pm at McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 38 Jackson St., Newnan, GA. A Celebration of Life Service for David will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 3:00 pm at Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Rd., Newnan, GA with Dr. Brian Germano officiating. The family will receive friends at the church during the hour prior to the service.

Online condolences may be expressed by visiting www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 770-253-4580

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Visitation

JAN 10. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church
2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Road
Newnan, GA 30265

Funeral Service

JAN 10. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church
2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Road
Newnan, GA 30265

Tribute Wall

RT

“ Rhonda and Mark Teitelbaum planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.

Rhonda and Mark Teitelbaum - January 09 at 11:21 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



January 09 at 11:21 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



January 09 at 09:56 AM

DC

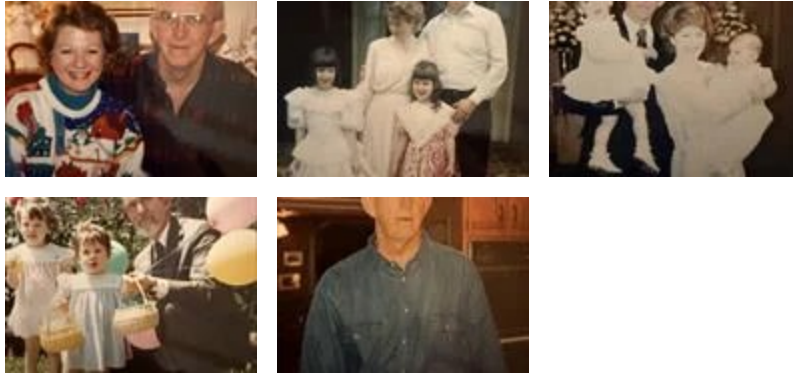
“ Debbie and Frank Caputo purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



Debbie and Frank Caputo - January 08 at 05:16 PM

ML

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Meredith Liniado - January 08 at 02:58 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



January 08 at 01:07 PM

LB

“ David, Jr, we are sending our deepest condolences to you and your family. We hope you find peace in the memories you carry with your dad. We remember meeting him when the twins were little and he was such a proud father and grandfather. We know he will be greatly missed.

Lloyd and Randi Beesing - January 05 at 05:47 PM

DC

“ Dale and family, I am truly sorry for your loss.
David Thaxton, CLU

David Thaxton, CLU - January 05 at 09:45 AM

KA

“ My condolences. I pray God brings comfort to the family in this season. As a young reporter David impressed me in so many ways by his wit, his leadership and his servant heart. Rest from your labor.

Ken Amaro - January 05 at 07:16 AM

MM

“ David led a class for young adults (people in their 20's in the 1970s. I was lucky enough to be a member of that group. He was very influential and the class was a great experience. I, along with a number of other people in the class, met our future spouses there.

He was an influential leader for us.

Marsha Miller

Marsha Millet - January 04 at 05:46 PM

YK

“ You will be missed, Barbara,Rene & Kurt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.

You will be missed, Barbara,Rene & Kurt - January 02 at 08:55 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



January 02 at 08:55 AM

CE

“ Chris Emery planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.

Chris Emery - January 01 at 11:28 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



January 01 at 11:28 AM

ML

“ Mark & Amy Liniado planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.

Mark & Amy Liniado - December 30, 2025 at 07:21 PM

ML

“ Mark & Amy Liniado purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.



Mark & Amy Liniado - December 30, 2025 at 07:21 PM

ML

“ *I Love you Dad.*



Meredith Liniado - December 30, 2025 at 06:55 PM

EL

“ *Ethel Liniado planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.*

Ethel Liniado - December 30, 2025 at 06:49 PM

EL

“ *Ethel Liniado purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Edwin Harrell, Sr.*



Ethel Liniado - December 30, 2025 at 06:49 PM