



## Harry Harmon Bush

December 3, 1932 - May 1, 2014

Harry Harmon Bush, of Laurel, passed away on May 1, 2014. He was born to the late A.A. and Lillian Bush on December 3, 1932, in Magee, Mississippi. The family moved to Laurel in 1936. Harry graduated from George S. Gardner High School in 1949, attended Jones County Junior College, and graduated from Mississippi State University in 1954. He served two years in the US Army as Lieutenant from 1954 to 1956. While stationed in Colorado Springs, Colorado, he was introduced to the woman who became the love of his life, Jeanne Cain, who was the host of a TV cooking show. Harry and Jeanne were married on April 29, 1956. In addition to his devoted wife of 58 years, Harry is survived by daughter and son-in-law Linda & Scott Burdine of Houston, TX, and children Brian, Laura and Katie; son and daughter-in-law Harry Jr. & Carolyn of Boerne, TX, and children Amy & Joshua; daughter and son-in-law Trish & Steve Johnston of Dallas, and children Will, Wes & Kit. He is also survived by brother James Wray and wife Shirley Bush and their children, Mike & wife Cynthia, and Leann Pearson & husband Kyle; brother Rev. Arnold Bush and children Stephen & wife Katherine, Andrew & wife Shannon, David & wife Helen, Margaret Cassimus & husband John, and Elizabeth, and many dear cousins and other relatives too numerous to list. Harry, along with his brother James Wray and cousin Latrelle, worked together in the family road construction business, taking Bush Construction Company from revenues of \$15 million and 125 employees in the early days to revenues of \$36 million and almost 500 employees before the company was sold in 1998. Harry

served as President of Bush Construction Company from 1956 to 1998. After “retiring” from the road construction business in 1998, Harry and Jeanne began a new career in land development. They developed the luxury home community of Windermere, inspired by the beauty of the Lake District of England. Harry’s eight grandchildren love visiting Windermere, as each has a street named in his or her honor. Harry dearly loved his community of Laurel and Jones County, encouraging his family and friends to “buy local” before it was trendy. He was one of the original organizers of the Jones County Economic Development Authority, served as Chairman from 1986 to 1989, and on the Board and Executive Committees from 1983 until his passing. He served on the Laurel Planning Commission for 28 years, including 2 years as Chairman, and on the Laurel Zoning Board for 16 years, including 4 years as Chairman. He was an active member of First Trinity Presbyterian Church and served as an elder and trustee. He served on numerous boards, including Trustmark National Bank, Commercial National Bank, Jones County Junior College and the Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art. He was recognized for his contributions to the City of Laurel in 1976 by being named Outstanding Citizen, the Laurel Junior Auxiliary named him Humanitarian of the Year in 1994, Jones County Junior College honored him in 2006 as Honor Alumnus and the Jones County Economic Development Authority honored him in 2008 with the Continuous Service Award. During his time in the road building business, he enjoyed meeting and socializing with other road builders from Mississippi and other parts of the country. He was one of the organizers and first President of the Mississippi Asphalt Pavement Association, and served on the board and as President of the Mississippi Road Builders Association. The National Asphalt Pavement Association named him Man of the Year in 1972. He served that organization as a board member and President. Harry’s life was made richer by the many lifelong friends he acquired through his involvement with these organizations. Harry & Jeanne spent much of their leisure time with friends and family at their home on Perdido Key – the “Boondocks” -and on Harry’s beloved boat, the “Asphalt Queen.” An avid sport

fisherman as a younger man, Harry loved nothing more than rising before the sun and chasing marlin, sailfish, tuna and dolphins all day long. Those lucky enough to fish with him will never forget his excitement each and every time a fish was hooked, shouting, "Get the thing!" – and the challenge of figuring out what "thing" they needed to "get". As his children got older and grandchildren came along, Perdido Key became a 4th of July gathering place for children, grandchildren, cousins, aunts and uncles. Three generations of the family now travel from Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Alabama, California and China to reconnect each year at Perdido. Harry is famous among this crowd for his finger-lickin' barbecued ribs, lovingly prepared every 4th of July. Harry loved life, loved people, and was generous beyond measure with his time, his riches and his talents. He loved God, his family and his church, and he had a smile and a laugh that made everyone happier. He was a man of his word, self-disciplined, hard-working, and truly wanted to leave the world a better place. All who knew him would agree that he did. Family and friends are invited to celebrate Harry's life on Sunday, May 4 at First Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel, MS. Visitation at 2:30pm, Funeral Service at 4pm, Burial to follow at Lake Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to the following: First Trinity Presbyterian Church, 500 N. Fifth Ave., Laurel, MS 39440; the Harry H. and Jeanne C. Bush Scholarship Fund at Jones County Junior College Foundation, 900 S. Court St., Ellisville, MS 39437; The Shirley P. and James Wray Bush Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Fund at Ochsner's Department Of Philanthropy, 1514 Jefferson Hwy, New Orleans, LA 70121; or the organization of your choice. Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. To view and sign the family guestbook, visit [www.memorychapel Laurel.com](http://www.memorychapel Laurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ Dear Linda, Trish and Harry,  
I am very sorry for the loss of your dad. Thinking of you.  
Sincerely, Jodee

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**Jodee Flynt-Davies** - September 13, 2014 at 02:53 PM

JN

“ What a beautiful tribute to your father. I know he must have been a wonderful father to have such a sweet loving daughter! I hope all goes well with your mom. We ran into Scott tonight at dinner and had a nice visit. Please let me know if we can do anything to help back in Houston while you are gone. Love Jodi

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**Jodi Nolen** - May 05, 2014 at 11:48 PM

CC

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you. May the lord will give you comfort.  
Carl & Gloria Jean Carlos

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**Carl & Gloria Jean Carlos** - May 05, 2014 at 08:23 PM

LR

“ Mr. Bush will be greatly missed! He was an exemplary committee member of the Laurel Planning Commission, EDA, or any other committee that helped Laurel to be a stronger town. Always enjoyed his "larger than life" laughs. Linda

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**Linda Walton Reinholtz** - May 05, 2014 at 05:13 PM

PR

“ *Your family has always been special to my family. We send our deepest sympathy*

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**Penny Castle Rambin** - May 04, 2014 at 04:42 PM

MF

“ *Please accept our deepest regrets. Mr. Bush was such a wonderful person. I never recall seeing him when he didn't have a big smile on his face. He will be missed by so many. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Misty & Mac Foster** - May 04, 2014 at 02:23 PM

MS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bush family. We send our love.*

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**Madeleine & Richard Sheehy** - May 04, 2014 at 01:58 PM

CG

“ *We extend our sincere condolences for your loss. Mr. Bush was a great man and will be missed*

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**Chip & Congetta Gieger** - May 04, 2014 at 12:53 PM

SM

“ *Harry Harmon Bush*

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**Sydney McBride** - May 03, 2014 at 11:23 PM

EI

“ *Big Harry was such a fine man and was so gracious and generous to all of us MSU KA's on so many occasions during our college years. He will be deeply missed! May God sustain you all during this time of great loss.*

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**Ernie Strahan, III** - May 03, 2014 at 06:50 PM

OM

“ *Sending you all love and prayers from our family to yours. Wish we could be with you to support you in your time of loss.*  
*Love,*  
*Odette and Bob*

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**Odette and Bob Mace** - May 03, 2014 at 05:50 PM

SB

“ *I am saddened by the news of "Big" Harry's death. I do remember his heartfelt laughter and huge heart for family and friends. I also enjoyed being on one of those famous deep sea fishing outings many years ago! I was able to watch as Christy hooked a big fish and brought it onboard with the help of Harry and other Bush men! May the God of comfort be with you all during this time of grief.*

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**Sue Mason Bush** - May 03, 2014 at 01:46 PM

JT

“ *Thinking of you at this time and know you are in our prayers...*  
*Joe and Jane Tubb*

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**Jane Tubb** - May 03, 2014 at 01:35 PM

CL

“ *My prayers are with you guys. Harry will truly be missed.*

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**Carolyn Bush Laird** - May 03, 2014 at 01:22 PM

PP

“ Words cannot express how sorry I am for your loss. I spent some of the best years of my life working for and with Harry, his children, and his brothers. I have nothing but fond memories of those years. I send my love and prayers to all the family.

Paula Phillips - May 03, 2014 at 12:52 PM

JW

“ Our sincere sympathy. Harry was a wonderful man.

Joy and Harvey Wright - May 03, 2014 at 12:00 PM

PM

“ One of the finest men I have ever known, and he will be missed by many, many people! I was blessed to have known Harry. God rest his soul!!

Pap McElroy - May 03, 2014 at 11:26 AM

DT

“ We are so sorry for your loss ! Our prayers are with the family !

Douglas and Jojo Tillery - May 03, 2014 at 09:50 AM

DF

“ Our community is a better place thanks to the leadership and dedication of Harry Bush through the years. I value the years I have been privileged to sit in meetings and work with committees and boards that he has been a vital part of. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time.

Donna Black and Family - May 03, 2014 at 12:57 AM

LM

“ With all due prayers for all of you during this trying time in your life; may G-d comfort you, and allow you to remember all the beauty he added while in this earthly existence,

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**LuAn McGinnis** - May 02, 2014 at 09:23 PM

PW

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We got to know and love Harry after we moved to Windermere. He always kept a check on everything and helped when needed. I especially remember how jovial he was anytime we saw him.....

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**Phil and Martha Withrow** - May 02, 2014 at 08:46 PM

PM

“ Mr B was one of a kind and will be sorely missed.

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**Pamela McKinzie** - May 02, 2014 at 07:20 PM

BM

“ First met "Big Harry" in 1979...the personification of a true Southern Gentleman. An honor to have made his acquaintance at such an impressionable season of life! We do need more like him!!! Blessings to his loved ones...

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**Bill Maxey** - May 02, 2014 at 05:30 PM

GG

“ Harry, this old world will be a much smaller place without you. You and Jeanne hold such a special place in our hearts. Thank you for making our lives so much fuller.

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**George T. Gillespie** - May 02, 2014 at 05:22 PM

DK

“ *With deepest sympathy, much love*  
*Donna Walley King*

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**Donna Walley King** - May 02, 2014 at 04:28 PM

JB

“ *Praying you will find comfort in His arms as you listen for His still,*  
*small voice.*  
*In His Care, Always Jean Bounds*

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**Jean Bounds** - May 02, 2014 at 02:39 PM