



## Mrs. Marie B. Harrell

June 19, 2015

HARRELL, Marie B., 85, of Plant City, Fl., entered into eternal rest on June 19, 2015, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Boaz, Ala., Marie was dedicated to a life of learning. As a member of the University of South Florida's charter class, she earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in science and education. For more than 30 years, Marie fostered her passion for educating as a Brandon High School chemistry and biology teacher. Outside of the classroom, she cultivated her garden, incredible cooking talents, love of reading and travel. Marie's greatest joy and legacy was her family. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Grady Harrell; children, Tony Harrell (Debbie) of Plant City, Lucretia Stolzman (John) of Largo; Jerry Harrell of Plant City, Dean Harrell (Debbie) of Plant City, and Becky Buckingham (Keith) of Plant City; sister Ann Copeland (Randall) of Plant City; and 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren who lovingly called her Gamby. A celebration of Marie's life will be held Sunday, June 28, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 1107 Charlie Griffin Road, Plant City, FL 33566. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Bruton Memorial Library, 302 McLendon Street, Plant City 33563, and/or LifePath Hospice, 12470 Telecom Drive, Suite 300 West, Temple Terrace, FL 33637. Expressions of condolence at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ Mrs Harrell was my supervising teacher for my internship at USF in 1974 What a wonderful & caring teacher and friend She always held a special place in my heart praying for all of you in this time of loss  
Mary Duncan

Mary Duncan - July 02, 2015 at 11:12 PM

LS

“ Becky, Was so sorry to here about your mom. She was a wonderful lady, I remember being at your house when we were just kids. I have always loved your mom and dad. We will keep you and your family in our prayers.  
School pal , Linda Brannon Simpson

Linda Brannon Simpson - June 28, 2015 at 09:18 AM

LS

“ Linda Brannon Simpson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marie B. Harrell



Linda Brannon Simpson - June 28, 2015 at 09:06 AM

TQ

“ Tina Quarles lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marie B. Harrell



Tina Quarles - June 26, 2015 at 01:14 PM

TQ

“ *My memory of Marie: I married her cousin (Gary Quarles) seven years ago. Marie offered such words of encouragement. She was so genuinely happy for Gary. She told us to go and enjoy many happy years together. Tina Quarles (Albertville, AL)*

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**Tina Quarles** - June 26, 2015 at 01:13 PM

DH

“ *Marie, God truly blessed me to have you for my mother in law. I'll miss our little talks when Dean and Grady were playing their guitars in the other room. Thank you for the memories that I will hold dear to my heart. I can see you now looking down on your family telling us to love one another, look out for each other and to not worry about the small stuff, life is too short. I love and will miss you deeply. Thank you for your son Dean, who is an awesome husband, dad and papa. You did an awesome job raising him to be the person he is.*



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**Debbie Lewis Harrell** - June 25, 2015 at 09:04 AM

CR

“ My deepest heartfelt condolences to all her family and friends. Mrs. Harrell was an exceptional educator. I had Chemistry with Mrs. Harrell during my school years at BHS from 76-79. She was always encouraging and patient. I really couldn't wrap my head around math and struggled with the basics in math class, but in her class I did well. She gently counseled me on the fact that I did indeed have the ability to do well in my math studies. With just a few gentle encouraging words she gave me the confidence I needed. I can still hear her gently whispering those words of encouragement all these years later. Thank you Mrs. Harrell, I'll never forget you and the gift you gave me.

*With respect and sadness,  
Cynthia Ann (Goff) Rivard*

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**Cynthia Rivard** - June 24, 2015 at 11:51 AM

RS

“ She was a treasured friend and coworker to my grandmother, Mildred Scarpitta. I believe they worked together at BHS in the early to mid-70's. Knowing my grandmother and the company she kept I am sure that Mrs. Harrell is leaving a legacy to be proud of. Condolences to her family.

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**Renee Leniz Sarver** - June 24, 2015 at 07:47 AM

CV

“ I worked with Mrs. Harrell for many years at Brandon High School. She was a teacher who truly cared about her students.  
Carole Nichols Valdespino

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**Carole Nichols Valdespino** - June 23, 2015 at 10:28 PM

RL

“ As my senior class advisor and chemistry teacher at Brandon High, I liked her so much I took her class multiple times. She was always fair, cared deeply for even her problem children like me, and prepared me more than I would know for college and life. I will never forget my private graduation ceremony she arranged when I chose to not attend the main one. God bless you Mrs. Harrell and family

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**Ross Lamoreaux** - June 23, 2015 at 08:41 PM

JB

“ Mrs. Harrell was my chemistry teacher when I attending Brandon High from 1987-1990. Such a wonderful, sweet lady. I will keep her family and loved ones in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Jennifer Wehman Boyd** - June 23, 2015 at 07:38 PM

TW

“ I was saddened to read of Mrs Harrell's passing. She was my Chemistry teacher at Brandon High in 1983. I remember her as a wonderful teacher - strict but open to helping students understand a difficult subject.  
For Halloween that year Mrs Harrell dressed up as a witch - full makeup and costume. She also laid out an incredible spread of food for all her students - I can still remember how delicious the meatballs were.  
My deepest condolences to her family.  
Respectfully,  
Teri Weide

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**Teri Weide** - June 23, 2015 at 07:07 PM

AN

“ *Lu and family, There are no words we can say to help ease your loss. Just know that we care.*

*Darrell & Anne Farley  
Don, Marcie & Catherine Nicholas*

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**Anne** - June 23, 2015 at 12:43 PM

KM

“ *Lucretia - I was saddened to read about your Mom's passing this morning. I loved being in her biology class and also knowing you at BHS. My condolences to you and your family for your loss.*

*Sincerely,*

*Karen Cobb Macaluso*

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**karen Macaluso** - June 23, 2015 at 08:22 AM

SH

“ *Happy Birthday to a beautiful angel in heaven. Aunt Marie you will be greatly missed. You graciously welcomed everyone to your home, a true southern lady. I will never be able to top your amazing country cooking, the bar has been set to high. You were always spoiling Mark with his special dishes with no onions! I always loved talking to you and getting great advice. You were a great role model. A woman with so much spirit and sassiness. Uncle Grady you Love you.*

*Sue and Mark*



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**sue harrell** - June 22, 2015 at 10:44 PM

AC

“Happy birthday Gamby. I was so blessed to have you almost 45 years. You were like a second Mom to me. I always knew if I needed advice you'd give it no holds barred. Straight up. So many memories. Bedtime stories you told us over and over and I'm sure you were tired and wished we'd go to sleep. Tshirt dresses, you made me doll clothes, sleeping in your Brandon High tshirts, your tired hands would French braid my hair and some of the others, French coffee, going to Farm stores for coffee ice cream, rolling in the front yard grass til we itched, you and Papa always had the best yard. Walking around the strawberry field with you was the best. You've always loved your kids and grandkids. Every achievement was important to you. You even made it to my college graduation when I was 42. You mean so much to me. I know you will live on through me and the family. You were the best. Your legacy is engraved in my heart.

Andrea

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**Andrea Cooper** - June 22, 2015 at 08:28 PM

BB

*I never knew Gamby rolled in the grass lol! Very nice Andrea!*

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**Becky Buckingham** - June 22, 2015 at 08:49 PM

AC

*Lol. No she didn't she got on to us for doing it lol.*

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**Andrea Cooper** - June 22, 2015 at 08:54 PM

AC

*Lol. No she didn't she got on to us for doing it lol.*

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**Andrea Cooper** - June 22, 2015 at 08:55 PM

AC

*Oh also she made my bridesmaid dresses for my wedding to Austin's Dad. Beautiful dresses.*

**Andrea Cooper** - June 22, 2015 at 09:00 PM

KE

“ *I miss you dearly, Gamby. More than words could even express. Viscerally. You were such a wonderful grandmother to me. You were loving, kind, giving, protective, vivacious, helpful, hardworking, warm-hearted, witty, smart, self-sacrificing, dutiful, spirited, delightful, thrifty, generous, gracious, knowledgeable, sassy, practical, wise, devoted to your family (5 kids, 16 grandkids, 16 great-grandkids), a benevolent matriarch, strong as steel but lovely as the pretty flowers that you always enjoyed growing in your garden. I always loved being in your cozy company. You always made me feel warm, safe and protected, and I felt a special bond with you that I never felt with my parents. Today is your birthday and you would be turning 86 today. The crape myrtles are blooming right now, as they always did when we were celebrating your birthday, and they will always remind me of you when I see them blooming.*



*I am so lucky to have had you as my grandmother. I loved you far more than I ever loved anyone else, and I know that no one ever loved me as much as you did. It is an utterly devastating loss. I am completely heartbroken and my life will never be as enjoyable without you in it. I don't even know how to go on without you in my life, but being the practical woman that you were, I know you would want me to try. It will be my great honor to uphold you as an example of exactly what kind of grandmother I would like to be one day. As we always ended our messages to each other: love you bunches. Your granddaughter, Kerensa*

**Kerensa** - June 22, 2015 at 11:22 AM

BB

*Thank you Kerensa for such a beautiful tribute. I don't think anyone can love us like Gamby did. You were very special to her and you are a lot like her in many ways. ❤️*

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**Becky Buckingham** - June 22, 2015 at 08:47 PM

TP

*Sorry for your loss Kerensa. Your love for your grandmother is beautiful. I wish I had known her too. I will be praying for you and your family. Hugs!*

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**Teresa Pike** - June 24, 2015 at 03:38 PM



“ *You were always witty. I remember when papa tried to be nice to you, you'd roll your eyes and make a funny comment to him and we'd all laugh. I love you gamby and happy birthday*

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**Jessica Harrell** - June 22, 2015 at 10:25 AM

KE

*Lol, that's right. She was sassy, especially to Papa if he irritated her. I remember last Christmas when I was driving Gamby & Papa over to visit Papa's sister Audrey and his sister-in-law Ruby (both are widowed) at the assisted living facility (Patty's House ALF) in Lithia. We were taking the back roads from Gamby & Papa's house to get there. Gamby was sitting next to me in the front passenger seat, and Papa was sitting in the backseat making comments from the peanut gallery. I was driving about 40 mph on country roads, and Papa's yelling at me: "Damn girl, you need to slow this car down, you're going too damn fast!" Then Gamby retorted: "Why don't you just shut up, Grady. Because if she were to drive as slow as you do, she'd probably get arrested for loitering." I started laughing so hard. And then being hard of hearing, Papa yells: "Kerensa, what did she just say??!!" And Gamby was snickering at her witty retort, and I was trying not to run us off the road from laughing so hard at her amazing knack for sassy comeback lines.*

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**Kerensa** - June 22, 2015 at 12:26 PM

Troy  
Harrell

“ *I miss and love you Gamby*



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**Troy Harrell** - June 22, 2015 at 09:57 AM

LM

“ *Love and prayers to this sweet family.  
Thinking of you~*



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**Lisa Camp Martin** - June 21, 2015 at 06:14 PM

JS

“ *God bless a nice lady.*

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**john smith** - June 21, 2015 at 05:05 PM