



## Donn Harris

September 25, 1932 - January 22, 2019

The funeral service for Donn Harris, a resident at the Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa, and formerly of Eagle Bend, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 26, at the Faith Lutheran Church in Eagle Bend with Pastor Del Moen presiding. Visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. and will resume at the church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Let it be known that after 86 years on this Earth, music maker Donn Felton Harris reached his final coda during the earliest hours of January 22, 2019. His true love and duet partner, Sharon Harris, with whom he had journeyed through 59 years of matrimony, sang to him as he took his final breaths. Her hands sweetly holding his, as a glittering snow fell gently outside of the Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa, Minnesota.

Born on September 25th, 1932, he was dotingly raised by his mother, Ethyl and Grandma Marie Carlsen.

Donn's quenchless thirst for music took hold of him soon after he played his first notes on a trumpet in 5th grade. He went on to take private lessons every week for 14 years and played in both the concert and marching bands, jazz ensemble, and trumpet trio at West High. He also sang in his church choir, performed with the Honeywell Concert Band; and thrived in the orchestra at

the Minneapolis College of Music. It was there that he earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees, while he enjoyed being the president of his music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha. It was through music that he discovered both creative freedom and structured discipline, tenets that would guide his entire life.

He joined the National Guard, eagerly looking forward to playing Reveille each morning, only to find out it was canned music played over the loudspeaker. Nevertheless, he became a member of the 47th Infantry Division Band at the Minneapolis Armory and finished his last weeks of active duty playing in the 5th Army Band at Fort Ord, CA.

Back in Minneapolis during a church choir rehearsal, Donn accidentally dropped his sheet music and a kind young lady, Sharon Jones, helped him pick it up. They would become life-long singing partners. Married on August 15, 1959, they moved to Wisconsin, where Donn became the K-12 Vocal Music Teacher for 4 years.

In 1962, the couple moved to Eagle Bend, Minnesota as he took on the position of K-12 Vocal AND Instrumental Music Director, a position he would hold for more than 30 years. This meant commandeering the concert band, choir, pep band, jazz band, pop choir, marching band, as well as introducing and teaching music to generations of elementary students, including individual private lessons to every student for all instruments. Eventually even teaching his own grandchildren. His career as a music educator would not have been possible without the constant support and grade/bookkeeping skills of his loving wife and mother to their five children, Sharon.

Donn was a lovable perfectionist and self-professed extroverted-introvert. He was a man of few words, but those words meant a lot. His intelligence and sharp wit would often zing with calculated precision when you least expected

it. He was an artist with many hues at his disposal, and fiercely passionate with a baton in hand. A great musician and singer, a phenomenal teacher who was energetic, engaging, and patient. He chewed the scenery playing great roles in several community theater productions and was completely unafraid to be silly in front of the entire staff and student body during Homecoming skits or lip sync numbers. He was Donn, with two 'n's.

In retirement, Donn enjoyed performing with the Staples Men's Chorus and Wadena Community Band, as well a community theater with Madhatters and Lamplighter Community Theater. He was also the music director at Faith Lutheran Church for over 50 years.

Donn was an extremely kind-hearted man. But also strong. He lived with Parkinson's as long as Muhammad Ali (over 30 years). Donn taught us that being kind-hearted and strong are one and the same!

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ethyl (Carlsen) Harris and father Theodore Harris. He is survived by his wife, Sharon (Jones) Harris, his children, Kevin of Robbinsdale, Carolyn (Steve) of Blaine, Brent (Jan) of Eden Prairie, Shannon (Mary) of Culver City, CA, and Scott (Christina) of Sierra Madre, CA, and his grandchildren, Andrew, Steven, Lindsey, Alex, Brenna, Rosie, and Mackenzie Donn.

# Cemetery Details

## Hope Lutheran Cemetery

15115 County Road 22  
Eagle Bend, MN 56446

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 25. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church - Eagle Bend  
300 Main St. W.  
Eagle Bend, MN 56446

## Visitation

JAN 26. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church - Eagle Bend  
300 Main St. W.  
Eagle Bend, MN 56446

## Service

JAN 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church - Eagle Bend  
300 Main St. W.  
Eagle Bend, MN 56446



# Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Donn Harris*



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**Schuller Family Funeral Homes** - January 24, 2019 at 04:06 PM

PC

*Sharon and Family,  
Our sincere sympathy to each of you 🙏🎵🎺  
Larry and Pam Cook*

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**pam Cook** - January 24, 2019 at 07:52 PM

TH

*About thirty years ago Donn told me that we were both missionaries for the arts, and that we had to have each other's back because there weren't many of us. That insight sorta carried me. I directed Donn in several shows along with a good share of his family, and he showcased that living is a performance art. A class act for sure.*

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**Tim Hjelmeland** - January 26, 2019 at 11:19 PM

“ From Bill and Lenormous Weinerth:

*The Harris Family's impact on the Weinerth family began the end of August 1968.*

*I, Bill, came to rely on Don's guidance with the music portion of Faith Lutheran's worship experience. Since most of our youth attended the Eagle Bend School, Don also guided them during the school week and in weekend school activities. I saw Don create a love for music in the lives of many of our students, a love that greatly enriched their lives.*

*Don had a very busy schedule that included time on the Church Council of Faith Lutheran.*

*We left Eagle Bend in September of 1973 but continued to think of EB as our second home. When we returned to visit we stayed with the Harrises. They are family within our Faith family.*

*We thank Sharon and pay tribute to her as well for being such a loving and generous support to us, Don, her family and the community who were so enriched by her and Don's sharing of their God-given gifts to all at Faith Lutheran as well as the Eagle Bend community. We love you and are with you in spirit as you mourn your loss and celebrate the gift of Don's life among us.*

*Sincerely, Bill and Lenora*

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Carolyn Hilde - February 02, 2019 at 09:37 AM

GS

“ Dear Sharon,

*I'm so very sorry to hear of Mr. Harris' passing. When I look back at my school years and think of his dedication and unfailing devotion to his students and his craft, I realize that he taught us so much more than music.*

*My sincere and deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

*Gary Sadlemyer*

*EBHS Class of '70*

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**Gary Sadlemyer** - January 28, 2019 at 01:23 PM

AC

“ *Memory overload. Kindergarten music class - little, plastic, colorful chairs in 3 rows -always wanted to sit by Debbie Thompson. Elementary music: box with rhythm instruments. Song "Old Dan Tucker". Pep Band: balcony, sweaters, Solid Soul, Shambala, 25 or 6 to 4...best ever!. Marching Band: wool uniforms, spats, Memorial Day cemetery march. Pop Concerts: decorated gym, second half casual, "skit songs" - Mr. Roers narrator. Summer concerts in the park: audience in cars honking, "Saturday in the Park". Driving old (green?) school truck to transport chairs and stands. Choir: getting the piano moved into just right position, robes/stoles (doubled as grad gowns). Solo/ensemble. All district/state band. Singing SSB at b-ball games. Maybe my best personal memory. One time I was supposed to sing acapella solo. During music room practice I said to him, "How about if you sing duet with me? Pretty sure I can harmonize it." Sitting on a folding chair, leaning forward, hands on knees he said, "Okay. Let's give it a try." It worked!*



*He was our "Music Man". He did it all. He had passion, drive, determination. He was a difference-maker at EBHS, and his influence has had lasting impact on many of us well beyond graduation. Perhaps the right term for that is legacy.*

*Thanks for the memories.*

*Al Crider - EBHS 1984*

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**Al Crider** - January 26, 2019 at 06:33 PM

BS

*Love these memories and tribute to Mr. Harris!*

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**Byron Simar** - February 05, 2019 at 12:37 PM

JH

“ *Marin and I both benefited for the musical instruction of Mr. Harris! Personally he encouraged my natural talents and showed me how to develop my musical abilities! Percussion was selected for me because I could read music 🎵 and keep good time. ;) Favorite memories were contest competition, pep band, holiday concerts, band lessons and the band room. He definitely was in charge in that room! I also loved his taste in music, he exposed me to an amazing list of composers and instrumentalists as I know more now than I did then that music in the spice of life! As it will continues to inspire me into my future! Thank you Mr. Harris for everything you were to us at Eagle Bend high school ❤️*  
*Jeanette and Marin Hansen*



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**Jeanette Hansen** - January 26, 2019 at 03:23 PM

MF

“ *Mike & Linda, Chuck, Cristal, Carl and Families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donn Harris.*



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**Mike & Linda, Chuck, Cristal, Carl and Families** - January 26, 2019 at 01:42 PM

BN

“ *Donn Harris had such an impact in my life. He fueled the fire of my love for music. So much of what I've been privileged to do can be traced back to Donn. From teaching music/worship in India, directing musicals in the USA, choreography in Canada, to directing a TV series in Argentina - thank you Mr. Harris. You taught me to be fearless in music, teaching, and performance. Your footprint has touched nations and the hearts of many.*

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**Beverly Nordstrom** - January 26, 2019 at 12:17 PM

JB

“ *My sympathies for your loss. Donn left a legacy of music, care and devotion to his students and I am grateful to have been one of them. May God's love and presence give you peace and comfort as you celebrate his life today.*

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**Julie (Beach) Burnside** - January 26, 2019 at 07:31 AM

NA

“ Dear Sharon and Family,

*My heart hurts for you upon the loss of your beloved husband and father.*

*Donn was the most dedicated teacher I have ever known. He gave so much to our community, our school, and our children. Thank you for sharing him with us for all these years. Mr. Harris was my very favorite teacher of all time.*

*It seems to me that he did the work of two or more teachers. He took responsibility for the entire music education for kindergarten through high school. This included classroom music for K-6, junior high music classes, private lessons, concert band and choir, pep band, marching band, half-time shows, summer band, parades, concerts in the park, contest time with all the solos and ensembles, all the programs and concerts and more I can't remember.*

*Amazing!!*

*My time in his band and choir was such an important part of my life. I look back with wonderful memories. It was a rewarding experience as I learned to work hard, then work a little harder, and never give up. Mr. Harris inspired us to do our best. I loved our band. We worked so hard for that "Superior", and when we earned it, we would rejoice together. There was pep band, marching band, parades, and band trips, concerts, programs, and half-time shows. He wanted to encourage our music appreciation by taking us to Band Day at the U of M where we played at the gopher game and saw the U of M marching band. We went to symphonies at Northrop Auditorium and marched in the Aquatennial. We got to see a little bit more of the world, thanks to him.*

*I am proud to say that my two oldest also had Mr. Harris for their music teacher through high school. My two sons had the privilege of playing trumpet with him. The music department was never the same after he retired. It was such an honor to have him as a music teacher.*

*I so regret that I am not able to attend the service. I would very much like to be there.*

*Sincerely,*

*Nancy Nauman Aspengren*

**Nancy Aspengren** - January 25, 2019 at 11:42 PM

CW

“ *Cal & Cindy Wolf lit a candle in memory of  
Donn Harris*



**Cal & Cindy Wolf** - January 25, 2019 at 09:12 PM

Toni  
Hansmeyer

“ *Mr. Harris was one of my most influential  
teachers! I know I often frustrated him, for  
which I am truly sorry, but he never gave up on  
me. He assigned a difficult song for me to play  
at contests one year, involving 'triple  
tonguing'. I never got it right in practice, but  
nailed it on contest day. I'll never forget the praise he gave me that  
day. He believed in me much more than I did in myself! I also  
remember fondly that after concerts were done, the band often sat  
back down & played "Latina". We had fun both in band & choir, and  
learned a few things even! Thanks Mr. Harris! This world needs  
more caring people like you in it! Sending hugs to Sharon & family...  
Love from Toni (Smith) & Joe Hansmeyer*



**Toni Hansmeyer** - January 25, 2019 at 11:26 AM

BS

*Right on! So honest, Toni. No more to say. It's all true.*

**Byron Simar** - February 05, 2019 at 12:41 PM

JP

“ *so sorry for your loss*

**Julia Peery** - January 24, 2019 at 11:58 PM

JK

“ Jean Kolstad sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Donn Harris



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**Jean Kolstad** - January 24, 2019 at 10:48 PM

JK

*RIP Don Harris. Condolences to Sharon and family. You have all been  
supportive & loving . Sharon you taken such good*

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**Jean Kolstad** - January 24, 2019 at 11:14 PM

EB

“ Long ago a poet penned an abiding truth: When soft voices die,  
music vibrates in the memory. And so it does. Donn's life-long  
passion for music dispelled darkness, gave love its sound. He lives  
in us.

*Eric Berryman*

*Bobbie Berryman*

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**Eric Berryman** - January 24, 2019 at 10:15 PM

KM

“ Kim (Solid) Morrissey purchased the Divine Peace  
Bouquet for the family of Donn Harris.



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**Kim (Solid) Morrissey** - January 24, 2019 at 09:44 PM

Linda Cluever Beulke

“ *Mr. Harris was an inspiration to me. He worked hard to make music fun. Teaching the same student for 12 years oh, has he did many students. I have many fond memories of band and choir, going with Sharon and the family to community concerts in Wadena through the concert Association. Summer band concerts marching band*

Linda Cluever Beulke - January 24, 2019 at 08:18 PM

Linda Cluever Beulke

“ *Linda Cluever Beulke lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris*



Linda Cluever Beulke - January 24, 2019 at 08:16 PM

JM

“ *Jill Roste Miller lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris*



Jill Roste Miller - January 24, 2019 at 07:58 PM

Mary  
Parsons

“ I was just telling my own students this week about Donn and how he was my favorite teacher. He worked tirelessly and lovingly to make our music programs fun. I loved how on Halloween he would make us sing before we would get our treats. You believed in your students and helped them be their best. You will forever be an inspiration to me Donn. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from you. Deep condolences to all of you who have lost this great man. Mary (Johnson) Parsons.

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**Mary Parsons** - January 24, 2019 at 07:31 PM

KA

“ Mr. Harris always amazed me. He was strict and gentle all at the same time, just enough to keep us all on edge and performing at our best :) !! And indeed a staple in my high school career. Thank you for your tremendous investment in me/us and for blessing this world with your passionate gift of creating music. Your trumpet carried many of our pep band performances both in the gym and throughout the FREEZING COLD evening football games. Play on.....!!!!

*Kelly (Greene) Albrecht*

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**Kelly Albrecht** - January 24, 2019 at 07:07 PM

JL

“ Mr. Harris was always considered as a second father to most of us that were in band and choir. We saw him more than we did our own fathers while in high school! He shared his love for music with all of us! Thank you Donn! May you Rest In Peace and sing glorious songs in heaven! I'll keep Sharon and family in my prayers. Jill Lubben

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**Jill Lubben** - January 24, 2019 at 04:49 PM

MN

“ Hopefully there is some room for funny’s here!  
I remember during a private clarinet lesson, having a very detailed conversation about “phlegm” with Mr. Harris!! 😂😂😂  
Remember the summer band concerts??

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mona murch navalta - January 24, 2019 at 03:24 PM



“ 53 files added to the album Life Tributes



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Schuller Family Funeral Homes - January 24, 2019 at 03:00 PM

LK

“ My very sincere condolences to you, Sharon. Even though Donn and I were cousins, I didn't know him very well, as he was in high school when I was just a toddler. I recall thinking he was sooo handsome! We went to visit Great Grandma Marie, Ethyl, and Donn in Minneapolis. His Dalmation Trixie didn't want us there. She growled and snarled at us all the time we were there. She was the only dog I was ever fearful of. It was Tuesday, that I was recalling that, and wondering about you two, as I was aware that he had health issues.

Fondly, Lynda Marsh Kubly

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Lynda Marsh Kubly - January 24, 2019 at 02:45 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donn Harris.*



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January 24, 2019 at 01:55 PM



“ *Even though he wasn't an athlete he was the biggest fan of EB sports. One football game in cold rainy weather when we were way behind I looked at the sidelines and the only fan still there and cheering loudly was Mr. Harris.*

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**Larry Refsland** - January 24, 2019 at 01:31 PM



“ *Vonnie (Peterson), Julie (James), & Mona (Murch) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donn Harris.*



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**Vonnie (Peterson), Julie (James), & Mona (Murch)** - January 24, 2019 at 01:12 PM

EM

“ Dear Harris Family,  
Please know how much your family means to us, how much we appreciated Donn not only in his music teaching excellence, but in his willingness to be a friend and community volunteer. We remember singing in the Faith Lutheran choir, special favorites being, "Venite Adoremus Dominum (The Snow Lay on the Ground)"; it would snow almost always after we'd sung this! And, surely, "No Golden Carriage"; a beautiful song I'd not heard before being in Donn's choir. We are so thankful to have been in the company of Donn and Sharon and their family. Words from "The Snow Lay on the Ground",  
"Oh come, then, let us join the heavenly host, to praise the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."  
What a choir Donn has now! We ask God to be with you, Sharon and all the family, to give you peace and comfort. Our love, Gayle and Earl

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**Earl and Gayle Mathison** - January 24, 2019 at 12:42 PM

BW

“ Sharon,  
As a student that graduated in 1970, I appreciated Donn's talents so much that I requested him to sing at our wedding in 1971. he accepted and sang a beautiful rendition of , John Denver's, FOLLOW ME. so many of our guests were super impressed with his talent that he shared so freely. god bless all of you in his family and his friends as you remember all of your cherished memories of a sweet, caring and talented man!

*Becky Lorentz Walker*

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**Becky Lorentz Walker** - January 24, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Donn Harris.*



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January 24, 2019 at 11:03 AM



“ *From Kay Nelson: Bob often commented "Donn Harris is the hardest working teacher up there" .[THERE being the school.] Donn patiently had to wait minutes before a scheduled Band and Choir concert to set up the band and choir stages. to allow the Sports people to clear their activities in the auditorium. He was never late for elementary music classes or student's music lessons. He enjoyed staging the Faculty Homecoming Skit. I'm sure God has a place for him in His Heavenly Music department.*

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**Carolyn Hilde** - January 24, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ *What a great man... He truly loved music and knew how to share it with his students. I'm sure teaching me to learn bass guitar was not an easy task for him but he stayed with it and I am so grateful! Bless his soul.*

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**Alois Warzecha** - January 24, 2019 at 09:58 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donn Harris.*



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January 24, 2019 at 09:51 AM

JC

“ I have so many great memories from being one of his students; all of the band and choir trips, parades, pep band, U of M homecoming, doing formations on the football field during halftime, personal music lessons, and so many more. He was one of the great teachers ever. He spent a lot of time and preparation to give us a great experience.



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**Jim Crider** - January 24, 2019 at 09:28 AM

JH

“ Joanne Hillman lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris



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**Joanne Hillman** - January 24, 2019 at 09:26 AM

FA

“ Faye Arntson lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris



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**Faye Arntson** - January 24, 2019 at 12:47 AM

AH

“ I taught with Donn for 15 years at Eagle Bend/ Eagle Valley. We also did many community theater plays together in Bertha and Wadena. (Sound of Music, Fiddler on Roof and Hello Dolly to name a few) I will always remember his colorful bow ties, the faculty skits for Homecoming, his fun attitude and his incredible work ethic. It was also a joy to have worked with his children in many school plays and community theater shows. Heaven gained a music angel. Donn will be leading a band or chorus in heaven for certain. Sharing in the family's loss of this sweet man. Sharon and Donn were partners in every sense. Love to the entire family. Amy Hunter

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**Amy Hunter** - January 23, 2019 at 10:22 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Terry Smith** - January 23, 2019 at 09:27 PM

DH

“ DH (Donn Harris), DH (Deb Haraldson), & JB (Joan Batcher) - Three music teachers that worked together at Eagle Valley School. We depended on each other, learned from each other and made a great team. We will miss you Donn! Thanks for all the wonderful memories dear friend! Sending love & prayers to Sharon & family. DH

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**Deb Haraldson** - January 23, 2019 at 03:10 PM

CN

“ I will always remember the good time Larry and I had with Sharon and Donn on our trip to Branson, MO. My prayers are with the family. God bless you.  
Carol Notch

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**Carol Notch** - January 23, 2019 at 03:08 PM

DT

“ Sharon and family,  
I want to convey my sympathies to you and assure you that you will be in my prayers. You have been an inspiration through the loving care you have given Don through his long struggle.

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**Diane Teigland** - January 23, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donn Harris.



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January 23, 2019 at 01:02 PM

SQ

“ Sharon Quale lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris



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**Sharon Quale** - January 23, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donn Harris.*



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January 23, 2019 at 10:51 AM



“ *Hearing of Mr. Harris's passing has us flooded with memories. His band classroom was one of our favorite places to be-- a place we connected with friends, a place where we were challenged, a place where we knew we mattered, and a place where we got to experience the transcendent joy of making music. His love for music and his love for students showed in how hard he pushed us and how he beamed with pride when we got it right.*

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. We wish we could be there.*

*Chad and Tara (Zeise) Van Heel*

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**Chad aand Tara Van Heel** - January 23, 2019 at 10:42 AM



“ *Don was my high school music teacher in Eagle Bend. His love of music was infectious! We always seemed to do a little better than expected at concerts so Mr. Harris would be proud if us.*



*Thank you for instilling the love of music into my life!*  
*Judy Fransen Erdahl*

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**judy Erdahl** - January 23, 2019 at 09:22 AM

LS

“ *Lea And Mike Snyder lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris*



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**Lea and Mike Snyder** - January 23, 2019 at 08:09 AM

DW

“ *Doris Winter lit a candle in memory of Donn Harris*



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**Doris winter** - January 23, 2019 at 06:46 AM