



## *- Acknowledgement -*

The family of the late Mr. John Andrew Harris, Sr. acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless you all.

## *- Interment -*

Evergreen Cemetery

## *- Pallbearers -*

Friends of the Family

## *- Flower Attendants -*

Friends of the Family

## *- Repast -*

Covington Recreation Center  
213 Carver Avenue  
Opelika, AL 36801

## *- In Memoriam -*

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.

*Final Arrangements Entrusted to:*



*Harris Funeral Home*  
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South 6th Street  
Opelika, Alabama 36801  
(334) 749-6583 Fax 334) 759-7018  
[www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

*John Andrew Harris, Sr.*



## FUNERAL SERVICE:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023  
2:00 P.M.

**ST. LUKE A.M.E. CHURCH**

1308 AUBURN STREET  
OPELIKA, ALABAMA 36801

REVEREND MONIQUE SUMMERS, OFFICIATING



## - Obituary -

Mr. John Andrew Harris, Sr., son of the late Mr. John Harris and Mrs. Trubie Martin Dowell, was born January 18, 1951 in Lee County, Alabama.

At an early age, he accepted Christ and united with the historic St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Opelika, Alabama where he served as a member of the Steward Board. He graduated from J.W. Darden High School Class of 1970. In the early 80's, John opened and operated JHJ Grocey Store in Opelika, Alabama.

Commissioner Harris has been a Public Servant/Official for the greater part of his life. His involvement with the community spans over thirty years. In 1986, he was elected City Councilman, the first of two African Americans to ever fulfill this position. Mr. Harris held this seat until 1994. City Councilman Harris was then elected to the public life position of County Commissioner - Lee County, Opelika, Alabama. Commissioner Harris has governed effectively in that capacity until present and the recipient of numerous distinguished commendations and awards honoring his impressive political career including the following:

1986, Community Service Award (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc); 1988, Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding and Dedicated Service (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.); 1990, served as Mayor Pro-Tem Opelika City Council; 1995, Outstanding and Dedicated Service 16 Years award; City Government of Alabama Lee County (Association County Commissions) Recognized Honorable John Andrew Harris; 2000, Appreciation for Leadership Service and Dedication to the Opelika Community (Zuber Federation Club); 2002, Outstanding Leadership and Service as a History Maker; a recognition as the First African American elected to Opelika City Council from Ferguson Chapel CME Church; 2004, a recognition from Alabama Council Partnership of Lee County; 2007, Distinguished Men Award/Concern Citizen for Children; Present Chairman of Lee & Russell Counties Planning Organization since 2007; 2008, an Excellence in Leadership and Dedication from the Lee County Democratic Party for the

Get Out and Vote; 2011, a Congratulations and Retirement Award from the Auburn City Schools Child Nutrition Program for 34 years of service; 2014, TOP County Performers Award, Voter Registration Drive from the Alabama Voter Registration Alliance; The Community Service Award from Bell Missionary Baptist Church Auburn, Alabama; 2016, Recipient of President Barack Obama Lifetime Achievement Award; current President Lee County Voters League since 2016; he served as campaign manager for Doug Jones for Lee & Russell Counties; 2018, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award from the Dream Day Foundation; 2019, Recipient of Champion of Change Political Action Award; 2021, Appointed as the Alabama State NAACP Conference new Political Action.

John was an avid Auburn Football Fan "War Eagle" and he enjoyed playing cards (spades).

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, he departed this life at Piedmont Healthcare in Columbus, Georgia. He was preceded in death by: one daughter, Zanquette Harris; three brothers, Jimmy Harris, James Harris and Dr. Jamarlo K. Gumbaytay.

Precious memories will forever be cherished by: six children, John Andrew Harris, Jr., Andrew Harris, Andrea (Tyree) Henderson all of Opelika, AL, Wesley (Winona) Harris of Wyandanch, NY, Monique Harris and Reneka Harris both of Columbus, GA; seventeen grandchildren; three great grandchildren; two sisters, Jacqueline (Ephesians) Strickland of Opelika, AL and Selina Dillard of Columbus, GA; one step-sister, Ida (Marshall) Carter of Opelika, AL; one aunt, Minnie Louise Ingram of Auburn, AL; one sister-in-law, Willie Ella Harris of Tuskegee, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

## - Order of Service -

Processional and Final Glance.....Clergy and Family

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Willie Burton  
Pastor, Greater Thankful Missionary Baptist Church

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament.....Bishop Nolan Torbert  
Pastor, True Deliverance Holiness Church

New Testament.....Bishop A. L. Dowdell  
Pastor, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

Solo.....Mrs. Virginia Peters Graham

Expressions.....Two Minutes Each Please  
Apostle Carolyn Morton

Mr. Wilbert D. Payne  
100 Black Men of Greater Auburn-Opelika Chapter

Mr. Oscar Penn  
Concern Citizens of Opelika

Mrs. Laticia Khalif-Smith  
President of the Lee County NAACP Branch 5038

The Honorable Johnny Ford,  
President of the National Conference of Black Mayors

Mr. George Bandy, Jr.  
President of Fiber Industries

Resolutions.....Mr. Bernard Simelton, President  
of the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP

Mr. Eddie Smith  
President of the City Council for the City of Opelika

Mrs. Elaine Burton  
Secretary of the Historic St. Luke A.M.E. Church

Poem.....Minister Elizabeth Burton

Solo.....Mr. Gregory Maddox

Eulogy.....Reverend Monique Summers  
Pastor, The Historic St. Luke A.M.E. Church

Recessional