



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF  
*Thomas Weldon Harris*

February 20, 1943 - January 8, 2026



Thomas Weldon Harris was born on February 20, 1943, in Memphis, Tennessee to Jay E. and Bettie Weldon Harris. At the time, his parents were living in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he spent the first few months of his life. Once his father was drafted into World War II, Weldon would live in Augusta, Kentucky for a time with his maternal grandmother, Lyde Weldon.

Weldon spent his childhood in the home his father purchased before he left for Europe in 1943. The house on Thomas Street was a duplex, with his grandmother, Mary Bryant Harris, living on one side, and Weldon and his parents on the other side. After Jay returned home from the war in 1946, he opened a series of businesses to care for his young family, eventually settling on Jay E. Harris, Inc., a water, sewer, excavation and concrete paving business. The business grew rapidly in the 1950s and included half the work needed to open the Northern Kentucky Industrial Park, among many other important jobs in the area.

In 1955, the Harris family moved to 23 Parkway Drive in Crestview Hills. After attending schools in Erlanger, Weldon made the transition to Dixie Heights High School where he would graduate in 1961. He had a close relationship with his mother, who took him with her everywhere—to museums, baseball games, a train trip to Chicago or anywhere he wanted to go. As

an only child, Weldon saw the world through his parents' eyes. Throughout his high school years, they would take him on trips to Washington, D.C., the West Coast, many national parks and a dude ranch in Colorado. They also ventured out of the country to visit Montreal, Quebec, and The Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River.

As a young boy, Weldon dabbled in everything from archery to baseball, played tennis on the only court in town, learned to swim at the YMCA in Covington and skated on the frozen ponds across from their Parkway home. He collected stamps, postcards and coins, digging through the coffee cans of change left by the paper man to see if he could find coin dates he didn't have. He loved his 1950 Lionel Train Set and spent many happy hours playing with it, keeping it to set up under his own family's Christmas tree decades later. Weldon loved animals, rescuing box or gopher turtles, loving on many cats throughout the years and even had a few snakes and an alligator given to him by his great-aunt.

When it came time for college, Weldon attended Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. He majored in business and finance and had a minor in geography and geology. The love of maps and rocks never left him, and his family would often find him pouring over an atlas or looking something up to see where they might be traveling. Weldon pledged Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and lived in the house on campus, where he spent many happy days. During the spring of 1962, he saw an article in the paper about a young woman who was announcing her graduation from Holmes High School and her intention to attend Georgetown College. Thinking she was cute, Weldon made a note to look up the cute girl when school resumed in the fall.



Toward the end of his sophomore year, Weldon went on a blind date with that cute girl, Elizabeth Ann (Libby) Combs, on a fraternity outing. They dated throughout the rest of college and were married on July 8, 1967. After living in an apartment on Sleepy Hollow Road for the first six months of their marriage, the couple bought their first house on Sunset Drive in Erlanger. On August 13, 1969, Ann Marie arrived to fill their tiny house with squeals, cries and laughter. The night she was born, Weldon gave his heart to Christ and was baptized at Erlanger Baptist Church, where he was later ordained as a deacon and served the community well.

After the death of Weldon's mother in 1970, the family moved to the house on Parkway and set about making it their own. Rebecca Lynn joined the family on December 1, 1972, completing the circle. Weldon took over Jay E. Harris, Inc., and was busy around the Greater Cincinnati area throughout the 1970s. Eventually, he transitioned the business into a waterworks supplier to contractors in public utilities which he dubbed Erlanger Enterprises, Inc.

Weldon joined the Erlanger Rotary Club in 1970. At the time of his passing in 2026, he had maintained more than 55 years of perfect attendance, no small feat for a weekly meeting. No matter where the family was on vacation, Weldon found a local club to attend a meeting. Libby often recounted sitting in the car with a child or two waiting for Weldon to finish up at Rotary. Service before Self was not just a motto for Weldon—it was something he believed in deeply and lived to the fullest. In 2004 when he and Libby purchased a second home to be near the grandchildren in Alabama, he visited clubs in both Vestavia Hills and Hoover, where he met professors Ann Marie had in college and members from her church. Years later, she still meets people who knew her dad from Rotary.

In 1987, the family moved to Longwood, Florida, after purchasing The Basket Place, a furniture and gift shop that they would own until 1999. The girls went away to college and Ann Marie married Todd Harvey in 1991. They had two daughters: Susannah Elizabeth in 1998 and Sarah Page in 2001. Ann Marie is a writer, editor, public relations professional and the executive director of her local city schools foundation. Rebecca got her master's degree, completed her Ph.D. coursework and worked as a professor and a licensed archaeologist. She founded a nonprofit, SARI, the Smyrnéa Archeological Research Institute, and preserves local history and archaeology in New Smyrna Beach. She married Michael Grabowski and they have a large cat family.

Weldon again transitioned careers in the late 1990s and earned his real estate license, working for The Buyer's Agent. He burned up the roads showing houses and helping people find their forever homes. After the death of his father in 2003, Weldon retired and found new things to capture his interest.



An avid golfer, he played more and enjoyed the Florida weather. He walked two-and-a-half miles every day and easily walked faster than the younger walkers in the neighborhood. He and Libby spent four months out of the year in Hoover, where they could spend time with Susannah and Sarah Page. If they were in residence, there wasn't a dance recital, voice recital, skating lesson or Nutcracker that they would miss. They were present at school events, church, doctor's appointments and surgeries. The time spent with the girls was precious.

Weldon never slowed down until his body forced him. His very fast illness and subsequent death were a shock to the family. This strong, stoic man stayed positive until the end, often causing Libby, Ann Marie and Rebecca to joke that they would engrave "I'm fine," on his tombstone. He taught us to look on the sunny side of the street, to live our faith, to show good to all and to put service above self. Our precious husband, father and grandfather will never be forgotten and will be missed for the rest of our lives.

