



## Michael Leon Harris

August 14, 1949 - July 12, 2009

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Michael L. "Mike" Harris, 59, died July 12, 2009 in an airplane accident in St. Johns County, Florida. He had made his home in Jacksonville, Florida for several years. Mike was born in Madison County, Tennessee and attended Pope Elementary School and Northside High School where he played football. He was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America, was an Explorer Scout, an Eagle Scout and earned the God and Country Award. Mike attended the World Scout Jamboree in Idaho in 1967 and attended church camp at Camp Clark Williamson, serving as life guard for two years. He was an avid water skier in college and won many contests. Mike graduated from Tennessee Tech. with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy as an airman and then earned an Aeronautical Degree from Florida State University. Lt. Harris served in the U.S. Navy for eight years and in the Navy Reserve for twelve years. He was assigned three tours of duty in the Mediterranean on board an Aircraft Carrier. According to his previous Commander, Lt. Harris was one of the top aviators to ever be a member of Attack Squadron #45. Mike was an airline pilot for Eastern Airlines before being with Delta Airlines for 17 years. He logged more than 18,000 hours flight time before retiring a few years ago. Mike spoke well of everyone and had many friends including his former Squadron Commander, Dick Porter, who said that Mike had stayed in touch with him, helping him through some down

times in recent years with health problems. Mike was a very accomplished pianist and guitarist, and enjoyed playing for many groups. He was a member of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he was active in the youth group. Mr. Harris was preceded in death by his grandparents, Locie and Neta Jared Buck, and Albert H. and Nola Butler Harris. He leaves his wife of 23 years, Mrs. Misky Ann Kartz Harris of Jacksonville, FL; his parents, Leon L. and Alivene Buck Harris of Jackson, TN. Any memorials may be directed to an organization of donors choice.

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ I just learned of Mike's death and I am very sadden by it. Mike was a great guy, I will miss his emails and his friendship. I always enjoyed hearing about his fishing and hunting stories. He lived life to the fullest. Marc

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**Marc K. Willis** - August 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ My thoughts are prayers are with you.

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**Krisann McCormick** - July 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I did not know Mike personally, but my 10 year old son flew with him on June 20, 2009 through the Eagle Scout program. My son came home and shared how awesome this pilot was and how he now wants to become a pilot himself. He even stated that he would buy an airplane before buying a car. He would rather drive the airplane! It was quite obvious, just from listening to my son's excitement, that Mike had a love for flying. We were very sorry to hear about the accident, came across this website, and wanted to share this memory.

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**Tracy Miller** - July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM