



Captain Steven Ray Harless

September 7, 1952 - May 28, 2019

Captain Steven Ray Harless of Palm Beach, FL, and Statesboro, GA, passed away unexpectedly on May 28, 2019, of cardiac arrest. He was born September 7, 1952, in Alexandria, VA, into a US Coast Guard family. His family lived in many places and he attended high school in Coconut Grove, FL, before attending and graduating from Stetson University in Deland, FL, where he met his wife, Caroline Otwell. They married immediately upon graduation. Later he completed post-graduate work at both Georgia State University and Georgia Southern University. After passing the CPA exam, he went to work for Price Waterhouse in Atlanta. In 1986, he founded Harless & Associates in the Buckhead area of Atlanta. Then in 1990 he and Caroline, a financial advisor, founded and added a financial services company, Peachtree Capital, to the mix. In the late 1990's what began as their weekend hobby became Flat Creek Lodge, a hunting and fishing resort in Swainsboro, GA, all developed and managed while working in their Atlanta businesses. Flat Creek Lodge garnered much attention and won many awards. Steve was particularly proud of his award-winning cheeses. After selling their Atlanta interests in 2015, the couple moved to Palm Beach, FL, to focus on their W. Palm Beach satellite firm established in 2011. Not one to sit still, Steve then pursued his many interest ranging from aviation, boating, various charities, and the arts. He was a member of the Knights Templar, York Rite, and Scottish Rite bodies, and the Shriner's Alee Temple in Savannah. He always loved the water – so much that he and Caroline lived on a yacht in Palm Beach until his death.

Steve, an only child, is predeceased by his parents, Commander Edmond R. Harless, US Coast Guard, and Joyce Blankenship Harless. He is survived by his wife, Caroline Otwell Harless, and an array of aunts, uncles, and cousins in Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio. His close circle of friends and clients will forever miss his friendship, loyalty, generosity, and his often outrageous sense of fun. He will also be remembered for his colorful and vintage attire.

Steve is to be cremated with a portion of his remains strewn at sea near Palm Beach and the remainder interred in a family plot in Statesboro. Close friends and family will celebrate his life a private events in both cities. Donations in his honor can be made to the Palm Beach Symphony (www.palmbeachsymphony.org), Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts

(www.benzaitencenter.org), and the American Humane (www.americanhumane.org).

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory of Statesboro is in charge of arrangements.

Comments



“ Our family would love to send our condolences to the Harless family. We are so very sorry for your loss. Alvin Thomas, Karen Thomas

Karen Thomas - July 20, 2019 at 08:01 PM



“ Our Family has know Steve for the last 5 years. We speak sporadically throughout the year and obviously quite a bit during tax season as he is my accountant. He was a very good accountant that made tax season as pleasurable as it could be. On a personal note, he made us feel like family. He was a beacon of light, always smiling, jovial, passionate, smart, and trustworthy. It was our pleasure to have him in our life. Briefly a few times I got to meet Mrs. Harless but our heart was broken when she recently sent us the email notifying us of his death. The Harless family is in our prayers. We all lost a good one and may we live like he told us..... phenomenal. #yolo #MuchLoveAlways #ibimarketing

Terance Redmond - June 25, 2019 at 10:00 PM



“ We've just received an email from Caroline letting us know about Steve's passing. It left us shocked and sad. We had met Steve back in 2018 and he was not a « normal » CPA. He was creative, fun, personable and sharp. His humor stood out and he talked lovingly about his wife. He really made an impression with us, we felt close to him. Not something you can say about most CPAs, no offense.

Wherever you are, Steve, we'll always remember you. You not only helped us professionally but gave us a few hours of laughter and comradeship that made our day lighter and brighter whenever we went to your office. Happy sailing, and when it is the right time return to port for your first mate.

Melinda and Bob Sierra

Melinda Sierra - June 25, 2019 at 04:10 PM



“ It was such a shock to learn of Steve's passing. Steve had been our tax advisor since 1991 in Atlanta. And, what a wonderful 28-years it was. I truly loved his family, Caroline and Steve.....treasuring our professional and heartfelt warm relationship. He was a formidable, intelligent, disciplined, exceptionally knowledgeable CPA/Tax expert with an unwavering, honesty and candor. More importantly, Steve's intellect, humor, authenticity, kindness, enthusiasm for life, empathy, creativity, mind-boggling imagination, vision and alluring but truthful view /

perspective were a delight to experience first hand.

He was 'one' of a kind and God broke the mold with Steve. He touched so many lives in the most positive way and made a "real" difference.

My warmest, heartfelt wishes to Caroline, the family and each member of the team at Harless.

Steve is now with the Angels and, thankfully, will always be with Caroline in so many ways supporting her in whatever way possible.

Please RIP Steve and know you were dearly loved and admired for the very special man, husband and son that you were.

Your client and friend,

Mili Boreham



Mili Boreham - June 17, 2019 at 02:34 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Steve's passing. He was a joy to be around. Witty and intelligent with a sly sense of humor. Steve you will be missed. My prayers are with you and your family.

William King - June 07, 2019 at 06:04 PM



“ Steve was my CPA in Atlanta for many years. I saw him only once per year for tax season, but always received and enjoyed his insights on life. He was a man who always left a great impression. There's an old say that "people will forget what you say, but they will always remember how you made them feel." Steve made people feel good. Well done Steve. You will be missed.
Cy Pritchard

Cy Pritchard - June 07, 2019 at 03:43 PM



“ We were two of his many Palm Beach friends and admirers. Everyone loved him -- and he loved everyone else. He always presented a cheerful face which will be missed. Our condolences to his lovely wife, Caroline.

Paulette Cooper Noble - June 07, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ "Caroline. My heartfelt condolences in your loss. I will miss Steve and his presence. In my thoughts and prayers".
Glenn Belcher

JGB - June 06, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ Dear Sweet Caroline. With deepest sympathy and prayers. I have you in my heart. Blessings on you. Sandra (Sandi) Samples Johnson and the family of Brad and Bessie Samples.

Sandi Johnson - June 05, 2019 at 03:13 PM



“ Dave and I were shocked to read about Steve's death and wish Caroline and your entire family and cadre of friends our most sincere condolences. Steve was "one of a kind," a truly unique and UNforgettable person! I will NEVER forget how he'd regale us with fascinating stories each year as we sat together to do our taxes, OR how, one year, he had a container of raw celery by his side, munching on it during tax season. He was a doll! We were also honored to have gotten to know "Mr. Ed," his father. Again, we wish his extended circle of friends and family our deepest sympathies. I lift a glass of something bubbly and delightful in his honor and memory!
Audrey Galex & Dave Schechter

Audrey Galex - June 04, 2019 at 11:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Captain Steven Ray Harless.



June 03, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ Concetta Daley lit a candle in memory of Captain Steven Ray Harless



Concetta Daley - June 03, 2019 at 05:02 PM



“ Every time I walk peruvian dock I will look for my friend working on his boats, cigar in one hand and a cocktail close by.. Rest In Peace my friend, it was a joy to know you.
Hank Homes
M/V John Galt

HENRY HOMES III - June 02, 2019 at 01:42 PM