



## Vester "Sonny" Gene Harris

March 29, 1932 - September 10, 2025

Vester Gene "Sonny" Harris

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Vester Gene "Sonny" Harris of Elmore City, Oklahoma was born to Thomas David "Buster" Harris and Zina Nova (Barnett) Harris on March 29, 1932, in Elmore City, Oklahoma and passed from this life on September 10, 2025, at his home in Elmore City at the age of 93 years.

Sonny grew up in the Elmore City area and helped on the family farm where his father raised team mules and ranched cattle. During his late adolescent years, he also worked on the Sparks Ranch in Davis, Oklahoma where he perfected his horsemanship skills. On January 23, 1954, Sonny married his sweetheart, Opal Marie Tillery in Elmore City, Oklahoma, where they shared 71 years together and raised 3 daughters.

Sonny had a lifelong career in the oil and gas industry. He worked as a driller in the oil patches scattered throughout Oklahoma and Arkansas. He later retired from Shebester-Bechtel Well Servicing Company after 30 years of employment.

Sonny worked hard and played hard. He loved nothing better than entering a "Senior Team Roping Competition". He won many jackpots and belt buckles for his skill in heeling steers. He trained many horses over the years, but he had a particular soft spot for his steer roping horse, Blue and his calf roping horse, Rusty. He also enjoyed coon hunting and watching classic westerns and the Oklahoma Sooners play football.

Without a doubt his favorite title was "Papa." There was never a man that loved his kids and great grandkids more!

As a member of the Satterwhite Missionary Baptist Church, he loved tapping his foot to upbeat hymnals, especially his favorite "I'll meet you in the morning."

Mr. Harris is survived by:

Wife: Opal Harris of the home

Daughters: Vicky Shelton, of Elmore City; Sherri Harris of Elmore City; and Amy Gwilt, and husband Mick of Highland, California

Granddaughter: Lacey Helvey and husband Clay of Elmore City

Grandsons: Dustin Harris of Wynnewood, Oklahoma and Carson Gwilt of Highland, California

Great-Grandchildren: Ryley Mathis, Shayley Mathis, Averi Harris, Mac Helvey, and Cheyenne Helvey

Sisters: Tawana Pink, Warren, Michigan; Patsy Harris, Warren, Michigan; Linda Small, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Sharon Mackelvie, Canyon Country, California; and Connie Whisler, and husband Larry of League City, Texas

Along with a host of family and friends

Mr. Harris was preceded in death by:

His parents

Brothers: Tom Harris and Roger Harris

Sisters: Jane Cassell, Nova Frizell, Louella Byrum, Kathy Rhue, and Barbara Luster

Son in Law: Kenny Shelton

Grandson: Ty Shelton

Services for Sonny will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the First Baptist Church in Elmore City, Oklahoma with Charlie Henthorn and Roger Sims officiating. Visitation for Sonny will be on Monday, September 15, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Tuesday, September 16, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If you would like to send your condolences to the family you may do so at [www.woosterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.woosterfuneralhomes.com)



# Cemetery Details

## Elmore City Cemetery

Elmore City, Ok

# Previous Events

## Public Visitation

SEP **15**. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Elmore City)  
105 S. Main  
Elmore City, OK

## Public Visitation

SEP **16**. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Elmore City)  
105 S. Main  
Elmore City, OK

## Funeral Service

SEP **17**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Elmore City First Baptist Church  
107 S. Texas  
Elmore City, OK

# Tribute Wall

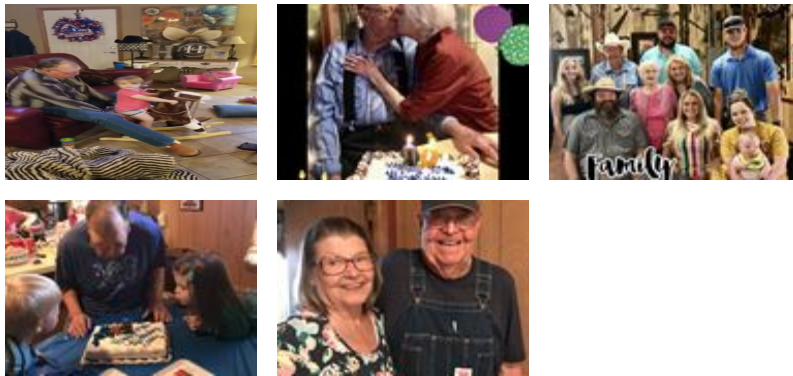
LH

“ *What a wonderful man. Sonny was always one of my favorite "coffee cowboys". When I was young and worked at Gas n Go, him and Lacey would come in and it would make my day. Nobody gave me any trouble when he was there either! When I was older, I would come visit and go to the store to find him. They don't make them like him anymore and I will miss my friend.*

**Lisa Bowerman Hart** - September 30, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ *82 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - September 17, 2025 at 10:10 AM

SS

“ *Sonny was a favorite at our Tillery reunions. No matter where he seen you he always had a big heart warming hug. He will be greatly missed. Love you Opal and family.*

**Sandra Tillery Sawyer** - September 16, 2025 at 06:16 PM

JM

“ *Jamie McCurley lit a candle in memory of Vester "Sonny" Harris*



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**Jamie McCurley** - September 16, 2025 at 10:23 AM

SM

“ *Sonny you could tell the best stories! You made us all laugh. Sorry I can't be there for your send off. I love you all and you will be missed! Sharon*

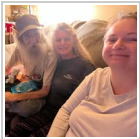
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**Sharon Harris MacKelvie** - September 15, 2025 at 06:25 PM

LH

“ *Lacey Helvey lit a candle in memory of Vester "Sonny" Harris*



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**Lacey Helvey** - September 15, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ *Prayer's and condolences for Sonny's family. Sonny was one of the Best guys I've known in life 🙏❤️🙏 RIP Mr. Harriss*



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**Wendy Payne** - September 15, 2025 at 05:45 PM

BH

“ Bobby Howard lit a candle in memory of  
Vester "Sonny" Harris



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**Bobby Howard** - September 13, 2025 at 10:57 AM

SJ

“ Stacey Johnson lit a candle in memory of  
Vester "Sonny" Harris



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**Stacey Johnson** - September 13, 2025 at 10:56 AM