



Harold Wayne Hamilton

October 28, 1954 - October 30, 2025

HAMILTON- Harold W. Hamilton, 71, a resident of Salem, Missouri passed away on Thursday, October 30, 2025, in Rolla, Missouri. He is survived by his companion Jarriel “Jay” Brewer of Salem, MO; his children, Allister Bradley Hamilton and wife Tara of Albuquerque, NM, Mitchell Leigh Hamilton, Courtney Anne Friend and husband Josh and Caitlin Brooke Hamilton and fiancé Jason all of Crocker, MO; siblings: Lynda Asby and husband David of Kansas City, MO, Leslie Booth and husband Dan of Kansas City, MO and David Hamilton and wife Sherry of Selina, KS; several nieces and nephews; his dear friend who he spent many hours antiquing with, Ann Rouse of Columbia, MO; and many other relatives and friends.

Harold was preceded in death by his adoptive parents, Glen and Jean Hamilton; his birth father, Earl Slayton; and his birth mother, Patricia Williams Freeland. He was born on October 28, 1954, in Waynesville, Missouri to Patricia Williams Freeland and was adopted at three days old by the parents who raised him into adulthood, Glen and Jean Hamilton. He was fortunate to have such wonderful adoptive parents during the first 27 years of his life and for the next 27 years of his life, the birth mother who loved him so very, very much. Harold always felt he was very lucky to have such wonderful people in his life. He attended and graduated in 1972 from Salem High School in Salem, Missouri and then attended Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri and the University of Missouri- Rolla, before attending St. Louis Community

College in St. Louis, Missouri where he received his Associate in Applied Science in Funeral Science Harold lived in Salem, Missouri where he was raised and was very active in the community serving as President of the Salem Chamber of Commerce in 1988, the Dent County Historical Society for two years, and the Dent County Fair Board for five years. He also served on the Oak Hill School District Board for one term. Harold was instrumental in the publishing of the first two Dent County History Books.

While in Salem, Harold owned and operated Hillcrest Florist in Salem for 16 years where he enjoyed using his decorating and arranging skills in serving many customers. Upon moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, he worked as Department Manager at Foley's before starting at French Mortuary in January 1996, where he took great pride in serving families in the Albuquerque area. Harold was a member of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving as President for 3 years. He also sang with the New Mexichords Barbershop Choir for a couple years and the New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus, prior to moving back to his hometown with his companion, partner and best friend, Jay, during the later years of his life.

Harold loved searching for antiques, history, researching genealogy and reading many books. One of the highlights in his life was when Harold found his birthmother and obtained a whole new family. He remained close to each of his families' right up until his death. Harold was a loving father, son, brother and friend to many and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Harold's desire is that part of his cremains are to be scattered on his favorite river in Missouri, the Current River, during a family float trip and the remainder be buried in the family plot in Salem, Missouri. At Harold's request, only white arrangements of flowers or plants are to be sent to his service and should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Salem Public Library, where he served on the board, and left with Wilson Mortuary.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

NOV 8. 6:00 PM (CT)

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Post Office Box 45
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<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - November 11, 2025 at 02:15 PM

AM

“ Harold was my supervisor and trainer at French Funerals in Albuquerque. He was a good man. His smile was genuine and reflected his outlook on life. His care and compassion for the families he served was evident.

Alan Taylor. Albuquerque New Mexico - November 10, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - November 10, 2025 at 11:34 AM

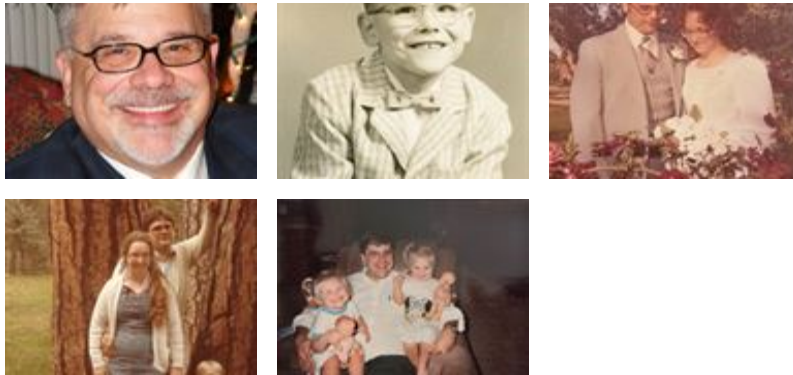
LD

“ Harold was one of the finest, kindest gentleman I have ever had the pleasure of working with and of being a friend. We worked together for a number of years in Albuquerque. His wicked humor and infectious smile always brought smiles and laughter to those around him. I am stunned at his passing and very saddened at his loss for the family. I know he cared deeply for them all as we used to share family stories with each other. I crumbled and cried deeply when I learned of his passing and the associated loss. My prayers and condolences go out to all his family and friends. The world was a much better place when Harold was with us. Rest in peace my dear friend and know that Annie and I send our wishes for a wonderful journey to your next adventure. Travel well and in peace. Larry Davis, retired Funeral Director

Larry Davis - November 08, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ 114 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson Mortuary - November 08, 2025 at 04:32 PM

MS

“ Harold was a beautiful person and a dear friend to everyone. I will miss you Harold! You are a great memory and example of loving everyone!!!!

Marcia Salazar - November 08, 2025 at 12:03 PM

BD

“ *Barbara, Michael Alarid and Uncle Dave purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harold Wayne Hamilton.*



Barbara, Michael Alarid and Uncle Dave - November 08, 2025 at 12:00 PM

PM

“ *Harold, you have been very special to me - for all you did for me as a friend & director. And for what you did for my folks at their times Especially, for what you did at the time of my dad's burial. You are a special soul. I've already missed you these years since moving back to MO. Blessings & thoughts of you will continue .. Peggy Murtagh*

Peggy Murtagh - November 07, 2025 at 11:44 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Harold Wayne Hamilton.*



November 07, 2025 at 10:11 AM

LC

“ *Lynda C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Wayne Hamilton.*

Lynda C. - November 07, 2025 at 10:11 AM

MS

“ Michael, Michelle, Mikey, Jude & Santi purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Harold Wayne Hamilton.



Michael, Michelle, Mikey, Jude & Santi - November 07, 2025 at 09:47 AM

RJ

“ Rebekah J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Wayne Hamilton.

Rebekah J. - November 06, 2025 at 09:35 AM

DL

“ I always looked forward to big flower holidays when I was growing up in the flower shop because it meant Harold was coming in after work (at the funeral home) to help us late into the night designing flowers. He always walked in with oreos and a smile. It was an honor to work with him in all of the capacities over the years, but even better having him as family to us for the last 25 years. Harold was one of those people that you don't just have one or two good stories with, you have dozens of good stories. We will miss you friend, thank you for everything you brought into our lives!

Danielle Lowry - November 05, 2025 at 04:33 PM

AK

“ Aunt Greeta&Michael Mills, Aunt Katrina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Harold Wayne Hamilton.



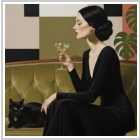
Aunt Greeta&Michael Mills, Aunt Katrina - November 05, 2025
at 04:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harold Wayne Hamilton.



November 05, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ Oh Harold. This makes me so sad. He was one of the truly, genuinely, good people in this world. Every time I heard his voice, his name, or, after he moved away, saw one of his posts of his beautiful decor, it always made me smile. Harold made people smile. Harold will be incredibly missed. □ It has been well over a decade and I still think of and talk about some of his singing group performances. They were great fun. Harold was an absolute gem on this Earth.

Leighbee Marisa - November 05, 2025 at 02:21 AM

JT

“ James Trujillo purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harold Wayne Hamilton.



James Trujillo - November 04, 2025 at 11:29 PM

JT

“ James Trujillo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Wayne Hamilton.

James Trujillo - November 04, 2025 at 11:29 PM



“ I will really miss Harold. I worked with Harold at Flowers by Zac Low. His work was amazing and always special. I loved picking on him! He always made us laugh and usually would share his Oreos with us. We would work long hours but he always made it fun! I will miss you Harold may you rest in Peace.

Monica Ramirez-Chavez - November 04, 2025 at 06:18 PM

DG

“ Harold was the best. He was not only a good funeral director but also a great colleague. He was patient and kind with everyone. He was also very professional. He was quite the florist. Back in my dating days I could count on an arrangement made by Harold to knock things out of the park on Valentine's day. Thank you for all the light you let into my life.

Dante GutierrezZamora - November 03, 2025 at 03:24 PM

NP

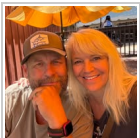
“ Not only do we love Mr. Harold because he's Harold, had great loving kids, but he truly helped us during one of our (at that time) hardest times ever, years ago. He literally just sent us possibly my fave condolence card regarding our precious Ev, encouraging us with his thoughtfulness. I'm so sad to hear this news and I'm so sorry to his people for your broken hearts. You all have always been in our prayers but there will be lots more. Biggest hugs ever guys. Love you forever.

Natalie (Sunderland) Passantino - November 03, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ Harold was one of the kindest (and funniest) men I've ever been privileged to know. He was a great source of comfort to me when we worked together after my first husband had passed away. And then he was first in line to share my joy and moving forward into my new relationship and marriage. He planned and coordinated my wedding! What a great guy the world has lost... I'll miss you Harold but know your faith was strong and that you are at peace, and home now.

Vicki Wilmarth - November 03, 2025 at 06:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Vicki Wilmarth - November 03, 2025 at 06:11 AM



“ Harold and I worked together at French in Albuquerque for many years. His desk was next to mine and I loved every bit of sitting near him. As a young funeral director, I appreciated his wisdom and experience but I most of all appreciated his jolliness. He always had his jokes and a big smile! Let's not forget he makes the BEST strawberry ice cream. May he share it with the angels now. Rest easy, my dear friend.

Amanda Valenzuela Gittelman - November 02, 2025 at 07:12 PM

LR

“ Harold was such an awesome person to know and work with at French Mortuary. Many years we shared office space and I will forever treasure his political passions!! His cubical left no doubt about it! Wonderful memories of a dedicated person that gave so much to his family, friends and families that he served. Rest in peace my dear forever friend!
Laura Richarddon

Laura Richardson - November 02, 2025 at 05:48 PM

AW

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to all of Harold's family. I enjoyed the many years working with Harold at French. What a great, caring and likable personality that Harold carried. He was a very good funeral director, always going the extra mile for whatever request a family might have. Great memories. Respectfully, Alan Wood

Alan Wood - November 02, 2025 at 03:11 PM

CG

“ So sad to loose our dear friend. Sending sympathy To Jay and all family. We will deeply miss him. Love and hugs to all.

Carol Gibbs - November 01, 2025 at 10:25 AM

LA

“ So sorry to hear about Harold.
Always liked singing with him when he lived here in Albuquerque.
My deepest sympathy to all you children!
Love, LaVonda

LaVonda - October 31, 2025 at 10:47 PM



did not work with him very long but he was great to work with. RIP my friend

Jim Morgan - November 02, 2025 at 04:54 PM

SC

Hugs and love to Harold's family....enjoyed knowing Harold as I grew up. And then knowing him as I became an adult ~. Enjoyed little nuggets of wisdom gained from conversations.

Sheila Cunningham - November 03, 2025 at 12:04 PM

MS

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Harold. I'll always remember our friendship, which began in 1968 when I arrived in Salem. We sat next to each other in Jr. High & High School band, and I'll always get a laugh trying to remember the Russian cuss words you taught me after returning from a trip you took with your family. I'll forever appreciate your vigilance and efforts to keep decency and Democracy in your country and community. Rest In Peace, my friend.

Michael Smith - November 08, 2025 at 09:28 AM

JA

Harold, Jay, and soon Addy, has been Lucy and my neighbors across the street for about 4 years now. Weather permitting, Harold spent a lot of his time on his front porch in his rocking chair, day or night. We spoke at least 2-3 times a day. And If traffic was heavy I'd go over shoot the breeze with him for a while. About 4-6 weeks ago they shut down the electric here in town from midnight until 4 am, Harold and I spent it on his front porch talking about life and the lack of there of, and everything in between. I look out our front windows and I see his empty rocking chair. I write this with tears in my eyes but with a smile on my face. I'll miss you ole buddy, and I always will.

Jim Adamick - November 08, 2025 at 04:49 PM