



**Wilbur C. Harris**  
**MMCM(SS) Blue 1978-1981**  
**Born: September 14, 1943**  
**Eternal Patrol: September 7, 2022**

Master Chief Petty Officer Ret. Wilbur C. Harris, 78, of Columbus, formerly of Powell, TN, passed away Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at home surrounded by his family. Wilbur was born September 14, 1943, son of the late William Jamie and Mattie Cook Harris. He grew up on the coasts of North Carolina and Florida, enjoyed life on the water, and was an avid fisherman. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1962 and served honorably for 26 years. He qualified for the Naval Submarine Force, serving on board fleet ballistic submarines and culminating with two tours as Command Master Chief of the Navy's Nuclear Power School. His career was marked by his integrity, character, witness, and ability to mentor young sailors. After his Naval retirement, Wilbur worked for Oak Ridge National Laboratories as a Radiation Control Safety Officer. Wilbur had a passion for music and a beautiful voice. He sang tenor in the chapel choirs and for his church choir. Known for his joyous countenance during praise and worship, Wilbur was a choir favorite. Yet nothing brought him more joy than spending time with his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Wilbur was preceded in death by one sister, Jamie Quincey. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Sylvia Harris; three children, Todd Haley and his wife, Michelle, Christopher Haley and his wife, Tracy, and Nicole Mayne and her husband, Tony; six grandchildren, Christopher Haley, Kathryn Hall, Parker Haley, Alexa Haley, Luke Mayne and Caroline Mayne; numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 24, 2022 at Powell First Baptist Church in Powell, Tenn. Interment will follow in Woodhaven Cemetery. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM at the church. Holley Gamble Funeral Home in Clinton is in charge of all arrangements. [holleygamble.com](http://holleygamble.com)



# Wilbur Cook Harris , MMCM(SS)



## Personal Information

Nickname	Harry
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Sylvia
Address	Contact Information available only to USSVI MEMBERS (Log in <b>Member / Crew</b> menu)
Deceased	Yes <b>Date went on Eternal Patrol: 9/7/2022</b>
Doing Now	Born on September 14, 1943 - Entered into Eternal Patrol on September 7, 2022.
Status	Changed on: <b>9/10/2022</b> Updated by Dennis C. Nardone ()

## Bio / Obituary

Cold War Submarine Veteran, Master Chief Petty Officer Ret. Wilbur C. Harris, 78, of Columbus, formerly of Powell, TN, passed away Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at home surrounded by his family. Wilbur was born September 14, 1943, son of the late William Jamie and Mattie Cook Harris. He grew up on the coasts of North Carolina and Florida, enjoyed life on the water, and was an avid fisherman. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1962 and served honorably for 26 years. He qualified for the Naval Submarine Force, serving on board fleet ballistic submarines and culminating with two tours as Command Master Chief of the Navy's Nuclear Power School. His career was marked by his integrity, character, witness, and ability to mentor young sailors. After his Naval retirement, Wilbur worked for Oak Ridge National Laboratories as a Radiation Control Safety Officer. Wilbur had a passion for music and a beautiful voice. He sang tenor in the chapel choirs and for his church choir. Known for his joyous countenance during praise and worship, Wilbur was a choir favorite. Yet nothing brought him more joy than spending time with his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren.

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Sailor rest your oars.

## US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in 1962 left in 1988
Highest Rank - Rate	E9 - MMCM(SS)
Service Number	661-99-76
USN Retired	Yes in 1988
Naval Service Highlights	
Ships Served On	SS-302, SSBN-641, SSBN-655, SSBN-624

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years	Special Duties	
<a href="#">SS-302</a> 🇺🇸	Sabalo	MM3(SS)	1963-64	9901 RFD 9 Sep 63, TRF 04/64	
<a href="#">SSBN-641</a> 🇺🇸	Simon Bolivar	MMC(SS)	1965-73	11/65 to ??/73	
<a href="#">SSBN-655</a> 🇺🇸	Henry L Stimson	MMCM(SS)	1977-80		
<a href="#">SSBN/SSN-624</a> 🇺🇸	Woodrow Wilson	MMCM(SS)	1981-84	06/81 to 06/84	COB