



Harrel "Hal" Harris Knight

December 29, 1951 - October 14, 2013

Funeral services for Harrel "Hal" Harris Knight, 61, of Richmond, Texas will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, October 18, 2013 at First Baptist Church in Richmond with Reverend John Lockhart officiating. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Chapelwood Memorial Gardens in Nash, Texas. All are welcome to attend both the service and the burial.

Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., Thursday, October 17, 2013 at First Baptist Church in Richmond.

Hal was born December 29, 1951 in Texarkana, Arkansas to Harrel Wallace and Lillian Harris Knight. He attended high school at Texas High in Texarkana where he was an all-star baseball pitcher. He had twenty one professional scouts at one game during his junior year, but a football accident the next year prevented him from joining the big leagues. Instead, Hal lived a full life of public service. He began as a prison guard with the Texas Department of Corrections at the Central Unit in Sugar Land, Texas, and then he joined the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office in 1975 as one of fourteen sheriff deputies. He has since worked under six different sheriffs. Over the majority of his tenure, he served as an investigator in the Criminal Warrants division. He was a Master Peace Officer. Through the years, he saw a lot of change in Fort Bend County, but he stayed true to serving the people and seeing that justice was always served. Hal was a Master Mason with the Morton Masonic Lodge

#72. Hal had an entrepreneurial spirit. His many businesses included: owning and operating several fireworks stands throughout Fort Bend County, owning a check cashing business and a liquor store, and owning a food trailer and barbeque catering company. He loved to cook and eat. "He didn't eat to live. He lived to eat." Hal had a personality that was truly larger than life. He never met a stranger, and he loved to make anyone he met laugh and smile. Hal was an outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. He taught all three of his daughters to bait a hook and to shoot a gun, and he went on countless hunting and fishing expeditions with all of his buddies. Hal loved spending time with all "his girls" more than anything. Watching football, gambling, hunting and fishing, listening to Johnny Bush and George Jones, and cooking with his daughters were a favorite pastime. Kendall and Kolby loved feeding the ducks, fishing, and ice cream dates with their Paw Paw. He was their whole world, and they were his.

He passed away October 14, 2013 in Houston.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harrel and Lillian Knight, step mother, Joan Knight; and sister, Kathy Sue Knight.

Hal is survived by his daughters, Karmen Cooley and husband, Blake, Kristi Ward and husband, Aaron and Kassie Slaydon and husband, Chad; grandchildren, Kendall and Kolby Cooley; step sisters, Susan Simmons, Julie Ahr and husband, Tom and Pat Douglass and husband, Rod; along with numerous extended family and friends.

Pallbearers will include Jerry Clements, Rodney Glendenning, Russell Henson, Ronnie Hornischer, Tommy Johnson, Allen Kucera, Danny Lenderman, & Billy Shields. Honorary Pallbearers are Chester Davis & Gary Grawnoski.

For those wishing, memorials may be made in Hal's name to First Baptist Church-Richmond, 502 S. 5th Street, Richmond, Texas 77469 or to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, earmarked Sarcoma Research, P.O. Box 4486, Houston, Texas 77210-4486.

Words of condolence may be left for the Knight family at www.davisgreenlawnh.com.

Tribute Wall

DA

“Ole Hal Knight” Just found out of your passing. Thanks for the stories and memories of my dad Dale Ammann. I know ya'll were best friends. You brought back memories of my father every time we spoke. See you in the next life. So we can shoot the s.... Thanks for being a friend after my daddy died. As for your girls/ family. I'm sorry for your loss.

Dean Ammann - January 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ When I 1st met Hal was when I was looking to buy a home in Rosenberg. We notified the selling agent to set up an appoint to see this home, because their was a tenant living at the home. My real estate agent and I were in the kitchen chatting about the home. Next thing you know a uniformed officer walked in. I immediately through my arms up in the air and said " we are just here looking at this house for sale". That is when Hal introduced himself to us. He told us "If I knew yall were coming I would have had some BBQ ready for dinner for us." I knew immediately Hal was one of a kind. He didn't know us from Adam! He was so generous to us. He was a gentleman, kind, and a warm person with enormous sense of humor . I did wind up buying this home, and continued to let him set up his fireworks stand there. I will miss Hal dearly. He really made an impact on me. I will never forget him. If his daughters still want to sell fireworks I will be more than happy to let them. Hal RIP!! I will miss you dearly!

Jack Matut - December 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ There are just some people in this world that make it a better place. Hal was that kind of Man! He will be sorely missed! God bless and comfort his family at this time.

Paulette Greene - October 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ This community has truly lost an excellent example of what a good person is and does in life. I was blessed to have known him. God Bless and help his family in this time of loss.

Butch Severin - October 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ There is a big void now in the hearts of all the people who were lucky enough to be a friend of "Big Knight";the Good Lord broke the mold when Hal was born; he knew he had created someone very special. My family was blessed having him in our lives, his daughters helped raise my son's and Hal was like a second father to them. Hal has not left us,for his spirit will be with everyone of us until we see him again. Rest in Peace Big Knight!

Frank Audesirk - October 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IM

“ My heart goes out to Hal's family today! So sad I missed the visitation for your Father! Hal was such a good friend to me. I loved him dearly! When I worked at Sugar Creek Bank in SL in the late 70's, he was there as a guard! I balanced the vault and he would be with me. We had great visits! He always called me Rose, instead of Iris....Heaven is a brighter place today because of him...His family was the most important, He was a man of his word, we need more men like Hal and the world would be a better place. His Mother & Father should be very proud of the man they raised...Love you Hal Knight, may you rest in peace and I will see you again...Iris Meyer

Iris & Al Meyer - October 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ RIP Big Hal, I will always remember our early morning chats while working in warrants and how he would bring me boudain when he went on extraditions down towards Louisiana. Hal had a way of making you laugh even on days when you were going thru your own personal trials and I realize that he did it in spite of the issues and trials he was experiencing. He may never have realized it, but that God-given gift he possessed that brighten people's days was a true ministry that I know glorified and pleased God. I extend My sincere condolences to his girls and his family during their time of loss. Be comforted that the word of our God says that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!

Cora Duncan - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Godspeed my friend. Thanks for the memories.

Jeff Svajda - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I knew Hal first through his Mom and Dad. My Dad worked with Lillian at Alto Mills in Texarkana and was friends with Blackie as well. Hal was such a wonderful, likeable, and funny guy. He will be missed by so many, but he's now been reunited with Lillian and Blackie and his sister, Kathy, as well as his other family. I know his "girls" will miss him tremendously and my heart goes out to them all.

Dianne Haynes Cole - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Hal you a one of a kind. You will be missed.

Rae Bassett - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ There were many Friday nights in booking that I'd say I was going to scream if just one more patrol car pulled in the sallyport and here would come Hal strolling in with another one for us; I'd do my best to give him a scowl but I was never successful because he'd bust out with a loud, "How ya doin' little lady" and all I could ever do was grin. Hal was one of a kind and will live on in the hearts of many for a long, long time. Rest in peace Big Knight.

Conna Wright - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Billy and I send our deepest condolences to Sandy and the girls during this time of great sadness. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and the entire family.

Joan & Billy Teague

Joan Teague - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Hal was a great friend and I shall miss him and his great smile and loud laugh. He lived a great and full life and now he's cookin for God.....Bubba Wade

Bubba wade - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Hal will be dearly missed by hundreds of people. Don't think he ever met a stranger. Prayers for his family. He is reconnecting with everyone who went to heaven ahead of him and making new friends now.

Sue Diggs - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Roger and I both have lost a truly wonderful friend in Hal. We have so many beautiful memories of Hal that will last us a lifetime. His laughter will be greatly missed. If you girls are ever in need, you know where to find us.

Kathy Pavelka - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ My deepest condolences for the family may God be with you always.

Adriana Coronado - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ I had the honor and privilege to know Hal for approximately 40 yrs. He was a great man who always kept a positive attitude and loved his friends and family.....Hal you will be deeply missed but not forgotten.....PRH.

PerryHillegeist - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ I have some great memories of Hal from Long Ago. From reading some of the comments being made he has not let life change him and he will be missed. Truly sorry for your loss.

Ricky Pope - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Hal was a favorite friend of mine. I enjoyed every minute I spent with him & his family in Richmond. God be with his wonderful family.

Bobbie Sliger - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KZ

“ Having grown up with Hal in Hooks, Tx and his parents and mine being clodse friends, I have cherished our friendship through the years. Hal never changed, his smile and personable nature ever present. He will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kirk and Rose Zachry - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Hal Knight, a Fort Bend County ICON who was known to many as "Big Knight" is a loss for Fort Bend County. Hal had a heart of gold & a personality as big as Texas. Many times I looked over my shoulder while out serving warrants & saw Hal parked down the street or just around the corner. He would always say "I was just in the area". I always knew he was there looking out for me. Hal was loved by everyone, even the people he put in jail. RIP sweet man and know you will be dearly missed.

Becky Colunga - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Shocked to learn that the world has lost a man with a fun personality that everyone loved. It was over 30 years ago that I first heard that unforgettable laugh. May the Lord be with the Knight family during this sad, sad time.

Carol Thornton - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Hal Knight was a heck of a constable. He had a great personality and loved life. He will be greatly missed

Deborah Brown - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ I can't remember a day that Hal didn't make me smile or laugh when I saw him. God Bless the Knight family .

Glenn Miller - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Hal's family in this time of grief. Hal was a real character, he could be tough when he needed to be. What I remember the most was his ability to cheer up a room. He will be missed!

Tracy Hudspeth - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Wonderful words for a great man. Hal treated everyone with respect. It didn't matter if you were sitting on a street corner or sitting in a board room.. Everyone was his" Little Brother". Hal is already missed and will live forever in the memories he left. Sending prayers of comfort to you girls and his extended family.

Carol Papenfuss - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your whole family at this difficult time.*

Sara Ryan - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *You are in our Paryers*

Jackie and Benny Kent - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Could not start to relate the memories I have of Hal, but will say I will miss my friend every day that I have left on this earth. We will meet again.*

steve s chichester - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *You were a good friend, Hal. We had a lot of great times together growing up in Texarkana, and those times will be how I remember you.*

Don Moser - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ *He was always a nice and funny man. I met him at the County Clerk Office when he would bring the warrant to us. I will miss him.*

Carol Oliver - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Hal, you have always been a happy soul and will truly be missed. Kirk enjoyed working with you very much and will miss you as well. May you rest in peace sweetie and may your family be at peace knowing they were so fortunate to have had you in their lives.*

Sara Rosas Boone - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Our prayers are with you. If there is anything you need please call on us.*

Roger Pavelka - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *WE PRAY GOD WILL WRAP HIS ARMS AROUND THE KNIGHT FAMILY AND GIVE YOU PEACE AND COMFORT IN THE DAYS TO COME. SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. GOD'S BLESSINGS BITS & MARG BRAUDAWAY*

BITS & MARG BRAUDAWAY - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Hal had a personality that was larger than life. It is hard to explain how much positive influence he had on our group of youngsters growing up. I remember the amazing food he would prepare for us whether it was the annual pool party or if we happened to just stop by and chat. He instilled so many skills in us without us even knowing. We would work every firework season and we unknowingly pick up the charismatic, personable qualities portrayed by Hal. These were some of the most cherished times in my youth. Although we made tons of mistakes growing up and strayed from the beaten paths here and there, we were never outside his out-stretched arms of protection. For that, there is no level of gratitude that I or the others could possibly repay you. You will truly be missed but will forever be a part of all of our lives through the values that you have instilled in all of us. So from myself and the others that share my same sentiments, we thank you, Hal Knight, and love you. God Bless.

Aaron Thome - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ We will miss your smile and wonderful jokes. I know you will be in heaven with my brother Paul Woytkewicz.

Alicia Losoya - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ WILL MISS YOU DEARLY: GREAT WONDERFUL FRIEND, ALWAYS CAME BY THE SHOP TO MAKE YOU LAUGH, HIS FAVORITE WORDS WERE "HIJO DE LA CHICHARRA" YOU'LL BE MISSED!!!
MARIOS PAINT/BODY

MARIO A RAMON - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ I met Hal back in 1985 for the first time....HE was to me very personal man , giant in public figure !
I have the most respect for this man !

R.I.P. Hal !

Victor Muller - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ RIP Hal! So sorry to hear this. Prayers being said for your family.

Kathy Fisher - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ I met Hal 6 years ago on my very first day working at Dr. Huselton and Dr. Osina's office. What a way to break in the new girl, right?! He won me over right away with his infectious personality and amazing ability to make people laugh. My thoughts and prayers go out to your entire family. May he RIP.

Alison Head - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I knew Hal for many years. He was a good police officer and good friend. Saw him in March, 2013 and as always, he had a smile on his face and to quote him, his final words to me were "I KNOW THAT'S RIGHT!"

Bill Morgan - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Hal was a great guy, always willing to lend a hand. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers to his family during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Arci Martinez - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ As they say about living in Texas, I got here as I soon as I could. I felt the same about Hal Knight, I met him as soon as I could. Unfortunately I didn't get a chance to meet Hal until 2010. Not nearly long enough. I was newly hired at the Sheriff's Office when I was officed with Hal who was on light duty. I knew he was a special man from the first day. He will be missed.

Krista Whitehead - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ Hal was a great guy..fun loving and so gregarious. Prayers going out to your family during this difficult time...

Frank and Dulci Rso - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I've passed this on to my Aunt and Uncle who grew up in Texarkana and knew Hal well and spoke of how great a pitcher he was at Texas High, small world I guess, they have asked me to pass on their condolences, he will be missed.

Christopher Murphy - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ We are thinking of you and praying for comfort and peace for you all. So many great memories. We have been recalling lots of funny stories and good memories of Hal. Love you guys.

Charles & Justine Huselton - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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Charles & Justine Huselton - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ my grandfather always said if you're lucky in your lifetime you will be able to count your friends on one hand...this year I lost a finger... God Bless you Hal Knight... And prayers to the family rest in peace my brother...

love you forever man..

Kenneth

Kenneth E. New - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

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Kenneth

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love you forever man..

Kenneth

Kenneth E. New - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ May God be with you and yours. Thinking of you and praying that God will send His peace and comfort to your hearts.

Betty Landes - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ God Be with you Hal....you were one of a kind...Everyone will greatly miss you..

Dianne McMahill - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Prayers sent to the family I Know Hal will be missed, but no longer suffering.

David Luedeke - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ A great Man is gone. We are all sad, we will meet again my friend.

Lee & Terry Kovarcik

Lee & Terry Kovarcik - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Hal was a long-time friend of mine from high school. He attended the football out of town games with my family and we all loved him. Hardly a family gathering goes by that Hal's name doesn't come up and we all enjoy talking about what happened back then with Hal. Those stories were so funny and holds special memories for the whole family. Love and prayers to all the family. Donny R. & Frances Cole, Texarkana, Tx.

Donny R. Cole - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Prayers for the family Officer Knight was a very sweet person he always had a big smile I meet him 30 years ago he is now an angel

Elida Sister - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Hal was a lifelong good friend. I have no doubt he is swapping stories with my daddy right now, catching up on everything from New Boston to Fort Bend. Even when I hadn't seem him in years, he still picked up just like he had seen you this morning, and never lost his smile. He always had a joke or story to make you laugh and the world was a more joyous place because of it. We need more men like Hal on this earth. God bless him in his heavenly home. Hugs and prayers for the family and friends. He has shed his earthly body but his spirit will be watching over you for all of eternity. Go ahead... do something silly or tell a story, and you will hear him laugh at you in your head. He always had your back, and he was always unquestionably your friend. I'm just so sorry to have not seem him in so many years. I will miss my lifelong friend.

Beth Thompson Haefs - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM