

## FORMER EDUCATOR AND DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

### ROBERT HARGIS DIES

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN: Monday, March 13, 2017

By Lindsay McReynolds

A retired school superintendent is being remembered this morning for years of commitment to the education of students in Putnam County schools.

Bob Hargis died Saturday at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. He was 77.



He was born on Oct. 26, 1939, in South Pittsburg, where he played for the South Pittsburg Pirates. He earned a football scholarship to Tennessee Tech, from which he graduated in 1961 after playing with the Golden Eagles in the Tangerine Bowl.

He was the head football coach at McMinn County High School in Athens, then principal at Cookeville Junior High School and a coach at Cookeville High School. Hargis also served as principal of the former Uffelman Elementary and Monterey High School.

Hargis brought 22 years of experience in education as a teacher, coach, elementary and high school principal in 1984, when he unseated longtime incumbent **Walter Warren Shanks**, who was seeking his fourth four-year term.

Hargis served as superintendent of schools until 1992.

He then served as Avery Trace Middle School principal until 1998, but his interest in education didn't stop there.

Hargis represented the 1st District on the Putnam County Board of Education from 2008 through 2012, and was among board members who selected **Jerry Boyd** as the director of schools in March 2012.

His legacy in the Putnam County School System was noted in 2013, when the Prescott Middle School football field was named in his honor.

On Monday, Boyd reflected on Hargis's impact on Putnam County education.

“Whether serving Putnam County as a coach, principal, superintendent, or school board member, Mr. Hargis was a pillar of strength and a champion of public education for students, educators, and our community,” Boyd said. “On behalf of the Putnam County Board of Education and the entire Putnam County School System, I share the deepest sympathies to the family, many friends, and countless former students that have been

impacted by the love and support of Mr. Bob Hargis. I am personally grateful for the opportunity that I have had to have known Mr. Hargis as a student of Putnam County when he served as superintendent, as a colleague during his time as a principal, and as the director of schools for which he provided the priceless guidance of his experience and wisdom as a board member.”

Putnam Sheriff Eddie Farris also remembered him.

“Bob Hargis will always be remembered as a long-term educator and coach,” Farris said. “The one thing that I fondly recall was that Bob Hargis always put the students as his No. 1 priority throughout his career. I had the honor of being a close friend of Bob Hargis for over 40 years. During our friendship we made numerous sports, hunting and fishing memories. The community will miss Bob Hargis; he was my dear friend and mentor.”

An obituary for Hargis is being published in the Monday and Tuesday editions of the Herald-Citizen.

**ROBERT NEWTON "BOB" HARGIS OBT.**

b. 26 October 1939, South Pittsburg, Marion Co., TN – d. 11 March 2017, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1964, Putnam Co., TN to **Georgia Faye "Nib" (Lee) Hargis**, b. 26 October 1940, Monterey, Putnam Co., TN – d. 30 September 2015, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **Sumner Lee Jr. & Threasa Palmore** (1924-2006). Robert Newton “Bob” Hargis, s/o

\*See Georgia Faye “Nib” (Lee) Hargis Obt.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 440 – Robert Newton Hargis married 18 June 1964, Putnam Co., TN, age 24, b. 26 October 1939, address: 332 Scott, Athens, TN to Georgia Faye Lee, age 23, b. 26 October 1940, address: Monterey, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Threasa Lee, 412 E. New Ave, Monterey, TN).

Funeral Services For Robert "Bob" Hargis, Age 77, Of Cookeville, Tennessee, Were Conducted On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, At 1:00 PM At The Monterey High School, 710 East Commercial Avenue, Monterey, Tennessee. Rev. Ted Stepp And Rev. David Cobb Officiated And **Interment Followed In The Welch Memorial Cemetery**. Mr. Hargis Was Born On October 26, 1939, In South Pittsburg, Tennessee, To The Late Luther Newton Hargis And Lillian Payne. Mr. Hargis Passed Away On Saturday, March 11, 2017, At The Cookeville Regional Medical Center. Mr. Hargis Was A Coach, Teacher, Principal, And Superintendent Of Putnam County Schools. He Began His Career Playing Football For The South Pittsburg Pirates And Received A Football Scholarship To Tennessee Technological University. He Played For The Golden Eagles As A Lineman Guard (#62) With His Team Receiving The Privilege To Play In The Tangerine Bowl His Senior Year Graduating With The Class Of 1961. At College, He Met And Later Married The Love Of His Life, **Georgia "Nib" Lee Hargis**. He Was Head Football Coach At McMinn County High School In Athens, Tennessee, Principal At Cookeville Junior High School, Coach At Cookeville High School, Principal At Uffelman Elementary School, Principal At Monterey High School, And Always

Remained An Avid Supporter Of The South Pittsburg Pirates. He Received The Privilege Of Prescott South Middle School Football Field Being Named In His Honor. He Was An Avid Hunter, Fisherman, And Loved Turkey And Deer Hunting. One Of His Greatest Blessings In Life Was His Brotherhood Of Friends. He Was Baptist In Faith. His Greatest Devotion In Life Was The Care Of His Daughter, Heather.

**He Was Survived By, 1 Daughter, Heather Nicole Hargis Of Cookeville, TN;** 2 Sisters And A Brother-In-Law, Sallie And David Wayne Of Kimball, TN, Claudette Norman Of Marion County, TN; 1 Brother, Cliff Payne Of Dayton, TN; 1 Uncle, Melvin Hargis Of Rising Fawn, GA; 1 Aunt, Charlsie Fitzgerald Of Franklin, TN; 2 Sisters-In-Law, Debbie And Tim Stephens Of Monterey, TN, Patricia And Paul Williams Of Monterey, TN; Nieces And Nephews, Sonja (Mark) Farley, Amanda (Calvin) Craigo, Rachel (Jackie) Hargis, Andrew (Caitlin) Wayne, Matt Wayne, And Lisa Norman; Great Nieces And Nephews, Samantha And Sean Farley, Fisher Wayne, Jackson Hargis, Hudson And Nash Craigo, And Due In May, Lily Hargis. In Addition To His Parents, He Was **Preceded In Death By His Wife, Georgia "Nib" Hargis;** And Mother-In-Law, Threasa Lee. In Lieu Of Flowers, The Family Requested Memorials Be Given To TTU Math Scholarship Fund In Memory Of Georgia Hargis By Calling Teresa Sliger At Phone, 931.372.6106; Or Ronald McDonald House Charities Of Greater Chattanooga, 200 Central Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403, Or Phone, 423.778.4300. The Family Received Friends At Goff Funeral Home On Tuesday, March 14, 2017, From 5:00 PM Until 8:00 PM And At Monterey High School On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, From 11:30 AM Until Time Of Services At 1:00 PM.

**GEORGIA FAYE "NIB" (LEE) HARGIS OBT.**

b. 26 October 1940, Monterey, Putnam Co., TN – d. 30 September 2015, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1964, Putnam Co., TN to **Robert Newton "Bob" Hargis**, b. 26 October 1939, South Pittsburg, Marion Co., TN – d. 11 March 2017, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Robert Newton "Bob" Hargis Obt.

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Funeral Services For **Georgia Faye "Nib" Hargis**, Age 74, Of Cookeville, Tennessee, Will Be Conducted On Saturday, October 3, 2015, At 1:00 PM From The Chapel Of Goff Funeral Home. Rev. David Cobb And Rev. Joe Weatherly Will Officiate With **Interment To Follow In The Welch Memorial Cemetery.** Mrs. Hargis Was Born On October 26, 1940, In Monterey, Tennessee, To The Late **Sumner Lee Jr.** And **Threasa Palmore Lee.** Mrs. Hargis Went To Be With Her Lord On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, At The Cookeville Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Hargis Was A Retired Educator. She Graduated From Monterey High School Class Of 1958 As Valedictorian Of Her Class. She Then Attended Tennessee Technological University Earning A B.S. Degree In

Engineering Chemistry And A Master's Degree In Guidance Counseling. She Chose To Pursue A Career In Teaching, So She Could Help Her Students Achieve Goals They Might Not Have Ever Dreamed Of. She Was A Master Teacher Of Algebra. She Also



Taught Chemistry And Coached A State Champion Girls Doubles Tennis Team At McMinn County High School. She Finished Her Teaching Career At Cookeville High School, Where She Also Had Become The Senior Guidance Counselor, Helping Students Obtain Millions Of Dollars In Scholarships. While There, She Also Helped Form The School's Academic Team. Her Kindness And Patience Endearred Her To Her Many Students Who She Dearly Loved. She Was A Member Of St. Michael's Episcopal Church In Cookeville, Where She Was A Part Of The "Daughters Of The King" Organization. She Also Had Taught A Sunday School Class At The Church.

She Is Survived By Her Husband Of 51 Years, **Bob Hargis** Of Cookeville, TN; Daughter, **Heather Hargis** Of Cookeville, TN; 2 Sisters And Brothers-In-Law, Patricia And Acorn Williams Of Monterey, TN, Debbie And Tim Stephens Of Monterey, TN; Several Nieces And Nephews Who Loved Their "Aunt Nibbie" Dearly, Mark, Sonja, Sean And Samantha Farley; Calvin, Amanda, Hudson And Nash Craigo; Jackie, Rachel, And Jackson Hargis; Andrew, Caitlyn, And Fisher Wayne; Matthew Wayne; Lisa Norman; Jennifer Payne And Danny Payne. In Lieu Of Flowers, The Family Request Memorials Be Given To St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; Ronald McDonald House Charities, Inc., 26345 Network Place, Chicago, IL 60673, Phone, 630.623.7048; Or To TTU Math Scholarship Fund In Memory Of Georgia Hargis. The Family Will Receive Friends At Goff Funeral Home On Friday, October 2, 2015, From 4:00 PM Until 8:00 PM And On Saturday, October 3, 2015, From 11:00 AM Until Time Of Service At 1:00 PM.

\*Read more about the people and places in Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at 'Schoolyard Tales': <http://www.ajlambert.com>

\*See Hargis Family – Putnam County Families in the Putnam Co. History section: <http://www.ajlambert.com>