



Kimberley Baker Harris

September 20, 1959 - May 3, 2025

Kimberley Baker Harris, age 65, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 3, surrounded by her loving family, after a brief illness.

She was a beloved wife to her husband of 44 years, Rick Harris; a devoted mother to sons Bryce (Courtney) and Breck (Kelly); and a cherished “Mimi” to her grandchildren Leighton, Leo, and Aurelia.

Born on September 20, 1959, to Troy and Martha Baker, Kim grew up in Harriman, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1980. She and Rick made Roane County their lifelong home, where she dedicated her career to improving lives through workforce development.

Kim's professional journey spanned 45 years, beginning with the JTPA/WIA in Workforce Network, where she spent over two decades. She later held several leadership roles at Roane State Community College, including Director of Placement, and concluded her career as Regional Workforce Manager with IACMI.

Her commitment to leadership and community service was widely recognized. Kim was a graduate of Leadership Roane County (1999), East Tennessee Regional Leadership (2001), Leadership Oak Ridge (2011), and Leadership Anderson County (2017). She served on the Roane County Chamber Board of Directors from 2007 to 2013 and was honored as the Athena Woman of the

Year in 2000.

Outside of work, Kim embraced the beauty of life. She found joy in gardening—especially in the spring—and had a passion for holiday decorating, which became even more meaningful after becoming a grandmother. Her home was always open for gatherings, celebrations, and creating special memories. Known for her love for shopping, she added sparkle to all of our lives.

Kim was preceded in death by her parents, Troy and Martha Baker, and her mothers-in-law, Billie June Chaffin and Margaret Hedgecoth.

She is survived by her brother Mike Baker and his wife Cindy of Knoxville, nephew Will Baker of Knoxville, niece Elizabeth Baker of Brooklyn, NY and father-in-law Garfield Hedgecoth, Jr. of Harriman. She also leaves behind a large community of cousins, friends, and colleagues whose support was invaluable during her illness.

A private family graveside service will be held at Roane Memorial Gardens on Friday, May 16, at 11:00 a.m. A celebration of life for extended family, friends, and coworkers will take place on Saturday, May 17, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at Roane State Community College – Vann Student Center, 276 Patton Lane, Harriman, TN 37748.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Roane State Foundation Raider Fund, 276 Patton Lane, Harriman, TN 37748, or online at: <https://www.roanestate.edu/rsfmemorialgiving>

Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Harris Family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Roane State Community College - Vann Student Center
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748

Tribute Wall



“ I have know Kim and Rick for over 25 years. Kim was a great client and friend. she always was very sweet and had a wonderful personality. I enjoyed talking to her on the phone and I knew her voice right away. it was an honor to be their insurance agent for many years. RIP.

Bob Adkins - May 22, 2025 at 08:31 AM

KF

“ Kevin and Jackie Moore and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kimberley Baker Harris.



Kevin and Jackie Moore and family - May 16, 2025 at 01:09 PM

TN

“ Kim was a beacon of light and wonderful woman. I met her through our work, but we became friends. I still have a voicemail from her when I sent her a prayer shawl that I will cherish. We will fill her loss in this world so significantly.

toni neary - May 16, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Kimberley Baker Harris.



May 14, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kimberley Baker Harris.

May 14, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ I went to school with Kim since First Grade, she was always one of the sweetest, most bubbly, prettiest girls in the class.

My heart and prayers go out to all of her loved ones.

Mark Melton - May 13, 2025 at 12:40 AM



“ MSU - Mechanical Engineering purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Kimberley Baker Harris.



MSU - Mechanical Engineering - May 12, 2025 at 09:48 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Kim's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting Kim and working with her on the WFNW program, through Roane County Government (Accounting Department). She became a very dear friend, who will be missed. She was able to coordinate on-the-job training positions for so many people, which created permanent jobs for them. She showed so much enthusiasm in whatever she was pursuing in her life. Prayers for Rick, sons and grandchildren, who she loved with her whole being. I pray for God to give you all strength and peace to endure the sad days ahead.



Kathy Jones - May 10, 2025 at 10:23 AM

AP

“ *Countless people over the years were touched by Kim's work and support in providing opportunities to enhance 1000's of lives. She was instrumental in building, managing and supporting careers for people she often did not even know until her work blessed them with life changing careers and opportunities.*

Andrew Pokelwaldt - May 09, 2025 at 03:12 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kimberley Baker Harris.*



May 09, 2025 at 02:22 PM

MR

“ *We moved to Harriman the summer before my 6th grade year. Kim was a classmate at Bowers Elementary, then on through South Harriman Jr. High & Harriman HS. She was truly a sweet person, always with a friendly smile and positive attitude. Go Rest High On That Mountain...*

Mark Ray - May 07, 2025 at 11:09 AM

SB

“ *Such a sweet beautiful Lady.
Condolence to her family. Hugs and prayers.*

Sherry Baxendale - May 06, 2025 at 01:57 PM

GM

“*“Friend”*: this is how she always liked to address me. So, to my Dear friend Kim, you are in a much better place. I had the privilege of working closely with Kim for the past 8 years, and you have not met a caring individual until you met Kim Harris. She was a dedicated professional and a compassionate human being. Every graduate of my program got a job because of a connection that Kim made possible. She became “George’s whisperer”.

George Meghabghab - May 06, 2025 at 09:58 AM

RI

Thank you George

Rick - May 06, 2025 at 02:55 PM

JB

Kim was always so kind. In over 20 years at Roane State I never heard anything negative from Kim. What a beautiful soul. I’m so sorry for your loss and praying for grace.

Jeana Bradley - May 06, 2025 at 05:54 PM



I’m so sorry to hear of the passing of Kim. Always a pleasure to deal with and such a warm and friendly person. So sorry for your loss, Rick and family.

Brad Jones - May 07, 2025 at 08:12 PM

TC

“ 60 years ago this year I had a 6 yr old's crush on one of the most beautiful blondes I had ever seen in Mrs. Oran's first grade class. Sweet to all us classmates. She made us all feel special. She invited me to her birthday party at her home (I believe Swan Pond). So there I was feeling special along with every other 6 yr old boy at her party. I was so tongue tied I could barely speak to her but she was so kind. My 6 year old heart now 60 years older is devastated upon learning of her passing and I know her husband and sons are broken hearted and prayers of comfort are sent their way. This old world hasn't changed much but now there's less in it. Heaven is much richer and we all were fortunate to have known her. Rest in Peace Kim, we all will catch up down the road.

Tim Cofer - May 06, 2025 at 07:55 AM

TM

“ My deepest condolences to Rick and the entire family. She was beautiful inside and out and will be missed so much. 🙏

Teresa McCluen - May 06, 2025 at 01:13 AM

SS

“ I am lost for words my friend. I never expected you to leave before me. We had such wonderful times working together and other things like shopping, going on bus trip, and trying to get skinny. You and I met when we both had just begun work at JTPA. We were sent to Nashville for training and we bonded so quickly. The years I worked with you were some of my dearest memories. I know I will always remember and love you for a great person and close friend. I didn't get to see you as much after I retired but you were always there. Fly high my beautiful friend!

Sarah Sug - May 05, 2025 at 09:21 PM

BR

“ Way back memories I actually worked with Martha Baker (a dynamic Lady, perfect example for Kim) at the bank and then was introduced to Kim Baker, college student who proudly became Mrs. Harris and then shared with me a great journey of Roane State and JTPA It's all documented, Kim will always be a shining star. Kim, with her brilliant, hard work and the miracle maker she was, made her legacy with her humanitarian work for literally hundreds, if not thousands, of people. Those souls out there know how Kim enriched their lives, I'm one of them. Love you always, Rest In Peace.

Brenda Russell - May 05, 2025 at 07:47 PM

BG

This breaks my heart. She was one of the JTPA family and I know she'll be missed. Prayers for all

Bobbie Gross - May 05, 2025 at 08:36 PM

DM

“ RIP my friend. We hugged, we cried, we fought and you taught me a lot about providing employment and training services. Most of all, we helped a lot of people over the years. Families will be positively impacted for years thanks to your hard work.

Deb Miller - May 05, 2025 at 06:48 PM

LD

“ My prayers for Rick and the boys.

Lance Douglas - May 05, 2025 at 05:40 PM

MW

“ Marty and Sandy Willis purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kimberley Baker Harris.



Marty and Sandy Willis - May 05, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kimberley Baker Harris.



May 05, 2025 at 04:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kimberley Baker Harris.

May 05, 2025 at 04:22 PM

DP

“ Kim and I were colleagues at Roane State for many years and I am so sorry to hear she has passed. May Kim soar with the angels as she is reunited with her loved ones. She will be greatly missed.



Dr. Myra Peavyhouse - May 05, 2025 at 03:55 PM

JB

“ *Kim was such a sweet sweet lady! She always had a smile on her face. She sure loved Rick and her 2 boys, and especially those 3 precious grandchildren. She sure will be missed!*

Jennifer Bullard - May 05, 2025 at 03:22 PM

JB

“ *My heart goes out to Rick and the boys. So sorry for your loss.*

Jaymi Bailey - May 05, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ *Good Woman...*

Troy Beets - May 05, 2025 at 01:35 PM