



Mr Joseph Harry Sasser Jr.

September 27, 1922 - December 22, 2021

Joseph Harry Sasser, Jr.
Christian and Southern Gentleman
1922-2021

Harry was born in Lake, Mississippi on September 27, 1922, to Vaughny Simmons Sasser and Joseph Harry Sasser. Growing up in Walnut Grove was a happy time in his life, with an equality of people that exemplified the spirit of caring for your neighbor. He was raised in a loving Christian home by a Baptist mother and Presbyterian father, along with his sister, Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Sasser Hall, who was his senior by three years. In the summer of 1938, his family moved to Carthage so his father could help in the reorganization of The Carthage Bank after the depression. Harry finished Carthage High School in 1940 and started college. Harry's love of sports included tennis, football, basketball and baseball. He played on a minor league baseball team for a short period of time.

On November 13, 1942, two weeks before Thanksgiving, Harry was inducted into the Army at Camp Shelby. He initially served in the 7th Infantry Division via the 7th Provisional Scout Company. Harry was then sent by troop ship to serve with the 50th Combat Engineers Unit at Attu Island, part of the Aleutian Islands chain in the far western part of Alaska. He fought in the Battle of Attu and Invasion of Kiska. After nineteen intense and often brutal months, he was reassigned to Special Services School at Washington and Lee University in

Lexington, Virginia. After completion, his unit prepared to go to India, which was the staging area for invading mainland Japan. Just before his scheduled departure, the Japanese surrendered.

Having returned from the war, Harry enrolled at the University of Mississippi in February 1946. In the fall of 1947, he began his long career at The Carthage Bank. He graduated from the LSU school of banking and enjoyed a long career serving the people of Leake County and surrounding areas. Harry retired as Chairman of the Board in 2007 at the age of eighty-five.

Harry was a lifetime member of the Carthage Presbyterian Church where he served as an Elder. He taught Sunday School and attended Presbytery for many years.

Harry married Dorothy Milling Sasser of Morton in 1953, and had three daughters, Susan Sasser, Lynne Sasser Adoue (deceased) and Jo Anne Sasser Watson (Forbes). Harry had four grandchildren, Jay Adoue of Brooklyn, NY, Paige Adoue Sloan (Benjamin) of Richmond, VA, Jordan Watson of Memphis, TN and Reid Watson of Jackson, MS, one great granddaughter, Margot Sloan of Richmond, VA. and three nephews, Stewart A. Hall (Sandra) of Orlando, FL and Steve G. Hall (Mary Leslie) of Columbia, SC and Harry Hall (deceased).

If desired, friends may make a memorial contribution to the Carthage Presbyterian Church, 217 N. Pearl St., Carthage, MS 39051 or the Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675.

Pallbearers: Forbes Watson, Jordan Watson, Reid Watson, Jay Adoue, Carl Peoples, Jared Peoples and Joshua Peoples.

Honorees Pallbearers: Tam Etheridge, Jimmy Bell, Tom Adams, Billy Mann, Mike Ellis and Robert Faulkner

Cemetery Details

Harris Cemetery

Carthage, MS

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

Harris Cemetery
Carthage, MS

Tribute Wall

RH

“ Think about Harry often, especially this time of year. I greatly enjoyed our 8 year friendship and miss visiting with him. He was one of the good ones, that's for sure.



Ryan Hurn - December 01, 2025 at 10:36 PM

RS

“ We are extremely sorry to hear about your loss. Mr. Sasser was a privilege and a blessing and touched the hearts of many. We will remember his wonderful and gentle soul which will remain forever in our hearts. May our Lord bless and comfort you and your family during this time of grief. Please accept our condolences and may our prayers comfort you and your family.

Love,
Mrs. Susie Battle and Randy Stokes

Randy Stokes - December 29, 2021 at 01:46 AM

NG

“ Dear Family of Joe Sasser,

I send my sincere condolences especially today as you bury your dear father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was truly a Southern gentleman.

He served alongside my Uncle Clint Goodwin in the battle of Attu and invasion of Kiska. For many, many years they would meet up at their Army unit reunions, becoming very close friends.

I was privileged to finally meet Joe in-person in 2019, when my husband and I stayed with him on our way as we moved from California to North Carolina.

I will dearly miss my phone conversations with him about faith and his memories of my Uncle.

God's peace and comfort to you all,

Naomi Griffin



Naomi Griffin - December 27, 2021 at 06:53 PM

OW

“ Harry will certainly be missed in Carthage and away. He supported so many projects and events toward the success of our city, county, and state. My favorite memory was his support of the public schools in academics and athletics. I was fortunate to be among the many people who received musical recordings of his collection of “The Good Music” as he always stated. My sympathy to his family. He was a special person. Ouida W. Williams.

Ouida W. Williams - December 27, 2021 at 02:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr Joseph Harry Sasser Jr..



December 26, 2021 at 02:53 PM

CN

“ The world is a darker place without our dearest Joe, a hero of the Battle of Attu. We have been buddies since I first met and interviewed him at an Aleutian Veterans Reunion. What a kind, thoughtful, faithful Christian, who also was a true gentleman, always willing to share. He sent CDs of great music and also sent me a book about Andrew Higgins and the pivotal role of his landing craft in WW II. I shall treasure these remembrances. Joe donated several artifacts from Attu to the Alaska Veterans Museum. I have lost a great friend, and shall miss our monthly phone calls. Deepest condolences on your loss.

Col Suellyn Wright Novak & the
Alaska Veterans Museum

Col(R) Suellyn Wright Novak - December 26, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr Joseph Harry Sasser Jr..*



December 26, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ *Karen Green lit a candle in memory of Mr Joseph Harry Sasser Jr.*



Karen Green - December 25, 2021 at 02:07 PM



“ *We met Joe when he came to Alaska to participate in the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians, where he served our country during WWII. And we reconnected when he visited Anchorage a couple of years later for another Aleutians WWII commemoration. We so enjoyed getting to know Joe and had hoped to take him up on his invitation to visit him in MS. He was the consummate gentleman. He shared stories of his experiences during WWII, his life and his interests. His gentle humor was a comfort. We were taken by his passion for music. He mailed us a collection of favorite CDs, which we will play this holiday season when we light a candle in remembrance of this kind man. Rest In Peace, Joe. We will miss having you in our world.*

*Nancy Swanton & Brent Petrie
Anchorage, Alaska*

Nancy Swanton & Brent Petrie - December 24, 2021 at 05:33 PM

FH

“ Faye Harrell lit a candle in memory of Mr Joseph Harry Sasser Jr.



Faye Harrell - December 24, 2021 at 12:42 PM

DH

“ I had only a 10-month friendship with "Joe" but it was full of joy and laughter. When I was having a bad day, I'd call Joe and instantly feel better. We met through a Facebook page outreach to those who had served in the Aleutian Islands in WWII, where my father had served. Our chats about his experiences in the war deepened as he shared his wonderful love of music, in part by sending me some of his favorite CDs. He was grateful for all the love in his life, from his church, his daughters and Carl, his awesome caregiver. He also talked about his great-grandchild and the joy that gave him. As an aside here to his lifelong friends ... when we first met, he told me that his Army buddies called him "Joe," but most people in town called him "Harry" - and I could use either one. I chose Joe.

We used to joke that he had to live to 100 so I could come to Carthage (from Los Angeles) and celebrate with him -- 99 was not long enough to live. Every conversation seemed to have a theme and when we spoke last week it was WWII movies (we both loved "The Bridge on the River Kwai"). On our next call, which was going to be today, Christmas Eve, I planned to ask him about the happiest time in his life. As I say goodbye to Joe, I think it's something for all of us to think about and cherish - that is, the happiest times in our lives -- just as we cherished my friend Joe. To his family and dear friend, please accept my condolences. - Denise Hamilton

Denise Hamilton - December 24, 2021 at 12:07 PM