

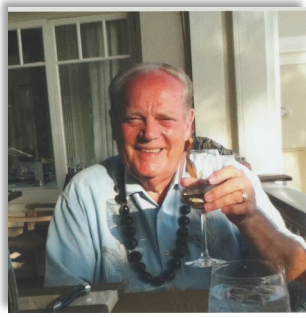
We are so grateful for our wonderful Advocates

Abong, Sabrina	Cortez, Rafael	Hewitt, Gwendolyn	Meraz, Caroline	Rushford, Heather
Acevedo, Kaitlen	Craig, Elaine	Hoffar, Claudia	Mergy, Anita	Sadler, Marge
Acevedo, Krystal	Cuevas, Ana	Huff, Violet	Minor, Kristine	Salzberg Kirihara, Judith
Aguilar, Marina	Downing, Sonja	Hurtado, Nereida	Mohn, Catherine	Samuelson, Deborah
Alshami, Soni	Dyas, Lynda	Hyde, Jewel	Morgan, Kay	Sanchez, Lisa
Altieri, Rhapsodie	Edmiston, Nancy	Ibarra, Lupe	Murillo, Karina	Scoto, Kathy
Alvarado, Colby	Engel, Debbie	Irvin, Sharon	Murphy, Linda	Sevilla, Sandie
Alvarez, Karolyn	Espinoza, Marlen	Jacobs, Tina	Nguyen, Namkha	Shay, Pat
Arambel, Cynthia	Estrada, Monic	Johnston, Debbi	Nord, Rita	Silveira-Miller, Selena
Arias, Monika	Fleming, Henrietta	Jones, Luwanda	Nuno, Ayana	Smelcer, Erin
Aju Diaz, Daisy	Foley, Christie	Jones, Tim	Ortiz, Angelina	Smith, Dan
Avila, Isaac	Fuentes, Diane	Kalmin, Claudia	Osborn, Lynda	Smith, Karen
Barnes, Donna	Fuentes, Tony	Kelley, Cindy	Pagan, Nitza	Souza, Stephanie
Barreno, Albert	Garcia, Paola	Kolb, Tim	Parker, Lynn Kahn	Stavrianoudakis, Stacey
Bartholomew, Candace	Garcia-Zaragoza, Paola	Kuster, Catherine	Parr, Kaitlyn	Steed, Casey
Baylard-Sampson, Maggie	Garretson-Merino, Cindy	Lain, Stephanie	Paskin, Laurin	Sullivan, Martin
Benavides, Alma	Gilliam, Crystal	Latronica, Jason	Paulo, Jane	Taiby, Zohra
Benavides, David	Gills, Jessica	Lawrence, Dondi	Paz, Ivette	Thomas, Kristen
Bergman, Don	Gittens, Elyse	Legg, Debra	Piro, Robyn	Torres-Pinon, Daisy
Bier, Debbie	Gonzalez, Celeste	Legg, Tomas	Pouncey, Elisa	Trujillo, Daisy
Bradley, Jan	Gonzalez, Yalitza	Livingston, Tanya	Procko, Brielle	Van LobenSels, Patty
Breth, Debbie	Gunter, Terry	Lorenzi, Jan	Purslow, Barbara	White, Mary Elizabeth
Callister, Christine	Halpin, Joan	Lowrance, Diana	Quall, Sheila	Wood, Jan
Cano, Kimberly	Hansford, Carissa	Maldonado, Julissa	Quien, Alane	Workman, Deborah
Carlson, Mizhael	Harcrow, Jolene	Marciochi, Helena	Ramirez, Christopher	Young Bergman, Nancy
Carlson, Rita	Hargrave, Immanuel	Marks, Brooke	Ramirez Sr, Bosco	Zalinski, Jon
Castro, Adam	Hargrave, Immanuel	Mattoon, Lyssabeth	Ramsey, Janet	
Cheeks, Corey	Harris, Skip	Maxey, Steven	Reyna-Canales, Jill	
Cheffer, Karen	Harville, Luzie	McAndrew, Kimberlie	Reynolds, Carolyn	
Coble, Andrea	Hazlett, Juene	McAuley, Kim	Reynoso, Vilma	
Colbert, Katelynn	Hendrickson, Brandon	McBride, Michelle	Rivero, Stephanie	
	Herrera, Shar	McKellar, Angela	Robledo, Valerie	

A *CASA* (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by the Judge to represent the best interests of a child currently in foster care. The *CASA* Volunteer provides the presiding Juvenile Dependency Judge with recommendations that help the Court make difficult decisions about the child's future. No specific type of background is required to become a Volunteer. *CASA* of Merced County provides all necessary training needed to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Learn more about how to become a *CASA* Volunteer by visiting our website at www.mercedcasa.org or calling our office at 209-722-2272.

Our next training class starts in January 2021

Would you like to join us?



Skip enjoying a glass of wine (and probably a cigar) in Aptos,

Alvin Theo “Skip” Harris

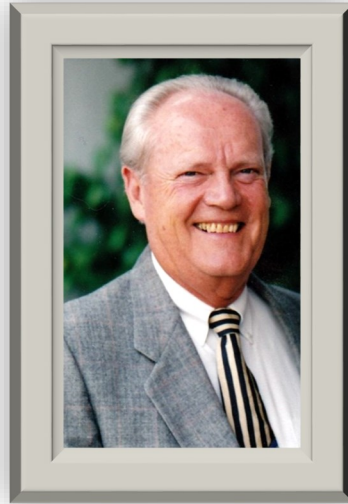
JULY 28, 1937 – AUGUST 20, 2020



Skip was in the Military Police while in the Army



Skip's three married children: Randall, Rhonda, and Lori



Skip's wife Lutie, Christopher, Joseph, & Skip

Alvin (Skip) Harris was born in Los Angeles, California on July 28, 1937 and passed away on August 20, 2020 at his home in Merced, California after a short battle with cancer. Skip was a wonderful and generous man who cared deeply for his family and children. In Skip's younger years, he helped run the family business, enlisted in the army and served in Korea for almost three years. He had three children, Lori, Rhonda, and Randal. In his adult life, Skip was a very successful businessperson in the Bay Area. He owned Cinderella Carpet stores in both Salinas and Concord until his retirement in the early 2000's.

In 1998, he married the love of his life, Lutie Reid. Skip and Lutie were married for 23.5 years and they had a wonderful and adventurous life together. After the sudden death of his stepdaughter and her husband, Skip helped raise his grandsons. There was nothing he would not do for his children, his stepchildren and all of his grandkids. Skip enjoyed being a husband, father, brother, grandfather and great grandfather. His family was very important to him including his immediate family and his nephews and niece. Playing golf with his friends, Bible study with his group, poker with his friends, fantasy football with a group, solving his puzzles each morning with Lutie, all brought him joy. He was a man of God and lived his life with compassion for the needy, especially children.

After retirement, Skip kept himself busy by driving for Uber for several years until his health ultimately prevented him from continuing. He was truly a people person with such a positive attitude about life in general. He had always worried about the children who did not have enough food and those who were not taken care of, so in 2014 Skip decided to become a CASA Volunteer.

Skip was a very kind, caring man who strove to be an excellent Advocate. He chose to be an advocate for a young man who had been in care for some time. There were occasions when he would come to the office to speak to Debbi Johnston, the Program Manager and say he did not think he was making any progress with his CASA kiddo. However, he was committed to continue and to show up and that was very important. Skip kept showing up for his CASA kiddo and slowly the connection blossomed into a wonderful relationship. The two of them truly cared for each other and enjoyed many things in life, one of which was golf. Skip was a spectacular Advocate to a child in serious need and CASA is grateful to have had the chance to know him and work with him. His positive attitude was admired as he always saw the brighter side of life. He was a blessing to all who knew him and he will be sorely missed by all, especially his CASA kiddo.

A Message from Skip's CASA Kiddo:

“Skip has taught me many things. Out of all the great things I have learned from Skip, the one thing that Skip would always say, and it stuck with me the most, is ‘It's not always about winning the battles, its about winning the war.’”